

TARGET

Intelligence Report

VOLUME XXII No. 25

S A T U R D A Y

February 8, 2020

HEROES AND HEROINES:

FROM THE UBIQUITOUS HEROES OF YESTERYEAR

TO SOCIETIES' HEROES OF TODAY

In every epoch of the history of the world, man has sought out and roundly rewarded its heroes and heroines.

But too many times have accolades not been presented, in a timely fashion, to the most-deserving of heroes and heroines.

In the world of today, it is the man or woman who has the ability to hit a small, hard ball with a specially fabricated stick into a small hole in the sod, who is showered with praise and admiration – and rewarded, often very generously, monetarily.

The man or woman who has the ability, consistently, to hit a tennis ball over a three-foot-high net at speeds, exceeding one hundred miles per hour, is held in high regard by the country of his/her birth and, as with the man or woman who can hit that small, hard ball at relatively long distances into a small hole in the sod, he or she is showered with tens of millions of American dollars.

In a specially produced, eight-sided enclosure, located in a voluminous stadium that can accommodate thousands of impatient, blood-thirsty onlookers, this fabricated polygon, referred to today in some circles as

the Octagon, two fighters stand toe-to-toe, trying to knock each other to the ground and, then, when a downed fighter falls onto the canvas, the standing opponent drops on top of him (or her), continuing to pound the head of the downed fighter with the hardest of punches until he or she is unconscious ... or, in some cases, is on the threshold of death.

On average, there is one death per month from this human blood sport that is not recognised by The International Olympic Committee.

This statistic, however, does not include those former, Mixed Martial Art fighters that died from brain injuries in hospitals or are found, unceremoniously, dead in their beds at a later date, after being forced to exit from this blood sport.

In various arenas, around the world, men and women of various specific weights vie with one another to lift the heaviest of deadweights.

In the World Championships, in the 109-kilogramme (239.80 pounds) weight class, Mr Lasha Talakhadze of Georgia lifted a 264-kilogramme (580.80 pounds) dumb-bell in the Clean and Jerk Discipline, on September 27, 2019, in Pattaya, Thailand,.

It was a record level for anybody in this weight class.

In 2016, due to his world, record-setting performance at the 2016 Summer Olympics, Mr Lasha Talakhadze was awarded the President's Order of Excellence by President Giorgi Margvelashvili.

In 2017 and 2018, the Georgian National Olympic Committee awarded him the title of Georgia's Sportsperson of the Year.

In 2018, he was named the IWF (The **I**nternational **W**eight **F**oundation) Male Lifter of the Year for 2017. In 2019, he was named IWF Male Lifter of the Year for 2018.

The above is just a smattering of the more-recent accomplishments of men and women, who have been named, directly or by innuendo, heroes or heroines due to their various accomplishments in different sports.

It is well known as well as being roundly accepted that sport can very often be the '*glue*' of members of societies that bring together various communities to take note of the accomplishments of outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen in certain sporting disciplines.

The Unsung Heroes of Yesteryear

George Washington Carver

Mr George Washington Carver (1864 -1943) of Missouri, The United States of America, is not well known outside the country of his birth, but he is, today, accepted as being amongst the most-prominent black scientists of the early 20th Century.

His main accomplishment was in the field of agricultural chemistry.

Inter alia, he advocated crop rotation in order to prevent the depletion of nutriment in the soil, a situation that had been very prevalent in the southern states of The United States of America where cotton had, historically, been the preferred crop of farmers.

His only tangible acknowledgement, during his life, was being awarded the Spingarn Medal, an award that is given annually by The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for outstanding achievements by an African American.

He was admired by very few people in the Governmental Administrations of his day, perhaps due to his having been born into slavery just prior to the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865).

At Diamond Grove, now, simply known as Diamond, Missouri, where he was brought up, black people were not allowed to attend public schools.

But, during his tortuous life, young George Washington Carver found a way to achieve his academic goal and, eventually, he was awarded the PhD in Agricultural Chemistry.

Should Professor George Washington Carver, as he, eventually, came to be known and respected for his discoveries, have been the hero of his day – and in this day, also?

Dr Alan Mathison Turing

Dr Alan Mathison Turing (1912-1954) is widely known today for his work in computer science while

working for the British Government, during World War II.

It is accepted that he was singularly influential in the development of theoretical computer science.

He, personally, invented what came to be known as The Turing Machine – the first, general-purpose computer.

Today, he is credited with being the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

During his lifetime, he was not recognised for his many accomplishments and he received no accolades or financial rewards from the British Government – with the lone exception of being accused (rightly) of the crime of gross indecency in 1952 due to the fact that he was found to be a practising homosexual.

In 2009, Prime Minister Gordon Brown officially apologised on behalf of the British Government for the ‘*appalling way that he (Dr Alan Mathison Turing) was treated.*’

About four years later, in 2013, Queen Elizabeth II granted Dr Alan Mathison Turing a posthumous pardon.

The Queen’s pardon came 59 years after the death of Dr Alan Mathison Turing due to a (disputed) suicide.

Should Dr Alan Mathison Turing have been considered a hero of his day – or in this day, also?

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is widely revered in India, today, although for many years, he was despised by many of the members of the British Colonial Government of India in days of yore.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi employed non-violence in his social philosophy with regard to his many campaigns to bring the British Raj to its knees.

His eventual success inspired movements, far from the country of his birth, leading to the campaigns for civil rights and freedom in many parts of the world – including in The United States of America.

He was trained as a barrister in law at the Inner Temple, London, and called to the bar at the age of 22 years. That was in June 1891.

After failing for two years to obtain a successful law practice in India, he moved to South Africa in order, inter alia, to represent an Indian merchant in a lawsuit.

He stayed in South Africa for the next 21 years, no doubt to the consternation and detestation of the South African Government of the day that maintained that the minority population of the country, largely comprising family members of past Dutch Settlers, should rule the majority black population.

It was in South Africa that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi honed his skills with regard to his unique philosophy of non-violence in his campaign for civil rights.

'>Returning to India in 1915, he embarked on a journey, nationwide, to ease poverty, expand the rights of women, and building religious and ethnic amity.

His work resulted, among other things, in the end of the evil concept of '*untouchability*' and, eventually, achieving self-rule for the country.

He was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by a Hindu nationalist who fired three bullets into his chest while Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was on his way to a prayer meeting.

In India, today, the honorific term, '*Mahatma*', is used when referring to this great man who led his country to the freedoms that all citizens of India now enjoy.

Should Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi have been considered, internationally, a hero of his day – as well as in this day, also?

Leucippus of Abdera

Not a great deal is known of Leucippus of Abdera; and, even his birthplace is questioned by historians.

But this little-known, pre-Socratic philosopher is credited with being the founder of the theory of atoms.

His discovery was in the Sixth Century or overlapping into the Fifth Century BC.

The reason that historians credit this philosopher with this colossal discovery was due to the fact that he wrote a book, called: '*The Great World-Order*'.

In this book, Democritus, another pre-Socratic philosopher who followed in the footsteps of Leucippus – derived the terminology and basic doctrines of his own book.

Leucippus, as the originator of the atomic theory, intended to provide a final solution to the problems, bequeathed to him by the predecessors, on Being and Non-Being, Becoming and Passing-Away, Change, Motion and the Validity of Sense-Perception.

He maintained that Being is not One, but consists of an infinite number of bodies of infinite shapes, and all in constant motion, so small as to be invisible to the naked eye.

He went on to state that these bodies are also so small that they cannot be divided, and are therefore given the name, '*Atoma*' – things that cannot be cut.

Leucippus did not explain the reason for the constant motion of the atoma, but maintained that they moved out of necessity in the infinite void, apparently at random and in all directions.

Leucippus was far from being a hero in his day, and, perhaps sadly, very few people seem to have the foggiest notion of his very existence.

More's the pity!

But should he, in today's world, be considered one of the greatest heroes of all time?

After all, where would Albert Einstein have been without Leucippus, having shown him the way to this great man's Theory of Relativity?

-- **End** --

*While **TARGET** makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.*

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which
they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to
editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish
readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*