

# 1. Alan TURING – Creator of modern computing



Who was Alan Turing?

Alan Turing was not a well known figure during his lifetime. But today he is famous for being an eccentric yet passionate British mathematician, who conceived modern computing and played a crucial part in the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in WW2.

He was also a victim of mid-20th Century attitudes to homosexuality – he was chemically castrated before dying at the age of 41.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvppZNe6jAQ>

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## 2. Edith Cavell – a British WW1 nurse, executed for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides without distinction

She excelled in her role despite the challenges presented by societal views of women and work at that time. She managed hospitals, nursing homes and schools for nurses, to name but a few and gave lectures to doctors and nurses.



On the outbreak of the First World War, Edith was in Norwich. "At a time like this, I am more needed than ever" were the words of Edith before she set off for the Frontline in Belgium.

Edith cared for all the wounded, regardless of nationality. She was greatly criticised by many at the time for assisting the German and Austrian soldiers, when they were fighting against the British. Edith soon began to work with others to smuggle the Allied soldiers that she was caring for, out of the hospital and into neutral Holland. She helped over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium.

### **Arrest and Execution**

After a lengthy investigation, the suspicions of the German Officials grew and Edith, along with others, was arrested. She knew of the implications in being involved with the underground, so Edith kept it a secret from many of her nurses.

When interrogated by the Officials, Edith provided all of the details surrounding the underground and she was sent to trial with 35 others. Most were sentenced to hard labour. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was shot by a German firing squad. Her execution received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

3. Rosa Parks - refused to obey bus driver's order to give up her seat in the coloured section to a white passenger, after the white section was filled.



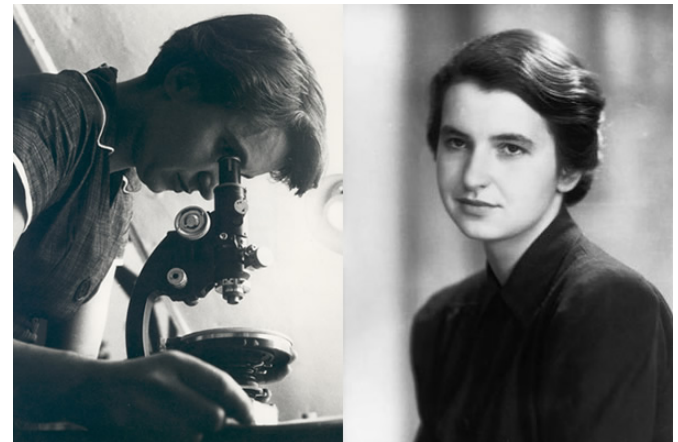
Parks' act of defiance and the Montgomery Bus Boycott became important symbols of the modern Civil Rights Movement. She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation. She organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including Edgar Nixon, president of the local chapter of the NAACP; and Martin Luther King, Jr., a new minister in town who gained national prominence in the civil rights movement.

## 5. Rosalind Franklin — British scientist, the overlooked discoverer of DNA

Watson and Crick are/were both brilliant scientists with many positive traits. Watson and Crick were latecomers to the search for DNA's structure. Building off of others' works, but without a solid grounding in chemistry, the duo made some early incorrect guesses as to DNA's structure, which were thoroughly shot down by Franklin.

Wilkins (her partner) secretly handed over some of Franklin's work to Watson and Crick without her permission. The rest is history. Without her knowledge, Watson and Crick used her work – primarily "Photo 51," a diffraction result demonstrating the helical nature of DNA – to rush out a paper, and won the Nobel Prize for "the most important scientific discovery of the 20th century."

*Franklin, who'd been maybe three months away from solving the problem herself, remained unaware of their usage of Photo 51 for the rest of her life<sup>3</sup>, which was tragically short. After some brief work on the tobacco mosaic virus, she died of ovarian cancer, possibly brought on from her work with X-rays. She was 39.*



## 9. Nicholas Winton – a British humanitarian

Nicholas Winton was a British humanitarian who organized the rescue of 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War in an operation later known as the Czech Kindertransport.



Winton found homes for the children and arranged for their safe passage to Britain.<sup>[2]</sup> The world found out about his work over 40 years later, in 1988. The British press dubbed him the "British Schindler". On 28 October 2014, he was awarded the highest honour of the Czech Republic, the Order of the White Lion(1st class), by Czech President Miloš Zeman. Winton died in July 2015 – he was 106 years old.