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NEWS

The boxer who loved Borat...and his brother a lifeguard at Harvard



Killers ... Tamerlan Tsarnaev, left, and brother Dzhokhar
Barcroft Media

Extremist pair who brought terror to Boston

SHOCKED friends of the Boston bombers last night told how one aimed to become a champion boxer — while his brother was a pool lifeguard at prestigious Harvard University.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and brother Dzhokhar, 19, enjoyed high school prom nights, fast cars and American girlfriends after their family fled to the US from war-torn Chechnya.

The elder brother told of his love for comedy film Borat — and revealed he wanted to box for the US Olympic team and become an American citizen. Dzhokhar went to work at Harvard after graduating from the same high school as film stars Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

But in private, devout Muslim Tamerlan harboured extremist views and appeared to hold a powerful influence over his younger brother. Tamerlan spouted radical views online and posted the rantings of other extremists as well as videos praising Allah. He created a YouTube playlist titled "Terrorists".



Chilling ... Martin Richard, circled left, was close to Dzhokhar Tsarnaev before bomb, right, killed him

He also revealed his love for the movie Borat, “even though some of the jokes are a bit too much”.

Tamerlan went online to buy a selection of books on how to make fake IDs and documents, as well as volumes about Chechnya’s battle for independence from Russia.

He returned to Chechnya last December, and the CIA is now investigating whether he received military-style training to prepare him for his bomb attack. A friend, who asked to be known only as Sam, said: “He was there for three or four months. I guess he came back a changed kid.

“Only last month he asked me to go skiing with him. I was hanging out with him at my home — he was a regular guy, happy-go-lucky.

“He was my friend. When he was in the boxing ring he had a one-track mind and was ready to kill an opponent. He was an animal, an insane athlete.

“But outside of that he was a relaxed kid. He’d just chill with friends and smoke pot.”

Muscular engineering student Tamerlan trained regularly at a gym near his home and fought for a club named Team Lowell, even winning the Rocky Marciano Trophy as New England Golden Gloves heavyweight champion in 2010.

Writing on a boxing blog, he said he had given up drinking and smoking because “God said no alcohol” — and hinted that he disliked American attitudes. He said: “There are no values anymore, people can’t control themselves.”

Tamerlan drove a silver Mercedes and wore fashionable clothes, but moaned about a lack of pals, saying: “I don’t have a single American friend. I don’t understand them.”

Yet he also revealed his ambition to represent his adopted country, saying that if he won enough fights he could be selected for the US Olympic team and become a naturalised American.

Tamerlan is believed to have been married to college graduate Katherine Russell, 24 — and had a child with her.

A neighbour said outside the family home in Rhode Island: "Before she went to college she wore normal clothes, but when she came back she was wearing a white headscarf. I have no idea what she is going to tell her kid."

The brothers' mum Zubeidat and dad Anzor were helped by church ministers and charities as they struggled to settle in the US. Family friend Bill Pearce said: "I'm simply shocked and devastated the boys would do this."

"The parents had no bad stuff to say about America but did have problems. No violence or anything like that, just problems. I offered them help, counselling and we kept in touch. The boys were nice boys and the house was peaceful. It's inexplicable."

Dzhokar also put extremist material online, including a post about Norwegian massacre monster Anders Breivik.

His profile on a Russian social network site tags Islam with a heart and includes a stick of dynamite in the "gifts" section.

But former classmates at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School — where Good Will Hunting stars Damon and Affleck were pupils in the 1980s — were stunned to learn of Dzhokar's involvement in the bombings. Rebecca Mazur, now a Harvard student, said: "It's a huge shock. He was such a sweet, quiet guy."



Sacked ... mum Zubeidat



Calm ... Dzhokar in a white baseball cap
Rex

After leaving school Dzhokar worked as a lifeguard at Harvard's Blodgett Pool, before being axed last year for failing to turn up. Head lifeguard Ryan Galuski said: "He seemed very friendly, nothing that would indicate he was a weirdo or anything."

The brothers are believed to have placed one of their bombs near the posh Lord and Taylor department store in Boston in **REVENGE** after mum Zubeidat, 45, was sacked from her job at the company's branch in Natick, Massachusetts, for stealing clothes.

British security chiefs were last night urgently checking to see if the brothers have any links to the UK. Officers were liaising with the FBI and security agencies across Europe, as well as investigating whether the pair ever visited Britain or contacted groups based here.

Extra police are being drafted in for tomorrow's London Marathon as a precaution.

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Victim, 8, next to the bomber

By **FELIX ALLEN**

A CHILLING picture has emerged, above, showing the fugitive Boston bomber just feet away from the boy killed in the blasts.

Tragic Martin Richard, eight, is seen leaning on a barrier cheering runners.

Just behind him, a figure in a white cap makes his way through the crowd — the suspect later named by the FBI as Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. A rucksack — probably holding the bomb — lays on the ground by people's feet, circled left. The photo appeared on the internet and is genuine.

A later photo showed Dzhokhar Tsarnaev calmly walking away while other spectators fled in panic moments after the blasts.

Another heartbreaking image shows terrified dad Bill Richard shielding the eyes of Martin's 12-year-old brother Henry from the blast aftermath.



Horror ... Bill covers Henry's eyes

Martin died along with two women — restaurant manager Krystle Campbell, 29, and 23-year-old Chinese student Lu Lingzi — and 176 people were injured in Monday's explosions near the finish line.

Meanwhile the family of graduate Lu said that it was her dream to study in the US — and that she "fell in love with Boston and its people". On Boston University's website, they said: "She wanted to play a role in international business, studying hard towards her goal. Sadly, it was not to be."

I faced killer

A MAN who lost both legs in the bombing told how a terrorist looked him in the eye before dropping a bag minutes before the blast.

Jeff Bauman, 27, was among the crowd waiting for his girlfriend to cross the finish line when the devastating explosion ripped his legs.

After waking up heavily drugged in intensive care, he asked for a pen and paper and wrote, "Bag, saw the guy, looked right at me". He gave the FBI a full description of the suspect.

A photo of bloodied Jeff with anti-war campaigner Carlos Arredondo, 52, holding his burst artery is one of the chilling images of the attack.

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