Abdellatif Abou Heif was known as the Crocodile of the Nile and enjoyed a tremendous marathon swimming career from 1953 to 1972. In 2001, he was voted Marathon Swimmer of the Century by the International Swimming Hall of Fame. He won the longest professional swim to date, 96.5 km (60 miles) in Lake Michigan in 34 hours and 45 minutes and competed in 68 international races – and won 25 – between 30 km (18.6 miles) and 80 km (49.7 miles) in water temperatures ranging between 12-28.8°C (54-84°F) in France, Italy, United States, Canada, Argentina, Lebanon, England, Yugoslavia, Mexico and Holland. He won the 1955 Butlin English Channel race in 11 hours.
and 44 minutes and was the 1964, 1965, and 1968 World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation Champion.

He won the 37 km (23-mile) la Descente ou remontée du Saguenay in 1968 after returning from the Egyptian-Israel War of 1967 in 9 hours and 10 minutes in 1968 and in 1969 when the race was called after 30.5 km (19 miles) before of worsening conditions. No body of water was too difficult for Abou Heif to challenge and complete. He was also voted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Open Water Swimmer 1998).

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)