



CHAPTER TWO

STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED 80 YEARS AGO



He rewarded his friends with a victory

That day, on Sunday, 28th of October 1937, everyone was talking about one man – Désiré Leriche. You will come to know why...

According to chroniclers, Désiré Leriche was the first Frenchman on the course in Košice. And not only on the course, but at the finish as well. This man, who has been working as a gardener, traveled to Košice thanks to his Paris friends' who put together the money for his trip here. He did not forget this, and for every victor's autograph he gave, he asked a small sum, and finally dedicated the whole amount to the local poverty.

Rumors concerning his triumph in prestigious Košice Marathon has quickly spread to his hometown, where he was honored again and rewarded personally by french Minister of sport Léo Lagrange.

However after this success, destiny hasn't bring a lot of happiness to him. During the war Désiré was imprisoned in the concentration camp, where he died in 1944.

RESULTS

Kosice Marathon, October 28, 1937

Men

1.	Désiré Leriche	FRA	2:43:41,7
2.	György Balaban	AUT	2:50:44,6
3.	Ludovic Gall	ROM	2:51:07,0