



CHAPTER TWO

STORIES OF NINE DECADES WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 80 YEARS AGO



In our historical survey we come now to one of the most unusual years in the entire history of the Košice Peace Marathon.

If the world had not be steamrolled by war at that time, we could perhaps write that it was merely a failed and pointless experiment. As is well known, after the Vienna Arbitration, the break-up of Czechoslovakia and the redrawing of the borders, Košice fell under the administration of Hungary, and so the fate of the marathon did, too. Dr. **Mihály Hernádi** became the race director. He was not completely out of his depth, because in 1925 -1927 he had himself completed three marathons in Košice as a runner, though still under his original surname Herzsenyák.

He premiered with his organizational baton in 1939 and maybe for him, too, the subsequent decision of the powers that be – to move the marathon from Košice to Budapest – came as a great surprise. In today's world, we could compare it with perhaps some exaggeration to the promotional export of the NHL or the Tour de France to new locations, but in 1940 no one knew what this Budapest experiment of the Košice marathon might bring.

Today we know. The course led from Budapest to Szentendre and back, and a total of 30 runners took part, 27 of whom finished, four-time Košice winner **József Galambos** among them. The victor was **József Kiss** from the club MTK Budapest, who had triumphed the year before in Košice in a time of 2:36:10.6.

Even the period press commented that in comparison with the level of the marathon in Košice, the race held in Budapest was not very successful. Therefore, the following year, on 12 October 1941, the race was again held in the city of Košice.