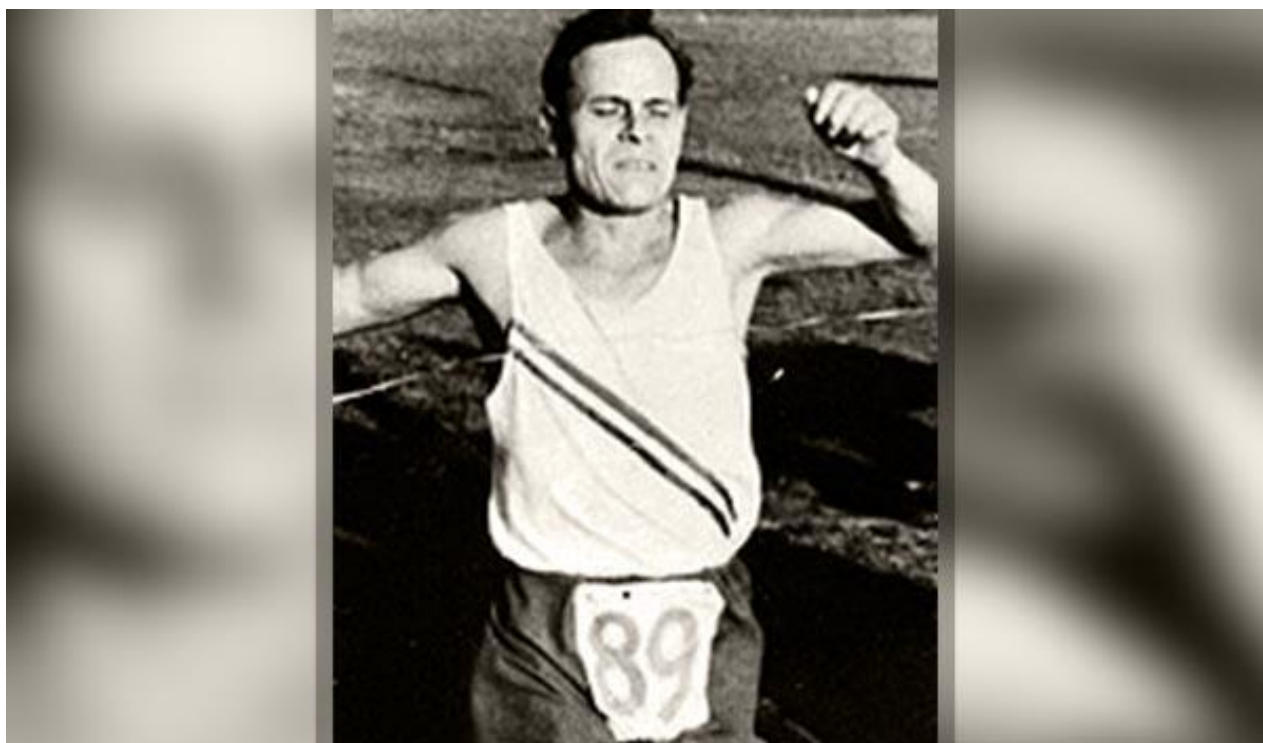


## STORIES OF MARATHON CENTENARY

# WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 80 YEARS AGO



**Géza Kiss finished with a lead of 60 seconds..**  
/ Photo: © 1943 Košice Marathon Club – archive.

### **A battle of namesakes.**

Events in Košice during this period continued to be affected by the ongoing world war. In the summer of **1943**, there was even a direct military attack and bombing of the airport lying very close to the city.

Nevertheless, the marathon was eventually organised and took place on 19 September. A total of 34 runners reached the finish line and, as confirmed by accurate worldwide statistics, this was, rather surprisingly, the highest number of finishers among all the marathons that took place in the world that year.

One intimately familiar with the Košice marathon statistics can see that the winner that year, **Géza Kiss**, took part in the race on his local course six times in all, and his performance in 1943 was clearly the best of them. He beat his namesake József Kiss by exactly one minute. József Kiss became a regular part of the Košice starting line for an even longer period, from 1936 to 1958, and he even stood twice on the highest step. This time, however, he fell short in the battle of the namesakes.

### **RESULTS**

#### **Košice Marathon, September 19, 1943**

##### **Men**

1.	Géza Kiss	HUN	2:50:14,0
2.	József Kiss	HUN	2:51:14,0
3.	Ludovic Gall	HUN/ROU	3:00:50,0