

# Greek Marathoner Arrives, Sold Home, Clothes to Live

By JERRY NASON

A gallant, hollow-cheeked man from a gallant and impoverished nation arrived here yesterday after a flight of 5000



miles, and a train ride of 220 more, to compete in the Boston A. A. Marathon.

Styliamos Kyriakides is 35, and the war-torn years since he last

was in Boston have etched their history on the face of this slender, black-eyed Greek.

"In Greece today," said he,

"there is nothing—absolutely nothing! We have known three enemies. There are no roads—no bridges—no railroads—no harbors—no trams.

"There is nothing—nothing except the soil of Greece and a people determined to survive and be great again."

Kyriakides spoke in English, and spoke well. He hopes to run his race even better, when he sets forth on April 20 over the 26 miles, 385 yards of the Marathon course.

He is the champion of Greece, the Balkans, Hungary and Egypt. His salary, due to a government ceiling, is \$60 per month as a bill collector for Athens-Piraeus Electricity Company. In Greece today a pair of running shoes cost \$30.

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# Greek Marathon King Here for B.A.A. Race Sold All Belongings to Keep Family Alive After Germans Stripped His Country

*Continued from the First Page*

By **JERRY NASON**

Kyriakides has a wife and two small children—a boy and a girl—back in Athens. He was fairly affluent before the war, but in order to see his family survive he has sold his house, his clothes, and his shoes. He traded a suit and a pair of boots for one kilo of butter!

He has 80 trophies, some of them won in international competition and quite valuable. These he has steadfastly refused to sell unless actual starvation threatens his fold.

"These cups represent another day, another life, to me," says Stylianos (Stanley). "I cannot part with them. I am not so young now. Never again can I win so many beautiful trophies."

## **Forced to Quit in 1938**

Kyriakides was last here in 1938, when he competed in the Marathon and was forced by broken and

bloody feet to retire after 21 miles of running with the leaders.

He was young, then, young and handsome and earnest. He is still earnest—but with the intensity of a man who has a mission. No citizen of Greece has ever won the Boston Marathon. He wants to win.

His company, in an indirect way, is providing his expenses. They've paid the money to the Greek Athletic Federation, which in turn sent Kyriakides to America by plane.

"Last Tuesday," he marveled, "I was training in Athens, on a stony road. On Saturday I was running 10 miles over smooth, lovely macadam in Yonkers, N. Y!"

In Athens, this modern Pheidippides collects the electricity charges from an area numbering about 2500 houses. He maintained this means of livelihood through the war. "It was very difficult," he admitted. "All the time the prices changed—almost every week.

"Last week I made my final collections before flying to America, and all the people—all the poor and hungry people—told me, 'Tell them in America, say to every American: Thanks!'

"You see, we haven't much in Greece today. We haven't enough of food, or clothing, or any of the

necessities of living. But what we have we owe to Americans."

## **Germans Stripped Greece**

The Germans, he said, stripped Greece of virtually everything for three years.

Kyriakides was born in Cyprus, but has been a Greek citizen since 1935. He is holder of the Greek marathon record, made over the original course from the plains of Marathon and was 11th in the 1936 Olympic race in Berlin.

He began training for the Boston race just after Christmas, which wasn't, we detect from his conversation, so very happy in Greece. "I am in splendid condition this time," he remarked. "I have toughened my feet, which halted me here the last time, by running over gravel roads."

Meantime, he is living with his old friend, George Demeter, the annual bringer of the laurel wreath to the Marathon winner. George would like nothing better than to park the laurel chapeau upon the black, curly locks of Stylianos Kyriakides—a gallant, hollow-cheeked man from faraway Athens.

## **Today's Sports**

**BOXING**—National amateur boxing championships at the Boston Garden, 1 p. m.