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He was born in Cyprus, British colony. He became a Greek citizen in 1936, and ran in the Olympic Marathon in Berlin for Ellas. He is married, a second time, and has a little boy and a little girl.

And in his breathless run to glory yesterday, in his determined rush to overwhelm Kelley in the last two miles, he carried with him a small piece of paper.

On one side was written, in Greek (by George Demeter): "Do or Die!" O nthe other, "We are victorious!"

Jerry Nason, Boston Globe April 21, 1946