

GIANT PARADE MARKS ITALIAN ANNIVERSARY

Italy celebrates! Along the Via Dei Fori Imperiali in Rome moves a two-mile long procession, commemorating the third anniversary of the new Italian Republic. Despite the sultry weather, more than a million Romans turn out to join in the celebrations.

Enrico Einaudi - first President of the Republic - greets the foreign representatives. America's General Mark Clark, who commanded the Allied armies in Italy - is among them. The Prime Minister, Signor de Gasperi accompanies the President.

The unveiling of a memorial to Giuseppe Massini (legendary Italian patriot and one-time head of the Roman triumvirate) is the highlight of Republic day. Massini, who died 70 years ago, was probably the first Italian to visualize the Republic as it is today. There follows an impressive military parade that includes many of the partisan units who fought with the Allied armies.

Parading at the double - as customary - is the crack Bersaglieri regiment.

A drive past of motorised equipment brings to an end Italy's biggest parade for a decade.