

The Olympic Torch

The ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic Torch took place at 09.30 hrs. on 12th August, at Olympia. Present at the ceremony was the Official Italian Delegation, composed of the President of the Olympic Torch Committee, Aldo Mairano, the Secretary Alfredo Langellotti and General Tommaso Calise, Commandant of the Olympic Military Detachment.

Immediately after the lighting of the Flame by means of burning glasses, the Olympic relay immediately began its journey along the following route: Olympia, Pyrgos, Patras, Corinth, Megara, Eleusis and Athens. Arriving at Athens at 21hrs. on 13th August at the Panathinoikon Stadium, the Torch was received by Greek political authorities and sport officials. The Olympic Flame continued its journey in direction of the port of Zea near Piraeus where H.R.H. Prince Constantine of Greece handed over the Torch to the Vice-President of the Organizing Committee,

Mr. Piero Oneglio. The Flame was then handed over to an Italian naval cadet who carried it to the training ship *Amerigo Vespucci*. The *Amerigo Vespucci* left Syracuse at 23.00 hrs. and on 18th August the symbolic flame was brought to Italian soil; beside the Arethusa Spring, the first tripod was lit at 20.30 hrs. From here the spectacular race of torch bearers was *off en route* for Rome. At 21.00 hrs. on 24th August the Olympic Flame was triumphantly received in the Campidoglio, having covered a total distance of 1532,800 kms. in 1,187 laps.

The next day at 17.00 hrs. the Olympic Torch left the Campidoglio via the following route: Campidoglio, Piazza Venezia, Piazza Colonna, Piazza del Popolo, Via Flaminia, Piazza Apollodoro, Ponte Milvio, Lungotevere A. Diaz, Central Headquarters of the Organizing Committee, Athletes' underground passage to Stadio dei Marmi; 17.40 hrs Olympic Stadium.