



## **Chapter 3**

### **History of a Year**

#### **MEMOIRS AND THE SALO REPUBLIC**

articles in June and July. These same articles were then published in a Pamphlet form which became highly successful, more so than the original newspaper articles. These small booklets were very much in demand at the time. Today they remain highly prized and in demand. They are now seen as being very important as they still create much debate and discussion and investigation into the wartime events in Italy, which continue to cause much debate and discussion globally.

At the time of the original publication the articles were signed by the initial M. It was generally accepted that the author was Benito Mussolini, former Prime Minister of Italy and now the leader of the new Fascist Republican Party's Government at Salo, Lake Garda, Italy. The author spoke of Benito Mussolini in the third person. It was known that Mussolini was an experienced newspaper writer who now had the time and the intimate personal knowledge of these wartime events which were described in detail in the series of publications. In the last July issue of the *Corriere della Sera*, Mussolini admitted to being the author responsible for these entire nineteen articles.

Mussolini, a life long, prolific, talented writer and newspaper owner and editor, left unwritten any personal history Memoirs of the establishment and the daily affairs of the Salo Republic, which was established September 27, 1944 at the first Meeting of Ministers at Rocca delle Caminate. In Milano on April 20, 1945 he gave orders to abandon and close all Republican Ministry Offices and dissolve all Governmental Institutions and their Programs. The Salo Republic lasted 206 days.

The history of the Salo Republican Government has been written mainly in English by others, not by anyone closely associated and involved with Mussolini and his Ministers.

Mussolini's only words quoted in his Memoirs were spoken on April 23, 1945 when he wrote "I did not agree to form the new Republic of Salo for my own purposes. I did it as it was the one road I could take to stop the German's oppression of our own people."