



## Chapter 6 Massacre At Dongo

Immediately after his heinous assassinations of Benito Mussolini and Claretta Petacci at the Villa Belmonte, Walter Audisio returned to Dongo and quickly arranged to have the entire group of prisoners, then being held in prison by Pier Bellini's partisans, lined up against a lakeside wall and executed, one by one, by a hastily arranged firing squad. Seventeen met their death there April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Their names and relationships are listed in the following pages.



### THE SEVENTEEN

They knew full well that by remaining with Mussolini in these last dark days that they too were destined to die by a bullet or be imprisoned by the partisan military forces then authorized by the occupying Allied Military Forces in Italy. Although several may have had an opportunity to leave the vicinity of Lake Como in an attempt to escape this certain fate they chose to remain loyal to Benito Mussolini and his Fascist Party to the end.