

0. Captain Corelli's Mandolin - Story Preface

1. HITLER AND MUSSOLINI
2. PACT OF STEEL
3. CEPHALONIA
4. CAPTAIN CORELLI
5. THE MANDOLIN
6. TAKE NO PRISONERS
7. PRISONERS OR TRAITORS?
8. THE MASSACRE
9. MUSSOLINI'S EXECUTION
10. MORE TRAGEDY
11. CORELLI'S NAMESAKE and CONNECTION to ORPHEUS



Captain Corelli's Mandolin - both the book and the film - are set on the Greek Island of Cephalonia (Kefalonia) which is located in the Ionian Sea. This photo depicts a scene in the town of Sami, on the island. Image online, courtesy Travel to Kefalonia.

*They were lying in heaps,
all shot in the head.*

Alfred Richter
Eyewitness

It was September, 1943. Italian soldiers, sent by their government to occupy the Greek island of Cephalonia (Kefalonia) in the Ionian Sea, were without orders.

Benito Mussolini, whose dream of an Italian empire included Greece, was no longer *Il Duce*, "the leader" of his country. An Armistice between Italy and the Allies meant the Rome-Berlin Pact, signed by Hitler and Mussolini before the start of World War II, was history.

The Fuhrer, in an effort to keep Greece under his control, sent German soldiers to Cephalonia. Before the Armistice, those soldiers would have fought *with* the Italians. Now about 11,500 Italian soldiers were in a quandary.

Should they surrender? Fight against the Germans? Join forces with Greek resistance fighters? Without orders, the men decided for themselves. They would fight.

What happened to them, according to the German newspaper Suddeutsche Zeitung, was covered up for more than 50 years.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin>



Greek Islands

Image online, courtesy yachtsngulets.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Greek-Islands>



Cephalonia - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY 3.0.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cephalonia-Map-Locator>



Map: Depicting the Ionian Sea

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-the-Ionian-Sea>



Mussolini on Horseback

Image online, courtesy Think Quest website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mussolini-on-Horseback>



German Iron Ring

Map image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Iron-Ring>



Cephalonia

Image online, courtesy [cameralenta](http://www.cameralenta.com) website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cephalonia>



Captain Corelli's Mandolin

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin0>