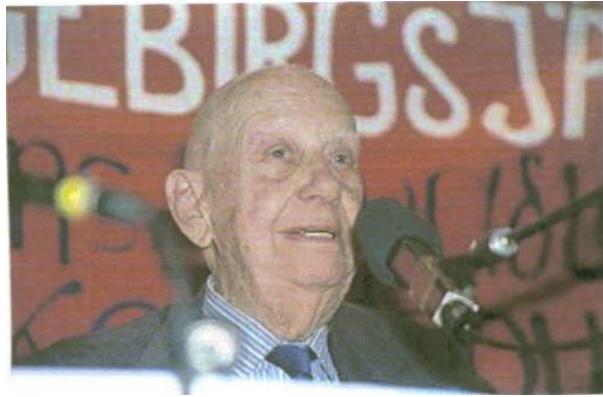




0. CAPTAIN CORELLI - Story Preface

1. HITLER AND MUSSOLINI

2. PACT OF STEEL

3. CEPHALONIA

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5. THE MANDOLIN

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11. CORELLI'S NAMESAKE and CONNECTION to ORPHEUS

Although the author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* denies it, Amos Pampaloni may be the real person on whom the fictional Antonio Corelli is based. Pampaloni was the only artillery Captain serving with the Italian occupation forces on the island of Cephalonia at the time Italy signed an Armistice with the Allies during WWII. Amos lived well into his 90s; in this image, he is 94. Photo online via Cefalonia.it—an Italian-language website about the events of September 22, 1943.

When the men of the Italian Acqui Division invaded Cephalonia during the spring of 1941, they were led by General Antonio Gandin. Their purpose was to secure the strategic island for the Axis forces.

Amos Pampaloni, who lived to be 96, was the only artillery Captain of the Italian occupation forces on Cephalonia. (Louis De Bernieres, author of the book *Corelli's Mandolin*, denies that Pampaloni is the real Antonio Corelli. On the other hand, many of Pampaloni's facts fit Corelli - not surprising since he was the subject of *The White Flag*, a book by Marcello Venturi to which De Bernieres acknowledges he is "very indebted.")

Although the Italians were uninvited foreign troops occupying Greek land, they appear to have at least respected the local Cephalonians and their way of life. Inevitably, some of the Italian men developed relationships with Cephalonian women.

One of those women, Elly Fokas, fell in love with an accordion-playing Italian named Walter Gorno. (Some people believe she is the real Pelagia.) Amos Pampaloni also loved a Greek girl but did not have an affair with her. Her identity - other than her first name, Maria - has never been revealed. A school teacher, she left the island for Athens.

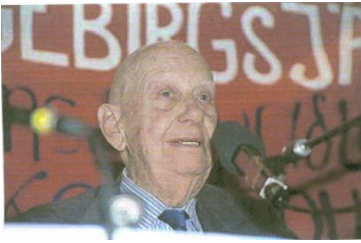
The fictional Captain Corelli plays a mandolin (something Amos Pampaloni never did but the book's author does).

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

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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



Amos Pampaloni and Captain Corelli's Mandolin

Photo by unnamed photographer; image, depicting Amos Pampaloni at the age of 94, is online via Cefalonia.it.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Amos-Pampaloni-and-Captain-Corelli-s-Mandolin>



General Antonio Gandin

Image of General Gandin, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Amos Pampaloni

Image of Amos Pampaloni.

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