

and dirty and the malaria had turned their skin yellow.

Still, they were relieved to have reached this point; the lake could not be far away now.

"Do we have enough wood?" asked Rose.

"Enough for half a day," replied Allnutt.

"Then we should get some more," said Rose.

The pair tied the boat and gathered more wood before continuing their journey down the river. To their great surprise, it took just a couple of hours to reach the clear waters of the lake. The water shone like gold in the afternoon sun, and there was not a rock, cataract or mangrove to be seen. Allnutt anchored the boat and they decided to bathe in the refreshing water. Then, the pair washed their clothes and cleaned the boat.

Once Rose had finished her chores, she got down on her knees and prayed for the first time since leaving the mission, while Allnutt looked on quietly. Rose prayed for guidance and strength and courage, and when she was finished, she found she was filled with a renewed feeling of determination. Nothing would stop her from attacking the Queen Louisa now.

Later that evening, after Rose and Allnutt had eaten an early dinner, Rose noticed a white dot in the distance.

"Charlie!" she exclaimed, as she jumped to her feet. "Look over there!"

Allnutt looked in the direction in which Rose was pointing.

"That's her, all right," he said. "The Queen Louisa."

"We found her!" said Rose excitedly. "Can you believe it, Charlie? We found her!"

Allnutt frowned. "I can't be sure, Rose, but it looks like she's coming this way."

"Do you think so?" asked Rose. "They mustn't see us, Charlie. We can't let them see us. We have to hide the boat."

Allnutt nodded.

It took thirty minutes for the capable crew of the African Queen to hide the boat in the reeds that grew against the riverbank. No one would be able to see the boat now, unless they were actually looking for it, and Rose was sure the Germans were unaware that the African Queen had reached the lake.

The Queen Louisa was truly impressive. She was painted in bright white, and Rose and Allnutt could see the flag of the Imperial German Navy flying proudly on the stern. The six-pounder gun on the deck was also clearly visible.

The Queen Louisa seemed to be getting closer and Allnutt was suddenly filled with dread.

