

watched as the boat slowly made its way to the Queen Louisa. Once the lifeboat had reached the German ship, the lieutenant saw the Germans help the lieutenant-commander climb aboard. Then, his superior disappeared into a cabin.

Fifteen minutes later, the lieutenant-commander reappeared. He and two new passengers climbed into the lifeboat and headed back to the Matilda. The Queen Louisa saluted and began to move in the opposite direction. When the lieutenant-commander was back on board the Matilda, he instructed his officers to take the unidentified passengers to his cabin.

The lieutenant was shocked to see the new arrivals. "Who are they?" he asked.

"A mechanic and a missionary's sister," replied the lieutenant-commander. "The Germans said they found them wandering around on the islands after their boat had been destroyed in a storm."

The lieutenant looked surprised. "It was very decent of the Germans to let them go," he commented.

"Yes," the lieutenant-commander agreed. "But I have no idea what I'm going to do with them. This is no place for civilians."

"Perhaps they can give us some information about the Germans?" said the lieutenant. "Should we ask them if they know anything?"

"We could do that," replied the lieutenant-commander, "but I doubt they'd be very helpful."

The lieutenant-commander was right; Rose and Allnutt knew nothing about the Germans' military strategy, and he quickly lost interest in the pair. He was only interested in attacking the Queen Louisa. The lieutenant-commander ordered his officers to take Rose and Allnutt to their own cabin, while he prepared for battle.

The next day, the Matilda and another British ship, HMS Amelia, attacked the Queen Louisa together. The crew aboard the Queen Louisa hardly had a chance to react when the two British ships suddenly opened fire on them. The bullets blew holes in the stern of the Queen Louisa and the steering gear was smashed to pieces. Thick, black smoke rose from the ship and some brave German soldiers tried to fire on the British ships with their rifles, but it was no use.

