

CHAPTER 9

THE CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN LOUISA WAS AMAZED WHEN HIS officers brought the prisoner to his cabin. His crew had found a man wandering on a nearby island that morning, and thought that the man may have been a spy. The man was unable to respond to any of the officers' questions and he seemed to be very sick.

The prisoner had long, dirty hair and torn clothes, and he could barely stand. "He can't be a spy. He must be a madman," the Captain thought. "But what had he been doing in the middle of nowhere?"

Allnutt was barely aware of what was going on around him. He felt weak and dizzy and hardly had the strength to talk. He knew that he was aboard the Queen Louisa, but he didn't care. He didn't care what the Germans did to him either; he had already lost Rose and the African Queen, and that pain was greater than anything that the Germans could do to him.

"What is your nationality?" asked the Captain in German.

Allnutt stared at him, confused.

"Belgian?" asked the Captain. "English?"

Allnutt nodded when he heard the word 'English'. "Yes, English," he said.

"What is your name?" asked the Captain.

"Charles Allnutt."

"And what were you doing on that island?"

"Nothing," replied Allnutt. The mechanic did not think it would be wise to mention the plan to sink the Queen Louisa.

Just then, the cabin door burst open and an officer brought in a new prisoner, a woman. It was Rose! Allnutt stared as the officer explained to the Captain that the woman had been found on one of the other islands. The officer then showed the Captain the orange lifebuoy the woman had been wearing. The name 'African Queen' was printed on it.

"African Queen?" murmured the Captain. The name sounded familiar to him. The Captain searched through some papers on his desk until he found a notice that had been sent out by von Hanneken. The notice said that a steamboat named the African Queen had gone

