

The Matilda and the Amelia fired upon the Queen Louisa for a second time, and it was a matter of minutes before the ship began to sink. The British ships then made an effort to rescue the German survivors.

The lieutenant-commander was delighted with his victory. With the Queen Louisa gone, the British forces would be able to cross the lake and crush von Hanneken's army. The lieutenant-commander looked forward to receiving a medal or a promotion for his efforts, but first he had to deal with Rose and Allnutt. Two days after the attack, the lieutenant-commander called the pair to his cabin to discuss their future with them. He told Allnutt that he had made plans to send him to South Africa to join the army. Rose, on the other hand, would be sent back to England immediately.

Allnutt was content with the lieutenant-commander's decision, but Rose was furious. She had no intention of going back to England; she could not face a life without Charlie.

Once they had returned to their cabin, Rose took hold of Allnutt's hand and said quietly: "Charlie, we have to get married."

Allnutt was surprised by Rose's proposal; he had secretly been planning to propose to her, but hadn't managed to find the courage.

"And we have to do it as quickly as we can," Rose added. "I have no desire to return to England alone; I'm coming with you to South Africa."

Allnutt smiled. "That's about the best idea you've ever had, Rosie!" he said.

And so, Rose and Charlie prepared to leave the lake once and for all. Rose's wish that the Germans would be defeated had come true. Now, she and Allnutt could begin their final journey to a new life in South Africa, as man and wife.

