

CHAPTER 10

MEANWHILE, THE LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ABOARD HMS Matilda was pacing up and down on the deck impatiently. The British naval ship had been searching for the Queen Louisa for weeks, without much luck. The lieutenant-commander's mission was clear: destroy the Queen Louisa and take the British troops can cross the lake into Central Africa and take the Germans by surprise. But the ship had proved almost impossible to find, and the lieutenant-commander was becoming increasingly frustrated.

The lieutenant-commander stopped his pacing long enough to stare across the lake, when he suddenly spotted something in the distance. There was smoke on the horizon, and below it, a white dot. At that moment, a lieutenant came running towards the lieutenant-commander, waving a pair of binoculars.

"We've spotted her," said the lieutenant breathlessly, as he gave the binoculars to his superior.

The lieutenant-commander looked through the binoculars and smiled. "That's the Queen Louisa, all right," he said. Then, he noticed something else: the Germans had raised a white flag.

"What do you think they're up to?" the lieutenant-commander asked his lieutenant.

The lieutenant shrugged. "I don't know, sir. I doubt they plan to surrender."

The lieutenant-commander watched as the Germans pulled the flag halfway down the mast and then raised it again. "That means they want to talk," he said.

"Talk?" exclaimed the lieutenant. "Talk about what?"

The lieutenant-commander said. "I don't know, but I'm certainly going to find out. I'm leaving you in charge while I'm out there. If this turns out to be some sort of trick, I'm giving you strict instructions to open fire on the boat, understand?"

The lieutenant nodded. "Yes, sir."

The lieutenant-commander and two of his officers climbed into a lifeboat which was then lowered into the water. The lieutenant

