

## **The Battle For Lake Tanganyika**

[Saidi Khamisi Pole, translation]

My father was a soldier during the war. He said the people were impressed by its speed, size and its wood-powered engine. Everyone was talking about it.

[Zuhura Yunus]

She was a floating beast equipped with four guns capable of destroying a target seven miles away.

The Goetzen intimidated and bullied the smaller boats that dared cross her. She gave the Germans complete supremacy on Lake Tanganyika. To control East Africa the Allied forces would have to sink her.

From December 1915 through to July 1916 the British and Belgians mounted attacks against the Germans in the Battle for Lake Tanganyika. They captured one German vessel and sunk another. But the Goetzen was indestructible.

On land the Germans were struggling to defend their colony. Needing reinforcements they took the guns and soldiers off the boat and scuttled her.

[Images courtesy of Colonial Picture Archive and Frankfurt University]