

## **A Passenger Ferry With A Past**

[Zuhura Yunus]

On the shores of Lake Tanganyika goods are piled high on board a boat with a remarkable past.

An enduring presence on the lake she's witnessed a hundred years of its history.

[Captain Titus Benjamin, MV Liemba, translation]

If this ship was human it would be a great-great grandmother, one who's borne many children, and we those children, still depend on her for our livelihoods.

[Zuhura Yunus]

A lifeline today, during World War One her role was very different. She was a fearsome warship named after a Governor of German East Africa.

Designed and constructed in a German shipyard, the Goetzen was packed into five thousands grates and dispatched to Africa in 1913.

The Great War brought conflict to the overseas colonies of Europe's warring powers. Here in East Africa the battle for dominance of this lake and the fate of this vast ship was so extraordinary that it inspired first a novel and then a Hollywood film: The African Queen.

A daring run down river and the destruction of a powerful German warship captured the imagination of cinema goers across the world in 1951.

The true story behind it is just as epic, exhilarating and fascinating.

[Images courtesy of Colonial Picture Archive, Frankfurt University and Getty Images]