

The MV Liemba Today

[Zuhura Yunus]

The German engineers who had assembled the ship when it arrived in Africa were given the task of scuttling her in 1916. They loaded the Goetzen with sand and covered all the engines with a thick layer of grease so that one day it might be salvaged.

Eight years later the Goetzen was raised from the lake's bed but by the British. She became the MV Liemba and began running as a ferry.

[Captain Titus Benjamin, MV Liemba, translation]

I love this boat and feel I have a historical connection to it. As the captain on the oldest passenger ferry in the world I feel so honored.

[Zuhura Yunus]

No ship could ever replace the character and history of this ancient steamer. She survives as a physical working connection to one of the defining periods in world history.

[Images courtesy of Colonial Picture Archive and Frankfurt University]