

1358 cartridges found in the Tigre and mentioned in the paragraph in question, when the same Government sent in a single consignment on December 11th, 1935, in the "ANTONIETTA", which passed through the Suez Canal at 4.45 p.m., no fewer than 400,000 dum-dum bullets in cases marked "G.A.1931" proceeding to Massawa. Consequently, there is every reason to suppose that these few cartridges found in the Tigre belonged to the hundreds of thousands of cartridges with dum-dum bullets despatched by the Italian Government to East Africa. This conclusion is the more inevitable inasmuch as all the arms and ammunition sent to Ethiopia undergo extremely strict supervision in the adjacent countries, in accordance with the Convention of 1930. Consequently, the importation into Ethiopia of illicit ammunition such as dum-dum bullets of British manufacture as alleged in the Italian memorandum is quite out of the question.

The Ethiopian Red Cross draws attention to the United Kingdom Government's protest of February 4th, 1936, sent to the League of Nations and published by the latter on February 6th, 1936, as document C.86.M.31.1936.VII.

Paragraph 2 of this protest, which completely refuted the Italian accusations with regard to the supply of dum-dum bullets by British firms, reads as follows:-

"I am directed by Mr. Secretary Eden to deny categorically that any firm in the United Kingdom has supplied the Ethiopian Government with so-called dum-dum or explosive ammunition for military purposes. In support of this statement I am to remind you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom exercise the strictest possible control over all exports of munitions and implements of war from the United Kingdom, each consignment of which must be covered by an export licence. As a result, the competent authorities of His Majesty's Government are in a position to see that such munitions as are exported for military purposes conform strictly to international regulations and standards."

Lastly, apart from the 1358 bullets alleged to have been dum-dum bullets, the Italian memorandum mentioned cartridges for Gras rifles with lead bullets, and other cartridges also with lead bullets. The Ethiopian Red Cross would point out that there is nothing in the Italian memorandum to show that these bullets were dum-dum bullets. The only description of these bullets is that they were lead bullets and therefore quite ordinary bullets - as if it could be regarded as an offence to employ even ordinary bullets against the Italian troops.

The Italian Government then gives a list of soldiers alleged to have been wounded by dum-dum ammunition. Here a preliminary observation must be made, namely that the alleged cases of wounds caused by dum-dum bullets and the alleged atrocities committed by Ethiopian troops under the following heading relate in exactly half the cases, namely six out of twelve, to the same encounters, and the four bodies of soldiers killed on December 3rd are counted twice, first, as regards wounds caused by dum-dum bullets and, secondly, as regards atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Ethiopian troops.