

on the ground are "armed" or mere peasants. In the second place, the Ethiopian Red Cross is in a position to say that (1) these so-called "armed Ethiopians" were Austrian and Irish members of Ambulance No.3 of the Ethiopian Red Cross and Ethiopian stretcher-bearers attached to the same, (2) the military escort was at the time two kilometres distant from the ambulance, and (3) it was not until the end of the day, after the Italian aircraft had gone, that messengers arrived from the Ethiopian forces on the other side of a mountain from the ambulance to ascertain whether the ambulance staff were friends or enemies. This latter circumstance is sufficient proof that up to this point there had been no contact between Ambulance No.3 of the Red Cross and the nearest Ethiopian troops. It also proves that the latter were entirely ignorant of the presence of the ambulance, and so disposes of the supposition that troops were present in the ambulance encampment.

The second fact brought out by the annex to the Italian memorandum is that the Italian Government, owing to the weakness of its arguments, has changed its tactics, and instead of examining the question which it had set out to deal with in this memorandum, namely the observance of the Geneva Convention of July 27th, 1929, it makes accusations as regards alleged violations of other conventions. Although drawing attention to this point, the Ethiopian Red Cross, confident in the justice of its cause, will not refuse to meet the Italian arguments even on this ground.

For example, an item of Annex 11 to the Italian memorandum concerns the use of dum-dum bullets by the Ethiopian troops. We do not pretend to deny absolutely the possibility that certain Ethiopian soldiers may, in isolated cases, have used cartridges containing dum-dum bullets, which before hostilities broke out may have been in the possession of hunters, afterwards enlisted in the Ethiopian army, or even, as we shall prove later, may have fired such cartridges captured from the enemy or taken from the bodies of Italian soldiers killed in battle. We categorically deny, however, that Ethiopia has ever imported such ammunition or supplied it to her army. Owing to the embargo imposed by the manufacturing countries on the despatch to Ethiopia of munitions of all kinds - an embargo which remained in force until after the invasion of our territory and which made it impossible for the Ethiopian Government to supply the troops going to the front with an adequate quantity of cartridges - it is not surprising that soldiers called to the colours should have procured cartridges of all kinds, or should have brought with them sporting cartridges which they had in their possession.

In the first paragraph the Italian Government makes an extremely vague allusion to small arms picked up in the Tigre. There is nothing to prove that these arms did not belong to the Italian troops or were not abandoned by the latter when they retreated, since they were not taken from the enemy as booty. This possibility appears the more likely inasmuch as the number of dum-dum bullets possessed by the Italian forces is known. The Ethiopian Red Cross is astonished that the Italian Government should have felt justified in accusing the Ethiopian armies of using dum-dum bullets on the strength of