

The Red Cross camp was situated in a tiny valley forming a triangle with sides fifty metres long at the foot of the plateau which rises in front of Makale.

The Ambulance itself was situated at the apex of this small valley and marked by a Red Cross flag. A similar flag was fixed right in the middle of the valley and a third stood at the base of the triangle.

On January 17th, the day before the bombardment, a member of the Ambulance staff standing beside the middle flag suddenly noticed a big triple-engined plane flying about 200 feet above the Red Cross camp. At this distance he discerned one of the crew looking out of the cabin. The member of the Ambulance staff immediately pointed out to him the flag beside him and signalled to the airman not to bomb the Red Cross camp. The latter signalled an acknowledgment.

The following day, January 18th, at 7 a.m. three triple-engined planes proceeded to bomb the camp for an hour. The first plane which dropped bombs bore the number 7, and the airman aimed specially at the Red Cross flag in the middle of the camp, the very flag which had been pointed out to the plane the evening before. The various bombs and marks of machine-gun bullets round this flag are evidence of the fact. Furthermore, eight Ethiopian women who were in the camp were wounded.

Later, about 2 p.m. three triple-engined planes flew over and bombed the ambulance for two and a half hours. After they left, 30 bombs were found near the Red Cross flag in the centre of the camp and there were also many traces of machine-gun bullets.

In this case there were two clearly premeditated bombardments. In the first place, the Italian airmen were undoubtedly aware of the presence at this place of a Red Cross Ambulance, since it had been pointed out to them during their reconnaissance flight on the previous day. Further, there were no troops in the neighbourhood to excuse the bombing. On the contrary, a member of the staff of the Ambulance in question had seen and heard Ras Mulugheta before the first bombardment formally forbid any soldier to go near the Red Cross camp. It should be observed that throughout both bombardments not a single shot was fired on the planes from any firearm in the neighbourhood. There can only be one conclusion: both bombardments of this ambulance were effected with the deliberate object of annihilating the Red Cross Ambulance and its staff.

On the morning of February 9th the hospital plane of the Ethiopian Red Cross, parked in a field several kilometres away from the town of Dessieh was bombarded by Italian planes from a height of 200 metres. It should be noted that a description and photograph of this hospital plane had been sent to Rome through the International Red Cross Committee.