

asked for particulars of the bombardment of Dessie on December 6th. Dr. B. said that aeroplanes had come and dropped from 40 to 50 "candle-bombs" (bombes-bougies), that the ambulance tents were in part destroyed, and that bombs fell on the operating room and on a sick ward. The Italians replied: "That is not true." Dr. B. maintained his statement, pointing out that he was on the spot at the time. An officer then asked him to sign a document withdrawing the statement which he and all the other doctors had signed with regard to the bombing of Dessie. He said to Dr. B: "You are an intelligent man. You must realise what may happen to you if you refuse to sign this retraction. You will come before a military court in which you will be charged with being an enemy of Italy, and you will be shot." Dr. B. refused to sign the retraction at Makale. On the following day a lorry brought B. and M. to Massawa in 26 hours, starting at half-past ten in the morning. Dr. B. was suffering from fever and his hand was swollen as a result of the blows received.

On arrival at Massawa B. and M. were put into the prison of the carabinieri. A lieutenant treated them very well, giving them food and a bath. They arrived at Massawa at 8 o'clock. A corporal of carabinieri came to take them to prison with criminals. There was no mattress and the floor was made of cement. B. and M. protested against being imprisoned along with criminals. They were told that that did not matter and that they were themselves negroes. They had no hot food for three days, but only bread and water. During these three days M. continued to ask for a doctor for B., but without result. On the third day a corporal came for Dr. B. and brought him to the Umberto Hospital at Massawa. The doctor who saw him paid more attention to his damaged hand than to his fever, and was curious to know why the hand was swollen. Dr. B. did not say that he had been struck with the butt of a rifle: he said he thought it was a case of rheumatic trouble. He had to make a cold water compress. M. made him a wooden splint, which he kept in position with his tie. Dr. B. was sent out of hospital with 40 degrees of fever, as he could not receive treatment there without the authorisation of Marshal Badoglio. Subsequently a telegram allowing him to be received there arrived, and Dr. B. was brought to the hospital, but was not given either quinine or aspirin. He was suffering from persistent malaria. When he asked the doctor for quinine, the latter replied that it was not necessary. He was guarded in the hospital ward by two carabinieri, and was forbidden to speak to the other patients.

One day the hospital doctor, with whom were senior officers, showed Dr. B. a paper. It was a copy of the protest sent to G. against the bombarding of Dessie. Dr. B. was asked to sign a retraction and was told that if he did not do so, he would be detained in Massawa and would not be allowed to go on boardship with M. on February 26th. He was again threatened with being brought before a military court and was told he was an enemy of the Italians. He was described as "Enemy No. 6" on the ground of his having signed the statement.

In the end, being weak and desiring at any cost to leave Massawa, Dr. B. agreed to sign a retraction to enable him to leave. He did so under constraint and in order to save his life.