

On February 15th, while he was performing an operation in the cave, a medical attendant came and told Dr. B. that Ras Mulugueta's army had left. At first he thought that this was untrue, but subsequently found it to be the case. At 6 o'clock in the evening Dr. B. saw the Abyssinian troops evacuating the district and fleeing towards the mountains. Dr. B. offered to let M. go and remain alone at the ambulance, where there were about 30 to 35 severely wounded patients who had been operated upon. All the light casualties had gone. M. preferred to stay with Dr. B. and two or three Abyssinian attendants. At 5.30 next morning they heard Italians calling to them. They went out and found several rifles levelled at them. It was then that M. said he was a journalist. Dr. B. and M. were taken before the Divisional Commander. Hostile demonstrations were made against them all the way. An officer asked Dr. B. where drinking water was to be found, and in exchange offered Dr. B. a mule, seeing that he was ill. In addition to Dr. B. and M.M. a boy (Chifarra, Red Cross attendant), a cook (Kabbada), and two Abyssinians were also taken prisoners. They were jeered at, and when they came before the Divisional Commander, they were struck and fell to the ground. Dr. B. even received a blow from a rifle butt, which sprained his hand.

From Makale they were conveyed to Massawa handcuffed. Once more they believed their last hour was come, a soldier threatened them with his rifle. An officer intervened and freed them from their handcuffs, at least from the chains with which Dr. B. was tied to the Abyssinians. He remained chained to M. They were brought into a tent where a certain number of officers were sitting. Dr. B. here had a nervous attack. An officer reassured him with the words "We are not Boches, we are Italians. Don't be frightened!" A little cognac was brought for Dr. B. but he could not lift the glass to his mouth.

At Makale, B. and M. were taken to the staff tent. M. was interrogated first, alone, for a period of two or three hours. It was then Dr. B's turn. He was questioned as to the army of Ras Mulugueta and as to details of the operations. Dr. B. returned the shortest possible answers, having no knowledge of what was happening with the army. He merely gave the figure of 200,000 to 300,000 men as the numbers of Ras Mulugueta's army. In the evening a small tent was erected for Dr. B. and M; but the site chosen was dirty. They were given neither mattresses nor blankets and were compelled to lie on the ground. After two or three hours carabinieri came to look for them. They were again intimidated; their captors made a show as if they wished to shoot them.

On the following day they were questioned by the staff as to the Red Cross organisation in Ethiopia and were