

Lastly, even assuming that all the cases of alleged wounds, 13 in number, mentioned in the Italian memorandum, were really caused by dum-dum bullets and even if the accusation regarding the 1358 dum-dum bullets alleged to have been picked up in the Tigré were admitted, which on the contrary the Ethiopian Government categorically denies, it would be excessive to conclude, as the Italian memorandum does, that "all these facts constitute a chain of indisputable evidence that cartridges containing prohibited bullets are being systematically used by the Abyssinian troops."

Before dealing with the third heading, namely the "other atrocities committed by the Abyssinian troops", the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian Red Cross venture to draw attention to a fact which the Italian Government had already brought to the attention of the League of Nations in a letter from M. Aloisi dated December 17th, 1935, Document C.505.M.273, but which it did not mention in its memorandum to the Red Cross, probably realising that the accusation would not stand even a superficial examination. This refers to a wound supposed to have been received by Sergeant Dalmazio Birago while returning on board machine Ca.101 after the bombing of the open town of Mai-Meshitch on November 18th, 1935 (see annex to the present memorandum, page 27). This wound was only received after the bombing and before returning to the Asmara aerodrome. According to this report, to which several photographs were attached, fragments of bone and lead were found in the sergeant's wound, the lead fragments "varying from 1 cm. in diameter to the size of a grain of corn". Although, according to the report, the wound in itself revealed nothing which could not be explained as the effects of an ordinary bullet, it nevertheless claims that no explanation could be given of the presence of the metal fragments. Accordingly it concludes that the wound received by Dalmazio Birago was caused by an explosive projectile. The Ethiopian Government and Red Cross entirely agree with this remark. The projectile in question was the shell of an anti-aircraft gun, a weapon everywhere employed against bombing aeroplanes. The Italian Government itself proved in its report that the projectile in question was "explosive" (cf. bottom of p.2 of the Italian report) i.e. a shell. The Italian Government states, in fact, that the fragments of metal varied from 1 cm. in diameter to the size of a grain of corn.

Since, however, the largest bullet at present employed in the Ethiopian armies measures 7.92 mm. in diameter, and since a single fragment in the case in question measured no less than 10 mm., it is quite obvious that the wound was inflicted by a small shell and that the hypothesis of dum-bum or explosive bullet is completely ruled out.

Lastly, we have the cases of the so-called atrocities committed by the Ethiopian troops. The first case concerns an Askari who is said to have been killed and afterwards to have been disembowelled and had his skull split by the Ethiopians. This requires only a brief reply. The photograph which the Italian Government attaches to its accusation suffices to show that, although the jaw, but not the skull may have been fractured in some way or other, time and the jackals have done their sinister work well, judging by the advanced state of decomposition of the body.