

proceeded to Dessie, and four squares were set for the camp in a corner of a field away from the hospital. All the tents and all the lorries were conspicuously marked with large Red Cross signs.

At Dessie the Unit was honoured by an invitation to dine

and none would comprehend. Ethiopia is very far away. Who would believe that one day it may be the villagers and townfolk of England who may suffer like this; that a passing shadow over a playground may one day rain worse than death on scores of happy children? Your children?"

So the tale goes on. The deliberate, merciless bombing of the Red Cross Hospital of the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia is graphically described. "None of us would wish to make a fuss about being bombed. We had expected all sorts of risks but not of course just this one. There was a war on! But our patients! That was the difference. D. H. Harrison, the Press Association special correspondent, writing of this day referred to the face of the wounded man, crawling from the shattered ward tent, dragging behind him a mangled mass of bleeding flesh almost severed from his body that was once his leg! I saw this man—he was the first I met on returning to camp—appealing to me for help. Can I ever forget?"

"After this events moved swiftly. Once more the hospital was mercilessly bombed. The hospital was forced to take refuge with its depleted stores and staff in a cave. The Kenya and Somali men refused to stay. It was not their war, they had been promised immunity. The C.O. did not dispute their right to go home if they wished. When the palaver was ended he took my arm and for some minutes we stood silently apart looking over the river. The work of the Unit was finished. His eyes were full over the tears he would not show. Everything had been going splendidly. Then our camp had been destroyed, and now we were deserted by all but a handful of our men."



ATO ABABA, DR. EMPEY, THE AUTHOR, AND A ZABANIA AT KWORAM WITH AN UNEXPLODED BOMB.

with the Emperor where they were served with an excellent dinner accompanied by choice wines. Next day the Emperor, accompanied by the Duke of Harrar, inspected the camp of the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia. "He appeared," says the author, "to be particularly interested in our operations tent and its accessories, the Hounsfeld beds in our ward tents, and in some microscopical specimens Bevan had set out ready for him."

At Dessie it was decided that Mr. Macfie and Mr. Bevan should take over the charge of the French Mission Hospital. There things happened that had in them a note of warning. "We heard of the bombing by Italian aeroplanes first on 31st December, 1935, of the Egyptian Ambulance at Daggah Bur. We knew long ago, of course, that the hospital at Dessie had actually been bombed, but we tried to explain that away as bad shooting intended for the *Gibbi*. But these further attacks on Red Cross Units, what were we to think of them? Personally I just would not believe that the Italians could have deliberately bombed hospitals and ambulances. There must be some explanation. I had many good friends who were Italian. Quixotically I refused to credit such dishonourable brutality to any of their countrymen. Others disagreed and strongly urged that we ought to face the facts. How right they were experience proved."

Later at Alamata the Unit came into contact with the horrible effects of mustard gas. "I shall not," writes the author, "readily forget the sight that greeted us on driving into the camp. . . . I could cover pages recounting horrors, but what would be the use? They would be nauseous,

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A "GAS" BOMB.

Then came the flight of the Emperor, the disorder that followed in Addis Ababa, and the deliberate shooting of the heroic Dr. Melly, followed by his death two days later.

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