

RETRIBUTION ; THE TIDE TURNS.

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Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Do.

Not less significant than the fall of Benghazi is the return to Abyssinia of Haile Selassie. This event may indeed foreshadow the downfall of the totalitarian powers. Abyssinia was one of their much vaunted conquests; it is well on the way first being recovered. Our cameraman filmed the Emperor as he left the Sudan and Haile Selassie invited him to accompany him to Ethiopia. The always impassive face of the Emperor must have concealed deep emotions as the plane bore him home. It is not difficult to imagine what was passing through his mind.

Less than six years ago the Fascist legions made modern war against the all but defenceless Abyssinians. It was one of the most shameful campaigns in history. Even with tanks, planes and guns they at first failed, and the now dismissed Marshal Badoglio, eventually won the victory.

It was not war, it was murder. Flame throwers burned alive the natives as they took cover in the brush.

Into Addis Ababa poured native warriors avowing loyalty to Haile Selassie. The Emperor still hoped for victory, but to European eyes it was clear that the fanatical tribesmen had little chance. Italian bombers lined up for their taste of active service. The Regia Aeronautica boasted that it was invincible, and against a coloured race which had not even one anti-aircraft gun it fulfilled its purpose.

Haile Selassie visited the hospital where lay the victims of the bombing of Dessie. Addis Ababa itself had been bombed, and was now partially in ruins. When Badoglio's advance guard was almost within gun-range of the capital, and there was no hope of averting defeat, the Emperor left the country....He is a man of unbounded faith, but he must have thought that he was gazing on his beloved Abyssinia for the last time.

To the League of Nations which had betrayed Abyssinia, he made a

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dramatic appeal. The delegates were only too ready to give him a respectful hearing but hardly had he begun to speak when by Mussolini's orders Italian journalists attempted to howl him down.

In Abyssinia the conquest seemed complete. The Italians were in possession and the native chieftains who remained in the country were forced to make formal surrender. Italy was in the first flush of triumph. Her African Empire was established. The flag of Fascism flew over the newly-conquered territory.

In the flames of the first totalitarian war a harmless free people had been destroyed. To the millions who still admired him (they're rapidly finding him out to-day) Mussolini indulged in boastful gesticulation even more ludicrous than usual.

What about Benghazi ?

Now the Emperor is back. An Abyssinian guard of honour awaited him. He sat down to an active service meal, the first food he had eaten in Abyssinia for nearly five years. Again at the Emperor's side is Ras Kasa, who valiantly resisted Italian conquest. Abyssinian troops are no longer wild men with swords, but well-armed soldiers. British officers have trained them, and the British army will help the Emperor to take over his country and restore order. Now trained to use machine-guns the Abyssinians are fighting-men as good as any in Africa.

The Emperor next received the formal congratulations and an address of welcome by the British officer in command. Haile Selassie has asked for British guidance to restore his country to economic order, and after the war an International Commission will assist him.

The Duke of Harrar, the Emperor's son, photographed the historic scene.

(EMPEROR PAN) It only remained for the Emperor to hoist his flag.

It will fly over the first conquered country to be wrested from the totalitarian grip. The conscience of the free world has been uneasy over Abyssinia. We now make amends, both to the country and to the man who has passed through suffering to triumph.
