

	<i>dil</i> (A) 1. victory; 2. white spot being an early sign of leprosy; <i>diil</i> (Som) long animal track; <i>dhiil</i> (Som) milk-vessel of fibre; <i>dil amba</i> (A) victory mountain		
HDL80	Dil Amba 09°42'/38°26' 2579 m see under Gebre Guracha	09/38	[AA Gz]
HET40	Dil Yibza (Dil Yibsa, Dilbiza) 13°07'/38°27' 3053 m	13/38	[Gz]
HCK09	Dila, see Dilla		
HCS74	Dila (church)	07/37	[WO]
HCS85	Dila (mountain)	07/37	[WO]
HDG37	Dila 09°24'/35°29' 1610 m	09/35	[Gz]
JCC45	Dila, see Bila		
	<i>dilala</i> : <i>diilalla</i> , <i>dilalla-a</i> (O) cold		
HD...	Dilala (Dilela) same as HDD74 Dilela? (with sub P.O. under A.Abeba) The primary school (in Chebo & Gurage awraja) in 1968 had 341 boys and 21 girls in grades 1-4, with three teachers. An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]	08/37?	[Po Ad x]
HEK01	Dilala 11°50'/37°41' 1874 m	11/37	[Gz]
HDB87	Dilamo 08°57'/36°21' 1624 m	08/36	[Gz]
HDL67	Dilamo, see under Webera	09/39	[WO]
HFE06	Dilarye (mountain) 13°36'/39°01' 2463 m	13/39	[Gz]
	<i>dilb</i> (A) 1. stored grain; 2. treasure; 3. large and fat ox		
HEE99c	Dilb (village) A group of huts 43 km from Weldiya at the "Chinese road" a little before the real high plateau. From there a very stony road branches off to the north towards Genete Maryam and Lalibela. (A locality Bete Hor written on some map is not known at Dilb.) [Äthiopien 1999 p 341]	11/39	[Ca]
	<i>dilba</i> (O) bulky and heavy; <i>dhilbe</i> (O) idle, lazy, slothful; <i>dilbi</i> (O) stoack or hoard of grain from past harvest;		
HET40	Dilbiza, see Dil Yibza <i>dilbo namattgalu</i> (O) move into a friend's house to live there		
HDA67	Dilbu 08°46'/35°28' 1500 m	08/35	[Gz]
??	Dilda, in northern Ethiopia According to Wylde the Dilda market, held on Fridays, was regarded as small in the 1890s.	../..	[18]
HDN32	Dildessa (Daidessa) (mountain) 10°15'/35°08' 988/1463 m The Norwegian Per Sandvik was in the area around 1930. It was called 'Copper Camp' on an English map. Sandvik visited a mine excavated by the Englishman Digby in the early 1900s. He found three entrances joined by a small horizontal tunnel further inside. He first met enormous clouds of flies, then a small tortoise and last many bats before water prevented further advance. There was quartz with copper minerals. [P Sandvik, I Etiopia ..., Oslo 1935 p	10/35	[WO Gz]
HCA06	Dildi (area) 1150 m	05/35	[WO]
HEM51	Dildi (Deldei, Deldey) 12°11'/39°29' 2250/2262 m The artist William Simpson from London was there 29-30 April 1868 when accompanying Napier's headquarters on the way back from Mekdela. (As Dildi can mean any bridge, early maps also used the name for the old	12/39	[Gz Gu WO Ha]

	Portuguese bridge abross the Abay.) <i>dildil</i> (A,T) bridge, arch; <i>dildila</i> (O) bridge; <i>dildil</i> (Som) line, stripe		
HED60	Dildil, see Tis Isat Dildil <i>dildila</i> (O) bridge		
HBR78	Dildila (Dildilla) <i>dildila finchaa</i> , waterfall bridge	05/37	[+ WO]
??	Dildila Finchaa (Dildela Finchewa)	../.	[+ Po]
H....	Dildila Melfa sub-district (Dilidila ..) (centre in 1964 = Kunalie)	13/38?	[+ Ad]
HCG84	Dildila Waka (Dildilla Uaca) 07°08'/35°13' ("God's bridge", natural rock arch)	07/35	[Gz Gu WO]
JEP09	Dildoli, see Didoli		
JCF01	Dildug 05°30'/44°24' 232 m	05/44	[WO Gz]
HDJ27	Dile Kolba 09°15'/37°15' 2338 m <i>dilela</i> (dilläla) (A) illusion, flattery	09/37	[Gz]
HDD74	Dilela (centre in 1964 of Wenchi sub-district)	08/37	[Ad]
HEL59	Dilgen Kidane Mihret (church) 12°13'/39°15'	12/39	[Gz]
HDD56	Dilila (Dilele, Delella) 08°38'/38°03' 2477 m	08/38	[Gz WO]
HDM53	Dilila 09°36'/39°37' 2973 m	09/39	[Gz]
HEC76	Dilish 11°32'/37°13' 2006 m	11/37	[Gz]
HEL77	Diliyako 12°27'/39°07' 2157 m	12/39	[Gz]
HC...	Dilkuba (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	06/35	[Ad]
HCK08	Dilla (Dila) MS: 06°23'/38°19' = HCK09 1570 m or Gz: 06°25'/38°19' 1676 m Centre at least 1959-1964 of Derassa awraja and in 1980 of Gedeo awraja; with post office. Distance 359 km from Addis Abeba. Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 10SE Kofali (Cofali) (area) 3SW Kechu (Cicciu) (village) 1550 m 9SW Wenago (Wanago, Uanago) (market) 1750 m 9W Lagara (creek) 10W Chabe (Chabbe, Shabe) (ravine w rock sculptures) 9NE Kamadu (K'amadu) (village) 1778/1848 m	06/38	[Ro WO MS Br]
geol	The town is in one corner of the gold-bearing triangle in Sidamo. The Dilla mountain consists of volcanic rocks. 9 km west of Dilla there is Lagara creek, the northernmost branch of the Gango creek. An occurrence of pyrite associated with hot springs has been found there, reported by the American T.G. Murdock in 1960. [Mineral 1966]		
1930s	A German ethnological expedition passed Dilla in early December 1934 and called it "the last outpost of civilization" but also "an old coffee market." Their porters were so afraid of the Guji people that most of them refused to go as far as Dilla and new men were hired. The Guji people seemed to have arrived to the Dilla area not very long ago and were in the process of becoming settled farmers. About 800 inhabitants, important market. <i>Vice Residenza dei Darasa</i> , post, telegraph, infirmary, mill, church. [Guida 1938] The roads Dilla-Agere Maryam 127 km and Dilla-Wendo 35 km in the 1930s were not maintained and not coated.		
1941	Almost immediately after the capture of Shashemene in the first half of May 1941, a mobile force, consisting of one company of the Natal Mounted Rifles and the 6th KAR, with light tanks and armoured cars, moved forward towards Dilla. Almost to its own surprise, this scouting operation cut off the retreat of the 21st and 24th Italian Divisions, bottling them up on the east side of lake Abaya. What had seemed to be comparatively slow progress in this southern area was much too rapid for the Italian defenders, who		

were either captured or fled in disorder towards Soddo.

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 173]

After the Italians had left, there were fights between Sidamo and Guji, and the border areas between them were empty of people for several months.

[Ad E Jensen]

"/As we left Agere Maryam/ the weather deteriorated, rain fell heavily, and I had the utmost difficulty in getting through to Dilla. Wearing chains and ploughing through heavy mud, we covered seventy miles in three days, the exceedingly sharp gradients on this part of the road adding to our difficulties. -- Coming down at last to a lower and warmer level we reached Dilla, the important centre from which the coffee of Sidamo is sent up by lorry to Addis Ababa."

[D Buxton 1949(1957)]

1948 "Albert and Evelyn Brant /of the S.I.M. mission/ first went to Dilla in 1948; they set up -- a tent under a sycamore tree and built a dispensary. The Darassa people of the area flocked to them for medicine and asked for teaching; Evelyn supplied both by including alphabet classes two mornings a week in the clinic."

[H M Willmott .. p 88]

Norwegian Evangelical mission NLM, Norsk Luthersk Misjonssamband, took a formal decision on 17 March 1948 to move its work from the Far East to Ethiopia, and they started in the southern field later in the year with stations in Dilla from February 1949 and Yirga Alem. Dilla, for being a commercial town, was perceived as rather materialistic by the missionaries.

1950s The first to work in Dilla were Omund Birkeland (b 1918) with wife and nurse Reidun (b 1919), and Gudmund Vinskei (b 1920) with wife/nurse Borghild Vinskei (b 1919). Next year arrived teacher Reidar Eriksen (b 1922) and his wife and nurse Solveig (b 1924) in year 1950, Ommund Lindtjørn (b 1919) with wife and nurse Eli Margretha (b 1918), and dividing with Yirga Alem also teacher Brynhild Sagberg (b 1917). The Lindtjørn couple soon moved to Yabelo. [NLM sources]

Mission work was started in an old former bar near the centre of the town. In late 1950 NLM could start using a large site in direction towards lake Abaya. It was situated only 20 metres from the limit of the town, so among the missionaries the site was popularly called 'Limit 20'. The first family dwelling was ready by mid-1951. By late 1960s there were 20 buildings. Including students there were then about 130 people living within the mission site.

There were no building experts involved. The first church collapsed twice in bad weather, but the third time it was more solidly constructed.

In 1950-1969 about 1,000 children passed through the NLM primary school in Dilla. By the end of that period there were 7 Ethiopian and 2 Norwegian teachers. Students were generally given money for food and had to arrange their own households.

[S Hunnestad 1969 p 171-182]

1952 A Bible school (pastors school) with 21 students was opened in 1952, the first one established by NLM in the Ethiopian countryside. Students from the Bible school, after having worked for a while, were given further training in an evangelical class, which typically had 16 students. Nurse Inger Helene Trevland (b 1922) arrived the same year to work at Dilla and Yirga Alem. In 1953 arrived Joakim Emil Myra (b 1921) with wife Magnhild. In 1955 was added Even Rønningstad (b 1919) with wife Hjørdis (b 1925) and Sunniva Tveit who later moved to Agere Selam.

[NLM sources]

Among students at the Bible school was a remarkable woman Sue Bengere of whom a whole little book has been published in Norwegian language.

[Jorunn Hamre, Fra trollkvinne til evangelist, Oslo 1982, 194 pages]

Amare Mamo, who had grown up partly in Dilla, served for four years in the 1950s as teacher at the Bible school. He later became important for production of publications from the mission.

[S Hunnestad 1969 p 74]

- (The Bible school was moved to Awasa in 1968.)
- 1955 In 1955 Dilla had the only petrol filling station on the road southwards in this direction. There was some digging in the main street of the centre, done by prisoners.
[C Birch-Iensen, Ett okänt Mecka, Sthlm 1960 p 49-51]
Sudan Interior Mission were establishing a small hospital, so the Norwegian Lutheran Mission limited their health service to having a clinic (-1955-).
Coffee cleaning plants in Dilla were operated (-1955-) by A.Besse & Co., Tana Co., and Giordano Signoretti.
- 1956 Three-year courses for congregation leaders were started by NLM in 1956, and new such courses somewhat irregularly. Students were sent from the congregations rather than applying on their own initiative. Boarding in the mission site was arranged so that families could be received. There were four boarding houses with place for 30 families. There was teaching also for women.
[S Hunnestad 1969 p 183-188]
- 1957 "A gift was received /by the Sudan Interior Mission/ from the homeland for the building of a hospital, and -- it was officially opened in October, 1957. Permission was granted -- that the hospital be named 'Prince Makonnen Memorial Hospital' in memory of the loved son who had been killed in an automobile accident just five months before. The Emperor suggested that the proposed opening date be advanced two days in order that it might fall on the birthday of the Prince."
[H H Willmott .. p 89]
- 1958 By 1958 Dilla was one of 27 places in Ethiopia ranked as First Class Township. Sub-province Governor of Derassa awraja in 1959 was Lt.Col. Ayalew Mengesha.
- 1960s "One day, near Dilla /mission/ station, we saw the pagan darkness in all its stark reality. About two hundred men, women and children were caught in the Darassa 'Death Dance', a frenzied rite lasting three days and nights. By dancing in this way they hope that the one who has died in their village will not pass into judgment; but the screams at the graveside showed how little comfort there was in that uncertain hope. They were moving round a sacred tree, their arms upraised, and their rigid heads jerking forward with every step. The heavy hide skirts of the women flapped a low accompaniment to the chanting of the men. Their expressions were crazed, and their shaking forms responded like puppets to the hypnotic rhythm of the drums."
[H M Willmott .. p 148]
- 1960 In the 1950s there was no telephone line to Dilla but a radio station for telecommunications. A new telephone landline from Addis Abeba to Dilla was completed in late 1960.
By 1960 Dilla had one of the ten municipal slaughter houses in Ethiopia.
- 1962 Still in 1962 the road southwards from Dilla was described by the Highway Authority as "passable in dry season - difficult".
The Franco-Ethiopian railway company in 1960-1963 carried out surveys for extending the railway with a 310 km line from Nazret to Dilla. The government formed a Nazareth-Dilla Railway Development Corporation, but the project did not become reality.
[The Railway Gazette 1966-03-18]
- 1963 The average daily traffic on the Wendo side in 1963 was 46 buses, 15 cars, and 29 trucks. Travel time from Addis Abeba to Dilla (368 km) was three weeks in 1953 but reduced to ten hours by 1965.
- 1964 In 1964 a diesel generating set of the electric authority EELPA was put into service for the first time.
A census of urban centres in 1964-68 registered 2,930 Gurage at Dilla.
- 1965 In 1965 the French Government offered a loan to extend the railway from Nazret to Dilla, but this project was never carried out, although Yugoslav experts had studied and thought the extension would be worthwhile..
Official statistics for 1965 say that there were 1,210 owned, 1,640 rented, and 90 unspecified dwellings. Of these none had piped water, about 2,000 used water from wells and 940 from streams. 0.7% of the households had flush toilets, 57.1% had pit latrines,

and 42.2% had none.

Of the town population ten years of age and older, there were 4,070 men of whom 30.2% literate and 3,670 women of whom 5.2% literate.

17% of the males and 18% of the females living there had been born in the town.

1966 In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Dilla. A branch of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia was established within the period 1965-1968.

An elementary school building constructed with assistance from Sweden through ESBU was completed by 1966.

1967 Population 11,287 as counted in 1967. 80.4% were illiterate. 42% of the active population were engaged in sales and 14% in farming. Mother tongue was 36% Amharic, 27% Gurage and 17% Oromo. There were 22% Muslim, and at that time 37% of the urban inhabitants were born in Dilla.

There were 42 telephone numbers in 1967. For those on personal names about 20 were Moslem-type and about 10 Amhara-type. The Norwegian Mission had number 1.

1968 Atse Dawit primary school in 1968 had 1048 boys and 568 girls, with 20 male and 2 female teachers.

Sudan Interior Mission school had 266 boys and 15 girls in grades 4-6, with 6 male Ethiopian teachers and one female foreign teacher.

Norwegian Lutheran Mission school had 153 boys and 98 girls in grades 1-6, with 5 male and 3 female teachers (one of these foreign).

1969 Bekele Molla around 1969 had a motel at Dilla. Still by then the road was not well maintained beyond Dilla.

The Chamber of Deputies on 19 April 1969 approved a loan from West Germany of Eth\$ 87.4 million for construction of the road Dilla-Moyale. The Senate did the same on 22 May (value expressed as a little over US\$ 23 million).

1970s "Dilla, a busy town with brightly painted tin-roofed buildings, is a slightly reduced version of Shashemene."

[P B Henze]

In 1971 arrived nurse Marja Kaisa Eskola (b 1940) sent by Finnish mission to the Norwegian mission in Dilla.

Population 18,898 in 1975.

Around 1978 there were petrol filling stations of Agip, Mobil and Shell and a full post office.

1980s Odd Åge and Lillian Ågedal worked at Dilla probably around 1980.

Björg and Kjell Östby were young Norwegian missionaries in Dilla around 1985. There was obvious unemployment in the town at that time. A street boy greeted a Swedish visitor "Russian welcome".

Population 26,392 in 1987, more than a doubling in less than 20 years' time.

1990s Population around 33,700 in 1994.

In an ecumenical conference in Dilla in February 1994 the several religious missions "divided up" between themselves those ethnic groups which had not yet been effectively reached. In this way there would be no disturbing doubling in the continued mission work.

[A Nordlander, Väckelse och växtvärk ..., EFS-förlaget (Sweden) 1996 p 198]

Around 1995 Dilla was capital of the Gedeo (Gedio) Zone of the SNNPRS federal entity, called Southern Nations for short.

"This small town is of little inherent interest other than as the gateway to the far south.

There are several scruffy dollar-a-night hotels along the main road. If you are inclined to explore, there is a group of about 100 stelae similar to those at Tiya in the vicinity. To get there, follow the main road south towards Moyale for 9 km, then it's a 6 km walk through light forest to the cluster."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

1998 On 22 July 1998 there were violent clashes near Dilla. There were conflicting statements in the news who the parties were and how many had been killed. The government

spokeswoman Selome Taddesse said that about 140 people were killed and large numbers at least temporarily displaced.

[Reuters 98-08-19]

In 1998 the government established four new universities. In this context Dilla Teachers' College was incorporated into Awassa University.

[T M Vestal, Ethiopia - a post-cold war ..., USA 1999 p 156]

It was at least later called Dilla College of Teachers' Education and Health Science, DCTEHS.

2000s There is a large market, with parasols from leaves and straw hats as characteristic products for sale.

The new Zeleke Hotel is in the medium price range. The Get Smart Restaurant is considered to have good food. The Gede Culture & Information Office among other things issues permission papers for travellers to visit the stelae sites in the area.

[Lonely planet 2000 p 225]

Lael Hezeboch hotel had 27 rooms and Mechal 18 rooms.

Population around 41,500 in 2001, a new doubling in about 25 years' time.

Dilla: Chabe/Shabe

Even though the Awassa tourism office had directed us to the sites and advised us to check in with the Dilla office, initially the Dilla office refused to help unless they had a letter from the Awassa office. After some persuasion, instead of giving directions they offered a guide who would show up in an hour or so.

The Shabe Rock Carvings are considered to be one of the foremost archaeological sites in Ethiopia. They can be found by following the sign to Dilla University on the right hand side as you drive into Dilla from the north. We took on a guide and headed off on a track past the University that could be called a road only with the greatest exaggeration.

The carvings all represent the same thing - an oddly shaped cow with oversized udder, and a tiny head with long odd shaped horns. At the main point there are 14 of these cows. There are five or six further down the chasm which are a bit harder to see, and a few more on a rock by the short path down. Most of them are about 8-10 inches high, with some variation and a few very small. The tourist information says these carvings are 3000 years old.

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/08/04]

text F. Anfray, Les sculptures rupestres de Chabbe dans le Sidamo, *in Annales d'Éthiopie* 7, 1967 p 19-24.

picts *Annales d'Ethiopie* vol 7, Paris 1967 p 10-24[fig 1-4] + pl I-VII
a total of 21 illustrations of rock sculptures found in 1965
by archaeologists in the ravine of Chabbe;
G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 2-4
some twenty reliefs on a rock wall

Dilla: Lagara

geol According to Murdock (1960), an occurrence of pyrite connected with hot springs has been found in Lagara Creek. The locality is 300-400 m upstream from the place where the Lagara joins the Gango. It is reached by a mule trail which continues westwards to Lake Abaya.

The occurrence of pyrite in Lagara Creek is of no economic value. Its association with hot springs allows no possibility for production of the large quantities of pyrite needed for commercial production of sulphuric acid.

[Mineral 1966]

picts F Hällzon, Afrikanska bilder, Örebro/Sweden 1954
p 66 truck with coffee load, 67 group of twelve Norwegian
missionaries, 68 buildings of the mission station, 73 camels;
S Hunnestad, Sidamo i ..., Oslo 1969 p 208-209[7] bible school
classes etc, [16] a combined school and church in the district;
G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 16
exterior of Tadesse photo shop.

Dilla : Wenago

see directly under Wenago.

- HDG.. Dilla (river in Wellega) 09/35 [Mi]
 A group of coal deposits have been found between the Dilla and Alaltu rivers, near Nejo. [Mineral 1966]
- HCK08 **Dilla wereda** (centre in 1964 = Wenago) 06/38 [Ad]
 /This Dilla? The sub-title of Ståhl's publication says 'A study of the land reform process in Western Wollega'./
 In 1976 the government initiated various settlement schemes.
 "An interesting point with the Dilla settlement is that it combines family holdings with communal farms. Each settler is given a plot of one hectare -- This plot is operated by the family and it is supposed to provide the family with their basic subsistence. The 200 settler families are grouped into two peasant associations, each association is provided with 800 hectares of land."
 "The communal farm will be planted with cereals and cash-crops (pepper and cotton). The settlers will receive tractor-service during the initial years and they will be provided with agricultural extension advice. A co-operative shop, a school and basic health facilities will be provided. The first phase of the settlement programme was initiated in November 1976 when the 200 settlers went down to Dilla to clear the ground. -- In April 1977 the settlers will permanently move down to Dilla."
 "The success of the settlement programme is dependent on the motivation of the settlers to work hard. Life in Dilla will be tough. It is a wild area where lions and leopards roam around and baboons, hogs and buffalos will try to maximize their share of the harvest. -- The settlers will fight an uneven struggle unless provided with effective means of production and agricultural know-how. The communal farm will have to be partly operated with machines in order to give a significant surplus. -- Unless cultivated properly, which requires agronomic expertise, the productivity of the soil could be drastically reduced, with fatal consequences for the project."
 [M Ståhl, New seeds in old soil, Uppsala/Sweden 1977 p 37-38]
- dillo* (O) medium-sized tree of forests and river banks,
 Cassipourea ruwensoriensis
- ?? Dillo ../. [x]
 pict Camerapix 1995 p 52 ancient stone carving of cow
- HDK96 Dillon, see Welarge
- JDR95 Dillul (Dullul, Dullool) (plain) 10°50'/42°05' 10/42 [WO Ha Gz]
dilo (A) 1. wide-mouthed pot; 2. white skin caused by leprosy;
dilloo (O) fence /around a house/
- HBK72 Dilo (Dillo) 04°16'/37°42' 1057 m, cf Dello 04/37 [Gz WO]
 (area with volcanic crater)
- HDJ67 Dilo 09/37 [WO]
- HDL22 Dilo 09°17'/38°39' 2624 m 09/38 [AA Gz]
- HET50 Dilybiza, see Dibilza
- ?? Dim (river), cf Dem ../. [Ch]
 The Choancha stream joins the Dim river and the two go on under the name of Dim. Both come from the high volcanic mountains called Chaza Kunzela. "The junction of the Dim with the Abbai could be seen in a group of leafy trees." [Cheesman 1936]
dim, *dimma* (A,Gurage,T) baobab tree, *Adansonia digitata*;
dim, *diimaa* (O) red /generally/; white /human colour/;
dimma, *dhimma* (O) 1. business, duty, concern; 2. problem, worry
- G.... Dima (wereda or sub-district?) 08/34? [20]
 The Dima district borders on Sudan. On 30 January 2004 there was a violent incident in which, according to the regional government, 196 people were killed, of whom 172 were

traditional miners from the south (the Ministry of Defence stated that 81 people were killed). The perpetrators were some 200 armed Anyuak. The same armed group killed another four on 18 February and burnt down a settlement on 21 February with 23 more killed. Some 40 suspected perpetrators were arrested afterwards and at least 37 would be prosecuted at a federal court.

[AddisTribune 2004/04/09]

- ?? Dima (which one?)/ [Ch]
 "A village that /in 1927/, in comparison with others, is large enough to be called a small town." [Cheesman 1936]
 /which Dima?:/
 The village Dima in Gojjam was designated for asylum.
- | | | | |
|--------|---|-------|---------------|
| HBJ85 | Dima 04°26'/37°07' 1175 m (near the Kenya border) | 04/37 | [Gz] |
| HBL29 | Dima, D. (area) 03°50'/39°14', cf Dema | 03/39 | [WO Gz] |
| HCC83 | Dima 06°10'/36°52' 1935 m | 06/10 | [Gz] |
| HCJ48 | Dima 06°42'/36°51' 1254 m | 06/36 | [Gz] |
| HDE81 | Dima (village) 08°54'/38°35' 2216 m, see u. Sebeta | 08/38 | [Gz x] |
| HDL40 | Dima 09°28'/38°29' 2452 m | 09/38 | [AA Gz] |
| HDL63 | Dima 09°38'/38°42' 2523 m | 09/38 | [AA Gz] |
| HDP28 | Dima (area) | 10/36 | [WO] |
| HDR06 | Dima (mountain) 09°58'/37°09' 2306 m | 09/37 | [Gz] |
| HDS05 | Dima 10°02'/38°00' 1542 m | 10/38 | [Gz] |
| HDS47 | Dima (on map of 1868) | 10/38 | [18] |
| HDS67 | Dima 10°33'/38°10' 2534 m | 10/38 | [WO Gz] |
| HDS68 | Dima (area and place, w church, in Bichena awraja)
The church primary school in 1968 had 90 boys in grades 1-3, with three teachers. | 10/38 | [MS Ad WO Ha] |
| HDT00 | Dima (with church) 10°00'/38°29' 2076 m | 10/38 | [AA Gz] |
| HDT70c | Dima (with old church Giyorgis)
Paul Henze visited there in May 1970:
"-- is actually not far from Bichena, but can be reached only by driving in a wide arc to the north and then to the east. The key-turn is to the east beyond a church called Rufael 16 km north of Bichena. The distance from there was only 13 km, but it seemed much farther because we had to go slowly over newly ploughed fields."
"To reach the market-place we had to cross an expanse of exposed rock. It resembled limestone or chalk, but was a very fine tufa. It lies in layers and can be broken out in flat pieces which rest easily on top of each other; thus it has been much used for building and walls. We came to a stop in the open meadow before the massive church wall. More than 2 m. high, the wall has two clearly defined halves: a bottom section of large volcanic boulders; an upper layer of courses of tufa laid in mud capped with broader slabs of the same stone with a heavy growth of grass as natural thatch. More than a metre thick at the bottom, the wall undulates with the terrain and looks as if it had settled into place long ago. It encloses a huge elliptical compound. The church was at first sight a disappointment, for it had recently been renovated on the outside and given a new tin roof. Piles of construction debris still cluttered the yard. A section of the main wall near the front gate had been breached to permit vehicles carrying building materials to enter and had not yet been restored."
[P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (USA 1977)A.A. 2001 p 241, map sketch opposite]
Henze met a man Ato Alemayehu, born in the year of the battle of Adwa. He and Demissie, the seventh of the old man's 15 children, helped to find a camp site on the south side of the church compound wall not far from the edge of the Abay gorge.
"We asked Ato Alemayehu about the history of the church. It had been established in the time of Amda Tseyon (1314-44), he said. The outside had been rebuilt over the past three years, but the inside was much older and had beautiful paintings. There were hundreds of manuscripts."
"Though many people were still living here, the area was in a state of decline. There were | 10/38 | [x] |

many ruins of what had been well-built stone structures. The walls of flat stones hold well because rain does not wash out the mud mortar. The most striking feature of these ruins as well as many of the houses still in use was the arches - large, symmetrical, and true. Someone had taught people to build well here and the church was apparently the centre of a much larger religious community than it has now. -- we went to watch a church school. About 40 boys were being taught in a compound with several thatched huts. Most of them appeared to be between 8 and 14 years. Some were learning Ethiopic characters from small paper books. More advanced students were reading from religious manuscripts set out on reading stands -- Four monks were in charge."

"-- we went into the churchyard and spent the next half-hour examining the outer part of the church. The walls are of thick *chiqa*, built on solid stone foundations. There was no evidence of cracking or settling that had needed repair during the recent renovation. The wood was all in an excellent state of preservation. The frames of the double windows are elaborately carved and painted. -- those that were visible featured the full-length portrait of a different saint in each shutter panel. -- The tall doors are beautifully framed and ornamented -- Each one is different, but there is a repetition of similar basic patterns."

"-- we were led to the *eqabet* in an enclosure along the western side of the wall. A thick parchment volume was brought out and laid on a mat. It was a *Gadla Giyorgis*, a life of St George. It was inscribed as having been copied in the reign of King Sebastyonos of Shoa at the very beginning of the eighteenth century. Excellently preserved, its paintings were as fresh as new. -- The tortures the saint had to endure had obviously caught the artist's imagination -- He is also shown working miracles, rescuing the faithful from the perils, and challenging wicked kings. -- I photographed all these illustrations in the sunlight --" [Henze as above p 241-243]

"After the *Gadla Giyorgis*, two enormous volumes were brought out, each leather bound - - These contained the Four Gospels, two per volume. -- These volumes were said to have been made in the seventeenth century. I photographed them for the IES archives. Other church treasures were then produced for us to admire and photograph, among them a curious blue enamel plaque with European-style representations of Emperors Naod (1494-1508) and Lebna Dengel (1508-40), done in Limoges between 1521 and 1525. -- There were said to be many more manuscripts, including many in a cave, but the monks felt we had seen enough and assured us we had seen their best."

[P B Henze, *Ethiopian journeys*, (USA 1977)A.A.2001 p 240-243]

pict Henze as above, plate 68, portrait of saint on shutter panel.

HEF24	Dima 11°05'/39°47' mountain peak 1959 m	11/39	[Gz]
HER98	Dima 13°29'/37°20' 1701 m, see under Mesfinto	13/37	[WO Gz]

HFE11	Dima	13/38	[n]
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(probably this Dima in Tigray, not far from Asimba:)

1970s "After a few weeks in Marwa, the first fighters moved at the end of December /1975/ to a village called Dima, strategically placed close to the Eritrean border and for security, even higher and more remote in the mountain. -- Our first real base was in Dima -- At first, when we arrived in the area, the villagers didn't know whether we were bandits or the Dergue. We chose a very strategic house, easy to defend if necessary. We called the leaders together and asked them to summon the people from the area. -- About December time, Marta, the first woman fighter, joined them."

[Hammond 1999 p 259-260]

The TPLF held its first 'Fighters Congress' at Dima on 18 February 1976. It was attended by the entire membership of about 170 people, who elected a Central Committee of seven, composed of the movement's seven founders. The first group trained in Eritrea returned in mid-1976. Along with former students it included several peasant youths, the vanguard of what was to become a peasant guerrilla army.

[Markakis, *National and class conflict ..* (Cambridge Univ. Press) 1987 p 253]

"We had a bad experience of spuing. A spy came to Dima to study our movements in

Marwa and Dima. His name was Amare Manjus. He was very young, maybe sixteen or seventeen. -- He applied to join the TPLF -- he was told to come back at a later time. -- in fact when he returned he had been recruited by the Dergue as a spy. -- On the way to Marwa, he rested in a supporter's house in Sarsit, who was called Father Shifare. These people knew everything about the fighters -- This Amare Manjus had poisons with him. He left them on a shelf and he went on to Marwa.

There was a very gallant fighter training for the TPLF, called Ahferom. -- Ahferom started to study this boy and began to suspect him -- Finally, Amare accused Father Shifare of being against us and to prove it, he alleged that he had poison in his house. At night, his house was checked. The spy found the medicine and the old man was taken to prison. -- the old man was beaten. He told the truth about the spy coming for just one night. In the end, we turned on the spy -- At last, in front of all of them, he was killed." [Hammond 1999 p 260-261]

JDB79	Dima 1516 m	08/41	[WO]
JDJ41	Dima (mountain) 09°30'/41°46' 1801 m	09/41	[MS]
??	Dima Achale (in 1992 in Guna wereda of Arba Gugu awraja)		
??	Dima Arera (in 1992 in Guna wereda of Arba Gugu awraja)		
??	Dima Bedaso (in 1992 in Guna wereda of Arba Gugu awraja)		
??	Dima Giyorgis (church in Gojjam)	../..	[18 x]
	In the mid-1800s Dima Giyorgis was said to be the largest church in Gojjam. It supported the same branch of faith as Debre Libanos. The saint Abba Tekle Alfa was born there. It was a large round church with a circumference of the length of 400 normal human steps. Ichege Maitantu was buried at Dima Giyorgis after he had died at Somma as prisoner of Birru Goshu.		
	[G.Massaja, Mes trente-cinq aneés ..., Paris, vol.I (orig. Italian ed.1885)p 226-229, 232]		
picts	J Leroy, Ethiopian painting, (1964) London 1967 p 31 ceiling decoration; P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys (reprint)A.A. 2001 pict 65(a) exterior after renovation, pict 68 + 70(a) paintings;		
HFD09	Dima Mehara sub-district (centre in 1964 = Sekota)	13/38	[Ad]
HEE78	Dima Mikael, see Denkela Dima Mikael		
H....	Dima Sekota sub-district (centre in 1964 = Adigadima)	13/38	[Ad]
HF...	Dima wereda (-1994-)	13/38?	[n]
GCU47	Diman (area)	07/34	[WO]
??	Dimbara (visiting postman under Jimma) cf Dembara, Dimbira	../..	[Po]
HEL67	Dimbasia, see Dinfasha		
HFE41	Dimbaza 14°02'/38°33' 1888 m	14/38	[Gz]
HFF53	Dimbel 14°03'/39°41' 2978 m (Dimbel Amba 14°05') <i>dimbi, dembi</i> (O) kind of tree	14/39	[Gz]
HCP98	Dimbi, see Dembi <i>dimbiba</i> (dhimbiba) (O) drip		
JDB53	Dimbiba (Gabiba) (mountain chain) 08°40'/41°02' 1717 m	08/41	[Gz]
HCJ41	Dimbiko (Dimbik'o, Dimbiqo) 06°45'/36°46' 1040 m	06/36	[Gz q]
JDD45	Dimbil (area) <i>dimbilala</i> (O) kind of spice, Carum carvi?	08/42	[WO]
HCH92c	Dimbira, c2000 m	07/35	[Gu]
HCP02	Dimbira (Dimbra) 07°15'/35°55', cf Dembara There used to be a <i>kella</i> (customs post) of Kefa.	07/35	[MS Gu]
HCP03	Dimbira (Dembira, Denbira, Dimbra)	07/35	[Gz Ad WO Gu]

	07°15'/35°53' 1890 m (centre in 1964 of Chena wereda)		
HEK00	Dimbiso (Musast, Muscat) 11°50'/37°33' 1832 m	11/37	[Gz]
HDU01	Dimbrara 10°01'/39°25' 2543 m	10/39	[Gz]
	dimbuk bey: <i>bey</i> (Som) 1. grey; 2. snake; 3. she		
HDS36	Dimbuk Bey	10/38	[LM]
HDS23	Dimbukway Giyorgis (Dembucrai Gheorghis)	10/37	[n WO]
	A church some 15-30 km south-east of Debre Markos. When Paul Henze saw it around 1970 it had been renovated and was being rededicated. It contained excellent paintings. [P B Henze (1977)2001 p 251]		
HED32	Dimdam	11/37	[WO]
	<i>dimdim</i> (A) even, levelled		

dime, dimeh (A,T) baobab tree, *Adansonia digitata*; *dime* (T) cat;

Dime, a small ethnic group speaking a Nilotic(?) language and living north of Mount Smith at about HCB96; numbering 2,128 acc. to a 1984 census and 6,197 according to the later 1994 census;

"population has diminished because of disease and war".

The Bottego expedition passed their territory in mid-1896 and found them rather threatening. Field studies were made by E. Haberland in May 1951. Before him only the Bottego expedition had reported more than single notes about the Dime. They have terraces and stone houses and used to be a centre for iron working, but all 'real' Dime are farmers.

The Dime area is about 55 x 10 km. To the south Mount Smith is the highest peak. Maps as late as the 1950s usually did not show that Dime in reality runs in the north-south direction. Its extension is about HCB96/HCH06 06°/36° and it reaches the Omo river at its northern end.

The traditional dress of the Dime had almost disappeared already by the 1950s. They then had less cattle than in early time. They have grown *teff* since long ago. Products sold to the external world are iron, teff, honey, coffee, ginger. Haberland estimated that there were only 1000-2000 individuals in the Dime area in the 1950s so that they were more or less dying out (but see above for later surveys). The culture was therefore also going down, e.g. no new terraces were built. The Dime people remembered very little about their early history, but the first Amhara governor, Kenyazmach Badillu, was regarded as a tyrant. The Italians in the 1930s moved the administrative centre from Uta to Gerfa. After some time, the Italian occupants appointed the Uta chieftain Mellegoda Gunkan to be responsible headman of all the Dime.

There were some serious epidemics, the worst ones after the Italians had left. In various ways during decades many Dime abandoned their home country and never returned. Even most of the Shewan administrators and landowners gradually left. Officially all Dime became Christian by a mass baptism in 1945, but this had little practical influence.

The Dima speak a language related to the Ari group but have nothing in common with them culturally.

[E Haberland *in* *Altvölker Süd-Äthiopiens* 1959 p 227-239]

text E. Haberland, *Die Dime, in Altvölker Süd-Äthiopiens*, Stuttgart 1959 p 227-262.

picts Altvölker .. Tafel 12 three Dime men, 25 store and stone house.

HCB96 **Dime** (Dimme, Dinie) 06/36 [Gz WO x]

Dime 06°16'/36°20' 1792 m, mountain peak 2740 m

Within a radius of 10 km there are at km

10E Sueze (village) 1320 m

9S Smith (mountain w European name) 2229/2528/2832 m

5SW Ducha (Bonca) (village) 1254/2400 m

7NE Singe (Singhe) (village) 2500 m

10NE Dinge (Dinghe) (village) 1287/2012 m

1930s In the early 1930s it was known to have mining for iron and copper. [Zervos 1936]

HCB..	Some copper was extracted on mountains Tetu, Tid and Naita. [Guida 1938] Dime wereda (Dimie ..) 06/36 [+ Ad] (centre in 1964 = Mesketo Laska)
H....	Dimeka 05/36 [n 20] (centre in 1995 of Hamer wereda)
1990s	A track which leads north from Turmi passes Dimeka and joins the Konso-Jinka road. The Ashabir Hotel is the largest hotel. The market at Dimeka on Tuesdays and Sundays is particularly colourful. "The Hamar, absorbed in their transactions, quickly forget the presence of tourists." [Aubert 1999 p 109]
pict	B Parker, Ethiopia .., Oxford (Oxfam) 1995 p 61 Gabo Orgo, a Hamer girl
HDA97c geol	Dimma (valley in Wellega), cf Dima 08/35 [Mi] Iron outcrops are found there. A detailed geological survey was performed by Stern and Lapajne and a geophysical survey by Ravnik and Kelhar (RUDIS Mining Association, 1964). The area between Golliso and Dimma is built up of Pre-Cambrian paraschists. The iron content in ferruginous quartzites from this general area varies from 18% to 40%. Silica and phosphorous oxide are objectionable impurities of these ores, so they are not suitable for direct smelting processes. Without a successful beneficiation, these ores would not seem to have any economic value. The site of interest for iron ore is situated 1.5 km NW of Yubdo mine camp. The area of interest is about 2 square kilometres. On a slope of a hill at the contact of the basalt occurs a zone of magnetite ore with a length of about 400 m and a width of about 100 m. The occurrences of magnetite-haematite ore at Dimma were explored in the past by trenching. The possible reserves are estimated to about 20,000 metric tons for the northern deposit. By 1940 there was a network of water canals carrying water also from Dimma to the mining operations in the region. [Mineral 1966]
??	Dimma camp ../.. [n] (in the Gambela Region, 95 km from Mizan Teferi, on the Akobo river next to Fandiga town) The UNDP Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia wrote in a monthly report that, including new influx in July 1995, the assisted population from Sudan in the Dimma refugee settlement area had reached 10,052. The camp was initiated in 1986, and reopened in February 1992 after the change of government. Run by ARRA and financed by UNHCR. On 15 January 1997 the camp had a population of 12,500 mostly refugees from Sudan. Refugees in the camp do some weaving, leather works and bamboo furniture to earn a little income. [UNDP/EUE January 1997]
	<i>dimo</i> (T) baobab tree, <i>Adansonia digitata</i> ; <i>dimu</i> (T) cat; <i>dimo</i> (O) kind of grain, <i>Sorghum</i> sp.; <i>dhimo</i> (Som) to die
HDL51	Dimo 09°33'/38°35' 2305 m 09/38 [AA Ad Gz] (centre in 1964 of Atebela sub-district)
HDL21	Dimole (waterfalls nearby) 09°19'/38°34' 2390 m 09/38 [AA Gz]
HEC42	Dimsa (saddle and village) 11°14'/36°48' 2145 m 11/36 [Ch WO Gu Gz]
	<i>dimt</i> (dimt') (A) sound, voice
JDK23	Dimti 09°19'/42°51' 1680 m 09/42 [Gz]
HDH15c	Dimto 09/36 [x]

Patrik Wallmark had one of his first contacts with a student of the Bega people who came from the Gebo village within the Dimto settlement project, operated by the Ethiopian

Church Mekane Yesus.

[Wallmark, Hos begafolket ..., p 12]

In Dimto (Dimtu) a couple of kilometres east of the Didessa river, the ECMY started the settlement project in 1971 (Didessa Valley Project). When studied in 1977 the majority of the 250 farmers were Bega. There were three schools, a clinic, and some teaching of agriculture.

[Wallmark, Hos begafolket ..., p 157-158]

Dimto: Agalo

picts P Wallmark, Hos begafolket ..., Sweden 1978 p 124 market;
P Wallmark, I höglandets skugga, Uppsala/Sweden 1986
p 161 Bega women at market;

Dimto: Karsa

picts P Wallmark, Hos begafolket ..., 1978 p 107 grave of
Hailu Denj/Donj (some photos of unspecified location
may also be from Karsa);
P Wallmark, I höglandets skugga, Uppsala/Sweden 1986
p 117 village gathering with dance;

Dimto: Yemoha

pict P Wallmark, Hos begafolket ..., 1978 p 141 village meeting.
dimtu, diimtu (O) red /female, cow/, light complexion /girl/;
dimtu (dimt'u) (A) the sound, the voice

Dimtu (which one?)

The highest point on the Somalian Plateau occurs in the Batu massif: Mt. Dimtu (4395 m) south-west of Goba. [Mohr, Geology 1961]

HCM45 Dimtu (mountain) 06°45'/39°47' 06/39 [x]

HCR86 Dimtu 07°58'/37°11' 2167 m 07/37 [Gz]

HCS76c Dimtu (centre in 1964 of Afeta wereda) 07/37 [MS Ad]

Dimtu Tira Afitua primary school (in Jimma awraja) in 1968 had 55 boys and 26 girls in grades 1-4, with two teachers.

In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dimtu constituency, in the Jimma zone, had 49 polling stations and 52,996 registered voters, but how many of them who voted is not reported in the www-page.

Dominating party was EPRDF with 41,648 votes and candidate Ato Muhdin Abamoga A/gero. Far behind was UEDF with 3,926 votes and candidate Ato Gashaw Gonjo Jawa. [www.electionsethiopia.org]

HDD44 Dimtu 08°35'/37°52' 2117 m 08/37 [Gz]

HDD86 Dimtu 08°55'/38°08' 2235 m 08/38 [Gz]

HDH05c Dimtu 09/36 [x]

Village on the eastern side of the Didessa river where it is crossed by the road Nekemte-Gimbi. In 1970 the Mekane Yesus Church bought land in Dimtu to provide safety for farmers of the Bega people to stay and live there.

[P Wallmark, Hos Begafolket ..., 1978]

HDK95 Dimtu 09°56'/38°02' 1400 m 09/38 [AA Gz]

HDP45 Dimtu (area) 10/36 [WO]

JBR54 Dimtu 05°04'/41°58' 248 m 05/41 [Wa MS]

JDH76 Dimtu (area) 09/41 [WO]

A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records a place Deemto approximately in this area, on the caravan route from Harar to Ankober, inside Dewaro.

din, denn (A) copse, forest, woods;

din (A,T) sulphur, brimstone, potash;

diin (Som) 1. turtle, tortoise; 2. religion;

dhin (Som) reduce, lessen; *dina* (O) enemy

JDE10 Din (area), cf Den 08/43 [WO]

JDA54 Din Din, see Dindin

HDM73	Dinbaro 09°43'/39°37' 2852 m	09/39	[Gz]
HDJ65	Dinbe 09°42'/37°05' 2428 m	09/37	[Gz]
HDJ65	Dinbe 09°42'/37°06' 2436 m	09/37	[Gz]
	dincha: <i>dinnicha</i> , <i>dinecha</i> (O) potato		
HCD91	Dincha (Dincia), see Chencha		
HDS88	Dincha 10°43'/38°19' 2313 m	10/38	[Gz]
??	Dincha (valley)	../..	[Mi]
	A great deal of prospecting activity in the valley up to Lake Rudolf /Turkana/ was carried out before World War II as well as in 1950-1960. [Mineral 1966]		
HCM84	Dincho, see Dinsho		
--	Dinder (river name within Sudan), see Aima		
	<i>dindin</i> (Som) seep, leak, drip from a container;		
	<i>diindiin</i> (Som) 1. worn out clothing; 2. turtle, tortoise		
HDM.?	Dindin (with church Mika'el), in Bulga/Kasim wereda	09/39\	[x]
JDA54	Dindin (Din Din) (area)	08/40	[WO x]
	Sawmill about 70 km from Metehara.		
	Around 1977 the capacity was about 10,000 cu.metres of sawn timber per year. There were 150 men or more employed at the sawmill alone, but there was also working force for the tree felling and a plant nursery. The most common tree species was <i>zigba</i> .		
	[Sågverken (Sweden) 1977 no 6 p 533, 535, 537, 539]		
picts	Sågverken as above p 535,537 seven photos from cut forest and inside the Dindin sawmill		
HDC85	Dindini (area)	08/37	[WO]
	<i>dine</i> (T) shade, shadow		
JEB39	Dine Hei (area)	11/41	[WO]
HEL67	Dinfasha (Dinfascia, Dimbasia)	12/39	[Gz WO Gu]
	12°20'/39°06' 2649 m		
HEC58	Ding, see under Debre May	11/37	[WO]
HCA38	Dinga Safar, see Dingay Wiha		
HDS27	Dingab, see Dejen		
	Spread-out village with a market, on a narrow peninsula of the high plateau between the gorges of Baket and Mugat. [Guida 1938]		
	dingago: <i>dingage</i> (T), <i>diniggage</i> (A) ordinance, decree;		
	<i>dingega</i> (A) making decrees		
HDL62	Dingago Mariam, see Dengego		
	<i>dingay</i> (A) rock, stone		
HDM00	Dingay Ber (Dingai Bar), cf Dengiya	09/39	[LM WO]
HD...	Dingay Tira (Dingai T.) (in Tegulet & Bulga awraja)	09/39?	[Ad 18]
	In Menilek's time (-1870s-) a district in Guolla province, governed by a <i>licamocos</i> (Cecchi's spelling).		
	The primary school in 1968 had 75 boys and 32 girls in grades 1-5, with two teachers.		
	<i>dingay wember</i> (A) rock seat		
HDS64	Dingay Wember 10°34'/37°54' 3444 m	10/37	[Gz]
	<i>dingay wiha</i> (A) rock water /spring from a rock? stony bottom?/		
HCA38	Dingay Wiha (Dingai Waha, Dinga Safar, D. Hoha)	05/35	[+ WO Gu Gz]
	(Dainghei Ueca) 05°47'/35°36'		
	There is water at half an hour's walk to the west, in springs of a tributary to the Kibish. [Guida 1938]		
HDS.?	Dingayami Maryam (Jingami M.)	10/38	[x]
	Church about 7 km north-east of Felege Birhan.		
	Around 1970: "The Chiye River was a torrent of brown water. We had to spend an hour rebuilding a ford before we were able to cross it /with our motorcar/. We had noticed a church grove in the saddle of a range of low hills to the west and decided to go up to have		

a look at it."

"A man standing by the road told us the church was called Jingami Maryam. This was a local pronunciation of Dingayami Maryam - St Mary of the Rocks. It was named for a rocky outcropping a short distance to the south of the church-site. We took a steep trail up the hillside -- we met a priest. He was the Liqa-Kahenat Wase Kassa, a small fine-featured old man -- He said the church had good paintings, but complained that it had little land from which it could gain income --"

"Inside the large walled compound were tall, straight cedars. Outside the wall was a grove of eucalyptus that must have had forty years' growth. The church was smallish, but well proportioned and well thatched. -- The church had been built in the reign of Susneyos (1607-32), Abba Wase said, as he called our attention to a portrait of this emperor on the front wall. -- We asked about manuscripts. The priest said most of what the church owned had been stolen some time before. They had since learned that the police had recovered them and were holding them for the church, but for some reason they had not yet been returned. Outside stood a monumental *atronsā* (a bookstand) carved from a tree with its spreading roots making four legs."

From the rocks which give the church its name one can look down on the eucalyptus groves of the town of Felege Birhan. Local people pointed out the directions of half a dozen of churches. Going to Mertule Maryam would be a considerable distance.

[P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (USA 1977)A.A. 2001 p 247-248]

pict Henze as above pict 65(b) exterior of church.

HCH07	Dinge (Dinghe) 06°20'/36°20' 1287/2012 m see under Dime, see also Ganchire	06/36	[+ WO Gz]
HEJ58	Dinge (Dengi, Dengie) 12°17'/37°23' 1787 m see under Gorgora	12/37	[Gz WO Ch]
HDR89	Dingebyat (Dinghebiat)	10/37	[+ WO]
HDH87	Dinger (Dingher) 09°50'/36°22' 2111 m	09/36	[WO Gz]
HDJ35	Dingi (Dinghi) (mountain) 09°22'/37°04' 2891/3080 m see under Haretu, cf Dengi, cf Segel Merma <i>dingil</i> (A,T) virgin /of any sex/, sister = nun	09/37	[WO Gu Gz]
HFE08	Dingilat 13°38'/39°12' 2118 m	13/39	[Gz]
HEJ24	Dingleber, see Dengel Ber		
HDR98	Dingra (area) The church primary school (in Kola Dega awraja) in 1968 had 115 boys in grade 1, with one (!) teacher.	10/37	[WO]
HDR97	Dingra Maryam (Dengara M.) 10°48'/37°17' 2365 m	10/37	[Gz]
HDS45	Dingyagara (Dingiaghara) 10°23'/37°56' 2544 m <i>dini</i> (O) sulphur	10/37	[+ WO Gz]
HDJ58	Dini 09°56'/36°33' 2152 m dinich: <i>dinnich</i> (A) <i>dinish</i> (T) potato, <i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	09/36	[WO Gz]
HCS87	Dinicho 08°00'/38°14' 3023 m	08/38	[Gz]
HCB96	Dinie, see Dime		
HCS23c	Dinika (about 10 km south of Hosaina) There are Evangelical Christians in the region.	07/37	[20]
JDG66	Dinikale Maru "Presently the valley grew wider, and we came to a water-hole called Dinikale Maru, which lay, a tranquil mirror, in a small volcanic crater. In front of us lay an immense plain called Galalu." [Nesbitt (1934)1955] <i>dinja</i> (A) alternative form of <i>dingay</i> , stone	09/40	[Ne]
??	Dinjan (locality in lower Wegda)	../..	[n]
??	Dinjud (locality south of Debre Birhan)	../..	[n]

dink (A) dwarf, midget;

	<i>dink meskel</i> (dinq mäsqäl) (A) wonderful cross, marvel of the cross		
HDT23	Dink Meskel	10/38	[LM]
HEK81	<i>dinka, diinqqa</i> (O) inner part of a traditional house, place of the bed Dinka (Dinca)	12/37	[+ WO Gu]
JCN62	<i>dinki, dingkii</i> (O) dwarf Dinkiti 07°48'/40°02' 2500 m	07/40	[Gz]
HCR29	An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]		
HE...	Dinkore (Dink'ore, Dinqore) 07°30'/37°29' 1570 m	07/37	[Gz q]
HDM73	Dinkusa Giyorgis (centre in 1964 of Mikre sub-district)	11/38	[Ad]
	Dinkwam (Dunquam) 2970 m <i>dinkwan</i> (A,T) tent	09/39	[MS LM WO]
KDB21	Dinleh 08°24'/45°46' 782 m dinley: <i>diinley</i> (Som) puzzle, riddle	08/45	[WO Gz]
KDB30	Dinleyal (area) <i>dinnich</i> (A) <i>dinish</i> (T) potato, <i>Solanum tuberosum</i> <i>dino</i> (A) evil spirit, demon	08/45	[WO]
HDF56	Dino (Denhu) 08°40'/39°57' 1301 m	08/39	[Gz]
HEM30	Dino 12°05'/39°25' 3224 m	12/39	[Gz]
HE...	Dino sub-district (Dinno ..) (centre in 1964 = Siga Meskeya)	12/39	[Gz Ad]
HDM56	Dinomali An open plain and a frontier station of Argobba, where a 10% import duty was levied from caravans going to Shewa. When the British diplomatic mission, led by Captain Harris, arrived there in July 1841 they met the Rev. Dr. Krapf who became their excellent interpreter. The customs were not allowed to open the British baggage. When the king's bodyguard of 300 matchlockmen under Ato Katama arrived, the conditions changed radically, and the British were liberally supplied with provisions. [W C Harris, vol I, 1844 p 321-324] East of Ankober, recorded by the Harris expedition. Lieutenant William Barker (using the spelling Denehmelli) passed there in the second half of January 1842. He was headed towards Harar but did not succeed to reach that town. [R Burton, First footsteps ..., (1894)1987 appendix V p 224]	09/39	[Ha]
HCM84	Dinsho (Dinisho, Dinshu, Dinsno, Dincho) (Gure, Gurie) Gz: 07°06'/39°47' 3208 m, MS: 07°05'/39°45' peak nearby 3240 m (centre in the 1980s of Dinsho wereda), in western Mendeyo awraja. Distance 411 km from Addis Abeba, some 22 km west of Robe on road from Goba. With sub-post office	07/39	[Gz x WO n]
1970s	An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971] "One night, shortly before the /revolution 1974, Dusty Golobitsch of the US Peace Corps/ sat next to a fire at Dinsho with Paul Henze /an American diplomat/ and a bottle of brandy. He explained to Henze that he was frustrated with the Emperor's government. They had not granted legal status to the /Bale National/ park, so there was still no authority to curb the damage being done to the area by ploughing and burning heather. The number of nyala continued to fall. When Henze returned to Dinsho the following year, Dusty Golobitsch had gone. But his work has continued and now /in the late 1980s/ has official backing. Since the early 1980s the nyala population has risen to a stable level."		

[Marsden-Smedley 1990 p 165]

"Dincho, called Gure on most maps, is an undistinguished-looking little town, so much so that though it was our destination on our first visit, we passed right through it and drove on to Robi before we realized it. -- A big black-and-white sign in English and Amharic pointed the way to the turn-off to the 'park headquarters' above Dincho."

"In Bale the /US/ Peace Corps took on the whole job of surveying the terrain and developing a plan for the park. Dusty, a tough, realistic man from Colorado with academic training in conservation, had started work at Dincho in 1968. He had hiked and ridden over thousands of square kilometres of terrain -- He had counted nyala and other animals and catalogued flora."

"A few years earlier a Belgian had secured a grant of land from the Emperor on which to raise sheep. He brought in a thousand Australian sheep to graze on meadows below Dincho and built the stone mansion on the mountainside above the village. The sheep flourished only briefly and then succumbed to liver fluke and other diseases -- The big house with its hotel-size kitchen, palatial living-rooms, and long bedroom wing was abandoned. It was ideal as headquarters for the new park. -- a group of *ferenjis* -- organised the Bale Fly Fishing Club and had trout fingerlings flown in from Kenya to stock some of the streams near Dincho. The trout were much more successful than the sheep."

"-- three years of developmental work had made Dusty impatient for the Imperial Ethiopian Government to declare the park officially established and provide legal basis for protecting nyala -- Now that the insurgency problems in Bale had eased, new settlers were beginning to come in from the north. -- should /Dusty/ stay a fourth year or go on to some other part of the world --"

Henze hiked up the mountainside in the morning, saw a klipspringer, lobelia of a low-growing variety, a bush-buck, grazing cattle and a few Oromo huts.

"So far neither the cattle nor the people seemed to be having much effect on the natural vegetation. -- I came upon the most remarkable sight -- a scattered grouping of St John's Wort trees /*Hypericum* sp./ with trunks a half-metre thick. They were 7-8 m high -- grow slowly. These would have been at least 150 years old, perhaps double that age. Even by Ethiopian standards they are rarities worth preserving."

Dusty had 8 or 10 horses at the big stone house, and they could be hired by visitors.

Tuesday was market day at Dincho and Henze visited this local market which got fully going by noon. He wanted to buy beautiful locally made baskets, but strangely enough the women seemed shy about selling them and hid them under their skirts. Another time Henze visited this market together with Girma Fisseha of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, for the purpose to buy handicraft items for the museum of the Institute.

Haji Adem was among the landowners at Dincho and he had large herds.

[P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (USA 1977)A.A. 2001 p 215-218, 222, 229]

1980s An excursion to Bale National Park was made in the first half of November 1982 by 8 botanists from Sweden, 2 from Finland and 2 from Norway, accompanied by Sebsebe Demissie, Sue Edwards and Elisabeth Kebede of the Ethiopian National Herbarium. While being away to study vegetation, the guest house at Dinsho caught fire and burnt down. The group was held for two days and questioned (politely) by the police in Goba, as the fire was suspected to have something to do with the botanists' equipment. They could visit the burnt-down building and collect whatever was left before returning to Addis Abeba.

[Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1983 no 1 p 5-7]

1990s The base for exploring the Bale Mountains National Park is the park headquarters near the village of Dinsho. From the park headquarters a 1 km nature trail leads up to Dinsho hill, 3240 m.

"There is the added opportunity of seeing mountain nyala at close quarters on foot in the fenced sanctuary here."

"Some pleasant campsites are laid out near the Dinsho headquarters and are even furnished with rough benches and tables. Mountain nyala have become very tolerant and

will often stroll through the campsites." [Camerapix 1995]

"There is an excellent resthouse at the park headquarters -- Bedding can be provided on request. The resthouse has a communal kitchen, toilets and showers, and a large lounge with a log fire. The small museum displays a selection of stuffed animals, including several endemics.

The unfacilitated campsite on a hill behind the resthouse offers panoramic views over Dinsho village and across to several peaks, including Batu Tiko. --

Dinsho itself is an attractive montane village, cold and wet, and still awaiting electricity in 1994. There are a few dollar-a-night hotels from where you could explore the national park as a day trip. -- Lion Hotel, a family-run place on the Dodola side of town, marked only by a faded yellow sign that just about depicts a lion."

"The staff at the headquarters can arrange hikes and pony/horse treks deeper into the park. -- The most popular option is a three-day horse or pony trek to the Saneti Plateau."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

Around Dinsho, in the north of the national park, there are "grass riverine plains, bordered by bands of bushes, particularly *Artemisia afra* and *Hypericum revolutum*. Wild flowers -- form carpets of colour. -- Higher up the mountains heather, *Erica spp.*, grows, either as small bushes or as mature trees. -- Afro-alpine plants, some coping with the extreme temperatures by becoming small and others by becoming large. The best example of the latter is the giant *Lobelia rhynchopetalum*, whose stems stand high against the skyline. Wild flowers are many and various, but the dominant plants are the *Helichrysum*, or 'everlasting' flowers. The everlastings can be seen in many forms, but the grey bushes of *H. splendidum* are most striking, especially when covered with their yellow flowers. Also attractive are the silver grey-green cushions of *H. citrispinum* - but be warned, these cushions are full of fine spines." [Camerapix 1995]

"The shelter at Dinsho is also the headquarters for the park. It has 32 beds available for visitors. A fireplace in the lounge is the only form of heating. There is a generator, frequently not working, which is supposed to supply electricity to the shelter. A tiny kitchen and a wood stove are available for those who fancy doing some cooking. Make sure you are well stocked up with foodstuffs and liquids before you leave Addis Ababa because they are not obtainable in the village of Dinsho and the water there is unsafe."

The little river Gaysay, which flows into the river Web not far from Dinsho, gives the name to this region. Five miles from Dinsho on the road coming from Shashemene, a narrow track leads towards the north entrance gate of the national park.

From the Dinsho shelter a footpath about 1.2 km long leads to a fenced enclosure which is home to mountain nyalas. From the top of the Dinsho hills at an altitude of 3.050 metres there is a magnificent view over the Bale mountains. The Gaysay hills also offer some superb views.

[Aubert 1999 p 79, 81-82]

2000s "All treks /in the Bale Mountains National Park/ begin and end in Dinsho." There is no electricity. There is just one store selling provisions. Most trekkers stay at the pleasant Dinsho Lodge. It is a 2 km walk from the town to Dinsho Lodge. There are also the Hotel Tsahayi and the Hotel Genat.

[Lonely planet 2000 p 247-250]

picts Bale highland .., Eth. Tourist Trade Corp. 1988
p 21 traditional houses, 23 landscape of the national park

HCM84 Dinsho sub-district (-1997-) 07/39 [n]

HDS34 Dinta (D. Mariam, Ginta Maryam, Inascai, Naskai) 10/37 [WO Ch Gz]
(with church Dinta Maryam shown at HDS54) 10°15'/37°55' 2410 m

?? Dinto ../. [x]

1940s The author Buxton crossed the low valley of the Billate, a river which flows into the northern end of Lake Abaya. At the ford, known as Dinto, a weekly market was held. "It proved to be mainly a cotton market. -- One could easily see why Dinto had been chosen as a crossing-place and market, for at this point a stream of warm water, clear and clean

and at just the right temperature for washing purposes, joined the muddy Billate'." [D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 98-99]

dintu (A) fine muslin

JDH67	Dintu Derbi (area)	09/41	[WO]
	<i>dioda</i> (O) to be nearby, neighbouring		
JER40	Diodi (waterhole) 13°05'/41°40'	13/41	[WO Gz]
JEH08c	Dioita, see Diyoyta & JEJ65		
HES7.	Dip Bahir wereda (at least in the 1990s) north of Simen Mountains National Park	13/38	[n]
	<i>dipa</i> : <i>dippa</i> , <i>dippo</i> (O) (dhippaa) narrow, tight		
GCT48	Dipa (Dippa) 07°39'/34°12' 353 m, same as Gesi (centre in 1964 of Wabeko sub-district)	07/34	[WO Ad]
HDA59	Dipa	08/35	[WO]

dir (A) web /of spier/; (Som) small jungle; *diir* (Som) beans;

Dir, major clan family of the Somali in Ethiopia, but also in Kenya

HEB58c	Dir Ambo	11/36	[n]
	Salt spring near a pronounced bend of the Katab. [Guida 1938]		
1941	An attack on Dangila had been planned. "Thesiger -- received further orders from Simonds to meet Boustead at Dir Ambo at the foot of the escarpment -- and on the morning of 9 February /1941/ he met first Harris and then Boustead, Acland and Critchley. -- /There was some reconnoitring from Dir Ambo of routes up the escarpment./ -- Harris returned to Dir Ambo early on 9 February, to be greeted by the rest of his company 'with huge grins and many handshakes ... this is the way of the Sudanese', and to be told that Thesiger, whom he had not previously met, had arrived. -- Harris went to greet Thesiger, found him bathing in the freezing river and invited him to breakfast when, 'after informing me that he had lived on the country for the past two months and could not imagine why people troubled to take rations with them, he proceeded to finish my last tin of grapenuts, half my remaining supply of sugar, and most of my one and only remaining pot of marmalade.'		
	At 11.00 a.m. the five officers sat down to a conference. [Shirreff 1995 p 81-82]		
??	Dir Fekar	../.	[20]
	Village a little more than 150 km south of Addis Abeba, in Arsi. Family Muhammad Hussein and Kamir Sadir with 3 children were interviewed in November 2002 about drought and danger of famine, for the Swedish newspaper Sydsvenskan.		
	<i>dira</i> , <i>diira</i> (O) 1. boy; 2. man; 3. brave		
HFE06	Dira Amba (Dire A., Diramba, Debra Amba) (mountain) 13°39'/39°02' 2434 m see under Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz WO]
HCK08c	Diraeha (Diratscha), south-east of Dilla Place recorded by Ad. Jensen in 1934. The German expedition saw some stelae at this site.	06/38	[+ x]
HEJ23	Dirainkwa (Dira'inkwa) 12°00'/36°54' 1827 m	12/36	[Gz]
HEL87	Dirawa 12°33'/39°07' 1918 m	12/39	[Gz]
HFF02	Dirba (Deriva) 13°34'/39°36' 2296 m (with church Abune Asay), cf Derba A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records Dirbah as situated north-west of Antalo.	13/39	[Gz Gu 18]
JDH22	Dirba 09°15'/40°56' 1808 m	09/40	[Gz]
HDC06	Dirchi, see Dirki		
JDJ53	Dirdabo (old name), see Dire Dawa		
HEC58	Dirdira 11°23'/37°23' 2143 m (with church Abo to the west)	11/37	[Gz]

dire: *dirre* (A) hill, *diirree* (O) ridge, plateau, flat part of hill;
dire (Som) transmitter

HBR55	Dire 04°59'/37°07' 1241 m, cf Dirre (with seasonal waterhole)	04/37	[Gz]
HDC25	Dire 08°21'/37°04' 1681 m	08/37	[Gz]
HDC55	Dire 08°39'/37°04' 2097 m	08/37	[Gz]
HDE55	Dire 08°41'/38°53' 2066 m (with church Giyorgis)	08/38	[Gz]
HDJ21	Dire 09°16'/36°47' 1866 m	09/36	[Gz]
HDJ22	Dire (mountain chain) 09°18'/36°48' 1792 m	09/36	[Gz]
HDJ90	Dire (Dirre) 09°53'/36°40' 1911/2160 m (with church Gebriel and fort)	09/36	[WO Gz]
HDL15	Dire (with church) 09°10'/38°55' 2632 m	09/38	[AA MS]
HDL23	Dire 09°18'/38°42' 2606 m	09/38	[Gz]
HDL44	Dire 09°26'/38°50' 2508 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL54	Dire 09°35'/38°51' 2617 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL61	Dire 09°39'/38°33' 2518 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL62	Dire (with brackish water) 09°38'/38°37' 2542 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL64	Dire 09°37'/38°49' 2597 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL72	Dire 09°44'/38°38' 3082 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL73	Dire 09°47'/38°42' 2925 m	09/38	[Gz]
HDL83	Dire 09°53'/36°40', see under Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL98	Dire 09°00'/39°37' (with church Mikael)	09/39	[Gz]
HDT02	Dire 09°59'/38°39' 1894 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDT03	Dire 10°01'/38°46' 1637 m	10/38	[Gz]
HDT22	Dire (Derra) 10°10'/38°37' 1857 m	10/38	[Gz Po 18 Wa]
HDT23	Dire, see Addis Derra		
HDT35	Dire 10°15'/38°56' 1804 m	10/38	[Gz]
HDT57	Dire 10°26'/39°04' 1876 m	10/39	[MS]
HDF82	Dire Amba 08°55'/39°32' 1646 m	08/39	[Gz]
HDL64	Dire Amba 09°41'/38°57' 2547 m (with church Giyorgis)	09/38	[AA Gz]
HFE06	Dire Amba, see Dira Amba		
HDD15	Dire Balcha 08°18'/37°58' 1812 m	08/37	[Gz]
HDL73	Dire Bochore (D. Boch'ore) 09°44'/38°46' 2662 m see under Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz]

dire dawa: *dawa*, *dawwa* (O) cure, medicine

JDJ53	Dire Dawa (D. Daua, D. Dewa, Derredawa) (Daredawa) 09°35'/41°52' 1160/1237m (1940s source: 09°02'/41°45') (old name Dirdabo) Railway centre. Centre of awraja and in 1964 also centre of Kersa wereda & Gurgura subdistrict. Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 7E Dolo (area) 7SE Hanani (wadi) 6S Chiri (wadi) 9SW Marika (mountain) 1408 m 5W Daga Odda (area) 1359 m 2W railway bridge (stone) 5W railway bridge 9W railway bridge (stone) 8NW Boren (area) 1155 m 3N Ramsadi (hill) c1500 m 4N Toma (Gara Toma) (mountain) 1266 m 9N Gara Nata (mountain) 1300 m	09/41	[Gz WO Gu x]
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- geol Chiri wadi about 6 km south of D.D. contains, in black sand, magnetite-haematite with 1.5% of titanium oxide. Similarly about 7 km SSE in Hanani wadi there is 2% of titanium oxide. Large quantities of silica with admixtures of feldspar occur in the wadis near Dire Dawa.
Around D.D. there is a zone of alternating limestones and marls, about 9 m thick, with abundant ammonites and belemnites at the base.
The Cretaceous Jesomma sandstone near D.D. is composed of coarse-grained quartz. The high content of other rocks diminishes the value of this sandstone as a source of silica. Limestone produced in a quarry 2 km SW of the railway station belongs to a Jurassic alignment 90 km long and 4 km wide. The variety is dark grey, compact, and finely crystalline. The quarry has enough reserves to supply the cement factory and other consumers. Limestones of the area often produce a bituminous smell from fresh fracture surfaces. [Mineral 1966]
Limestone, granite and gneiss have been used for buildings in Dire Dawa. Marble from the Basement Complex in the region has been used for ornamental purposes. [Mohr 1961]
- meteo Average rainfall 623 mm per year was recorded in 1927-1934.
Mean monthly rainfall during 1952-1957 was 187 mm in August, 109 mm in April, between 16 and 85 mm in the other months except November with only 6 mm. There was a 30-year average of 640 mm prior to 1974, but around year 2000 this had gone down to 570-600 mm.
Data published in 2004: average air temperature is 25.2 degrees centigrade, and average annual rainfall 628 mm.
- nature There are seasonal rivers of which Dechatu (Dächatu, Dachatu) is the largest and divides the town into two major parts, with the railway and European-type quarters to the north-west. There are perennial springs of Lege Harre and Lege Dol (Lägäharré and Lägädol).
- 1902 On 23 December 1902, the first train of *Compagnie Impériale des Chemins de fer Ethiopiens* in scheduled traffic reached Dire Dawa, and the following date, European Christmas Eve, was registered as the day when the first stage of the Djibouti railway was completed. The distance by rail from Djibouti is 311 km.
[Getahun Mesfin Haile in AddisTribune 2003/01/17]
- Alfred Ilg and Léon Chefneux were among the passengers on the first regular train to 'Addis Harar'. Chefneux was involved in equipping the new town with services and workshops.
The distance Djibouti-Dire Dawa took 14 hours, starting at 6 a.m. and arriving at 8 p.m. after having passed 15 stations on the way.
The railway stopped there for a time because of Menelik's jealousy of the intervention of the French Government in the company's affairs. [M Perham 1948]
French engineers of the railway company designed a town plan in 1902 and the first western type buildings were constructed according to it, see Dire Dawa : Kezira in the list of areas at the end of this text.
The first Ethiopian governor of Dire Dawa /from when?/ was Ato Mersha Nahusenay (Märsha Nahusänay).
- 1903 The telegraph line from the coast reached Dire Dawa in 1903.
The first American diplomatic mission to Ethiopia, under Robert P. Skinner, landed in Djibouti on 17 November 1903. Skinner was a black man and American consul in Marseilles. They travelled by rail to Dire Dawa. Skinner wrote: "The railroad meant evolution and revolution; it was time for a watchful people like ours to be up and doing." They made a detour to Harar to meet Ras Makonnen. Back in Dire Dawa there were delays getting their caravan organized for the journey to Addis Abeba and adventures with hostile Afar tribesmen once they were under way.
[P B Henze, Layers of time, London 2000 p 177]
November 1903: "Across the street from the railway station was the new hotel, and thither we walked between two rows of undressed, amiable savages, who gazed upon us with expressions of mingled curiosity and disdain. There was good cheer in the Hôtel Pétaux

that night. The next day the task of organizing an expedition began in earnest. -- Our party consisted of thirty Americans, later reduced to twenty-eight. /Two of the American soldiers had to be left in Dire Dawa because of illness./ -- Our first camp was made upon the following morning, although the officers continued to reside at the hotel -- The commander of the naval contingent, Lieutenant Hussey, had preceded the party in the country by a number of weeks /to buy mules for the caravan/ -- We had arrived in the midst of active preparations for the campaign against the Mad Mullah, then giving the English so much trouble --"

Skinner had found an interpreter Weldu who had previously served the French engineer Comboul.

[R P Skinner 1906 p 9-11]

Messrs. Carette and Jaume helped the Americans with the long drawn-out negotiations for hiring camels. Finally they had three caravans of from six to thirty-five camels each. They could say goodbye to Madame Brincard of the Hôtel Pétiaux and depart towards the capital.

[Skinner p 25, 29]

When the Skinner party were buying mules for their continued journey to the capital they had to compete with Ras Makonnen who was requisitioning for a Somali campaign.

[C Prouty, Empress Taytu ..., 1986 p 268]

1904

Around 15 January 1904 the American diplomatic mission led by Skinner arrived in Dire Dawa after a 19-day return journey from Addis Abeba. They used a couple of days to dispose of their caravan belongings. The most coveted objects were their American hats. Among those who saw the party off at the train to Djibouti were Monsieur Jaume who had helped with commercial information, Monsieur Eugène Carette who presented a collection of Ethiopian seeds, the geologist M. E. Lebertois, Monsieur Bô who collected birds and presented some of his specimens, and Pierre Carette who brought two hyenas of which one ended up in Paris and the other in Washington. The interpreter Welde Mikael gave Skinner a small silver cross which he took from around his own neck. The chief Ato Marcho conveyed a farewell message received by telephone from Emperor Menilek. On their train there were additional railway policemen who got off halfway down the line, to put an end to some fighting and to escort a wounded man back to Dire Dawa for medical attention. The train reached Djibouti after nightfall.

[R P Skinner, Abyssinia of to-day, New York & London 1906 p 214-217]

"-- Lebertois, a hospitable friend of Diré-Daouah, who goes about the country with a little hammer, and who has shelves and shelves filled with his specimens, has shown me crystals which he says suggest diamonds, and he has also specimens pointing to rubies, opals, and emeralds."

Eugène Carette, who practised medicine and studied agriculture at Dire Dawa, thought that the Ethiopian variety of coffee had developed from an importation from Arabia.

[Skinner as above p 187, 191]

The Swedish missionary Karl Cederqvist passed there in 1904 on his way from Djibouti to Addis Abeba, where he arrived in March and stayed for many years until his death.

1905

The Rosen party of Germans stayed at Dire Dawa 9-11 January 1905 to organize their caravan to the capital. They found that one shop in the town sold exclusively German goods. Two German men Sefzat and Schaup were to help them lead their caravan.

[F Rosen, Eine deutsche ..., Leipzig 1907 p 21-29]

A motorised truck arrived in Dire Dawa in 1905, but got stuck there and never reached the capital.

Sixteen traders established at Dire Dawa by 1905 were listed by the Belgian consul H. Henin:

- Golam Ali Mohammed Ali & Co.
- Djewadji
- Golam Ali Seraf Ali
- Menahim Messa called Benin
- Liviérato brothers

- Kalos
- Guignony
- Mikhailidis, for Società Coloniale Italiana
- Pastacaldi
- Keverkoff
- Société Est Africaine
- Dubail et Co.
- D'Arloz
- Petiaux et Co.
- Le Bertois, retailer
- Oulard

[Journal of Eth. Studies, vol II 1964 no 2 p 91]

1906

The traveller A. Henry Savage-Landor, who passed through the region in 1906, wrote that the old caravan route from Zeila to Harar was "almost entirely abandoned" with the arrival of the railway. [Cited by Getahun Mesfin Haile]

Savage-Landor arrived in early January 1906. "The Abyssinian governor of the town, Ato Negato, with his soldiers, was at the station doing custom-house officer's duty. He was most civil, and said he would never disturb Englishmen to open their baggage, especially as he knew I had not come to the country to trade; but he was not so civil to the German travellers, whom I left struggling on the platform with their baggage open for inspection." Henry stayed in the good hotel kept by the Greek gentleman Mr Michailidis, who was also British Consul in the place. He was ready to help the traveller to make up his caravans, and Henry praises him for several reasons. "I think that British interests could not have been placed in better hands at Dire-Dawa."

"Dire-Dawa is practically a French town. Some of the trade is in the hands of a few French commercial houses, but there are also a number of Indian traders - in fact, the entire bazaar is Hindu."

"In the Dire-Dawa bazaar I was told that there were some two thousand people under British protection, viz., Hindus, Parsees, Somalis from Berber, Arabs from Aden, and Sudanese. The Greeks were also under British protection, and being of a quarrelsome nature they generally had a great many questions to settle before local authorities. But taking things all round, it was a well-behaved population."

[A H Savage-Landor, Across widest Africa, vol I, New York 1907 p 16-18]

From 1 March 1906 railway service between Djibouti and Dire Dawa was reduced to two trains per week in each direction, with trains leaving D.D. on Mondays and Thursdays. An Ethiopian post office was opened in August 1906 by Chefneux and Carette, so Dire Dawa became the third Ethiopian town, after Entotto/Addis Abeba and Harar, to have a post office. In practice it did not have postal service and had no staff qualified for telegraph, so it was a telephone office (Michel has made a statement that it was opened in 1904, which is false).

Another post office was opened at the French Consulate on 1 November 1906. It was first attached, for political reasons, to the Port Said post office. A cancellor with the spelling DIRRE-DAUA*ABYSSINIE was used continuously until 1912.

A vice-consul trainee by name Senac-Lagrange managed the French post office in the beginning. He soon fell ill, however, and Consul Naggiar had to take charge until replacement arrived from Djibouti three months later. French Levant and Port Said stamps as well as Djibouti stamps were used, but preserved covers are rare. There are only five non-philatelic covers recorded from D.D. prior to mid-1907.

The French post office in Harar, managed by Capuchin Fathers, was placed under the authority of Dire Dawa instead of as earlier under Djibouti. It took couriers ten days or more to reach Addis Abeba with mail.

One Paula Katz sent mail from Dire Dawa to Frankfurt in 1907.

[Philatelic sources]

1907

In 1907 Dan Sandford, who served in British forces in India and Aden and was 25 years old at the time, crossed Ethiopia on mule from Dire Dawa to Roseires. He returned to

Addis Abeba in 1913 and later served for most of his life in Ethiopia.

[Shirreff 1995 p 304]

Friedrich von Kulmer arrived on 21 May 1907 and stayed in Hotel Emil (operated by a Frenchman from Algiers). The visitor thought that there might be about 100 Europeans in Dire Dawa. A water pipe conducted drinking water into town. The bank was situated on a hill and the French and English consulates nearby. As von Kulmer stayed a few days he had time to visit the European cemetery where a grave had been partly dug up by hyenas, a lioness kept in the house of a European, the rope factory of M. Guignoni. He also met two Frenchmen, les Frères Parmentier, who had travelled like a kind of tourists since November 1905 and entered Ethiopia from Sudan. Their caravan journey from Addis Abeba to Dire Dawa had taken 12 days. They sold a couple of mules and other objects to von Kulmer. His own baggage of 64 pieces arrived on 27 May and he could depart for Harar which was his destination for commercial activity in Ethiopia.

When von Kulmer re-visited Dire Dawa in September to see his companion Kaden off at the train, he could see that in three months a lot of new buildings had been added in the town.

[F von Kulmer, *Im Reiche ...*, p 29-33, 108-109]

When Dr Kurt Herzbruch departed from Ethiopia he arrived to Dire Dawa on 30 June 1907. He sold his horses and mules to the local governor whose name he writes Artur Nagatu, and they had dinner together in Grand Hôtel Serre. He was told that there was a curfew at night for foreigners in the town, said to be for the purpose to guard their safety.

[K Herzbruch, *Abessinien*, p 302-303]

The Englishmen Bentley and Wells drove a Siddeley motorcar along the route of the railway and were received in Dire Dawa on 9 September 1907, after a difficult trip.

"The way ahead was clearer. Along it came a runner from Vorperian at Diredawa. Nomad huts came into view, then Vorperian himself in a camel cart, together with two bottles of champagne and three tin mugs. After a suitable pause, he seated himself on top of the baggage, an Ethiopian flag was run up, and the car went on. Two miles further on, the Siddeley was halted by a great throng advancing towards it. Among the welcomers were soldiers, Ethiopian dignitaries, including the Governor of Diredawa, and carriages that contained all the foreign consuls in the town, Michaeledis /British consul/ among them, each flying his national flag. Guns were fired; camels and mules milled and protested. Bentley and Wells spent the next half-hour shaking hands. They then moved off to the town for a wash, and a much-needed change of clothes from their cases, which had come by rail. Congratulatory telephone messages arrived from Menelik and his Empress."

Bentley had to stay for a month in Dire Dawa to repair the car.

"When the Siddeley's body had been re-fitted, Bentley, Wells, George and Bully made their farewells to their hosts and climbed aboard. -- /Next day/ the Siddeley struck as bad a stretch of sand as any it had encountered so far."

[T R Nicholson, *A toy for the Lion*, London 1965 p 78, 84]

The bankruptcy of the railway company, *Compagnie Impériale des Chemins de fer éthiopiens*, was filed on 3 June 1907, so it was not only Menilek who prevented continuation of the railway to be constructed.

In early 1907 the French vice-consul in Dire Dawa, Emile Naggiar, requested a man from Djibouti to come and take charge of the postal service in the French office. In August 1907 it was reported that Ledermann had become the manager entrusted by Menilek.

1908

One Arnold Holtz also brought a motorcar to Ethiopia and left Dire Dawa not much later than Bentley, on 12 January 1908 (when the Englishmen had already been in Addis Abeba for a couple of days). With Holtz were one August Kaufmann and a couple of other companions. [Nicholson p 122]

From mid-1908 the Ethiopian post office was run by J. Cardot, put at disposal by the French government. The spelling on new date-stamps became DIRE-DAOUA instead of previously Dirre-Daoua.

Biru Goshe (Berou Gaucho as written by Zervos) worked for twelve years 1908-1920 for the Ethiopian post office in Dire Dawa, but cf 1912 below, and then he was promoted to

postmaster in Harar. In 1924 he was transferred to Dire Dawa again, and in 1932 he replaced Albert Bousson who became advisor in Addis Abeba. Biru was awarded distinctions by the Ethiopian government and even by the Pope.

[Nicolas Vosikis in Menelik's Journal Jan.-March 2002 p 11]

Hundreds of kilometres of telephone wire ordered by Menilek in 1908 were kept in a warehouse in Dire Dawa, and still in 1912 had not been put to use. One reason was that the Italian telephone line from Eritrea to Addis Abeba, opened in 1904, drained away the phone traffic from the capital.

1909 A mission of French Capuchins was founded in Dire Dawa in 1909.

Little by little there grew a small colony of French and Greeks who built a kind of garden city.

When Dire Dawa still was the end station, an Armenian by name Serkis Terzian locally produced carts with wheels imported from America and introduced transport by ox carts between Dire Dawa and the capital.

1910s *Negadras* Gebrehiywet Baykedagne, who published an economic study about Ethiopia, was stationed in Dire Dawa for a while.

Construction work for the continuation of the railway line started in /late?/ 1910.

1911 Railway construction progressed for several hundreds of kilometres in 1911 and it was hoped to reach Awash during 1912.

1912 In 1912 the head of the Dire Dawa post office was J Guillet who left on the 1st of August, transferred to replace J. Cardot in Addis Abeba? He was not fully paid in 1911 and became disgruntled, so he prepared some "special" stamp covers which he sold to collectors and dealers at prices which gave some money also for himself.

[Eric Payne 1981 & Roberto Sciaky 1999]

The *Alliance française* school was opened in 1912.

1915 Around 1915 mosques ordered by Lij Yasu were built in Dire Dawa and Jijiga.

1916 When Lij Iyasu departed from Addis Abeba for Harar in 1916, he phoned from Dire Dawa to the capital instructing that Teferi Mekonnen would be governor of Keffa and he himself would rule Harar.

[C Prouty, Empress Taytu ..., 1986 p 343]

In August 1916 Lij Iyasu went from Dire Dawa on a two-day trip /his second/ to Djibouti, the first example of an Ethiopian ruler travelling outside his country.

"Il arriva sur la locomotive et c'est en descendant du tender, tout noir de charbon, qu'il reçut les hommages de notre gouverneur, suivi de tous ses fonctionnaires en tenue de gala." [Henry de Monfreid]

1922 *Negadras* Afewerk Gebre Iyesus in 1922 was appointed head of the important customs office at Dire Dawa. However, he was soon transferred to other tasks and at some time between 1923 and 1925 was appointed to preside over a Special Court instituted to try cases involving Ethiopians and foreigners. Afewerk (b 1868) had been in Italy for a number of years from 1887 and had married there. He was an artist and he wrote a number of books.

[Journal of Eth. Studies vol VI 1968 no 2 p 41-44]

1924 John Moraitis, a Greek born in Cairo in 1905, had his first employment at the age of 19 in Dire Dawa. He became a clerk in the Barozzi coffee exporting company in 1924. Later Moraitis stayed mostly in Addis Abeba, but during the Italian occupation in Djibouti. He was a Reuters press reporter for many years. He had contacts with important people like Ras Abebe Aregay and fulfilled important tasks as late as in the 1970s. His biography has been published as E. Germany, Ethiopia my home, Addis Ababa 2001, 104 pages.

1926 The 5-man group of the Field Museum of Chicago arrived inside Ethiopia in Dire Dawa on 6 October 1926 with the bi-weekly train from Djibouti and spent their first night in the town.

"Nothing I had learned about confusion in travel prepared me for the madhouse of that little station. Ethiopians jostled, scrambled, engaged in screaming arguments. Many of the arguments ended in hysterics. -- Foreigners were pulled hither and yon by porters.

Customs inspectors ripped open luggage in a fury, spilled the contents on the ground, and examined every object minutely."

[S Cutting, *The fire ox year*, New York 1940 p 337]

"A fine dinner in a very interesting, bougainvillea-covered hotel, and to bed nine-thirty. (Oct. 7.) Left Dirredawa at seven-thirty."

[L A Fuertes p 7]

1927 The German couple Lubinski returned after spending some time in Ethiopia. The European population in Dire Dawa was estimated to be 7,000. The Frenchman who owned the electric plant had the only motorcar in town /a Citroën of Henry de Monfreid/. He lived with a German-speaking woman from Elsass. The Lubinskis attended the wedding of the 13-year old daughter of mayor Ato Astatke. The mayor provided a seven-man guard for the visitors. An Englishman and an Armenian collected animals and sold them to zoological gardens in Europe.

[K Lubinski, *Hochzeitsreise ..*, Leipzig 1929 p 130-135]

1929 A simple airfield was prepared at Dire Dawa. The first flight to bear official air mail to A.A. was on 5 Sept 1929, a Junkers aeroplane with Baron von Engel as pilot, but the mail had been sent *by rail* from Djibouti to Dire Dawa, as well as the aircraft itself. This first plane is said to have thrown one mail bag at the market in Harar and carried 13 bags to A.A. The Awash railway bridge was not open at the time. The first flights in the other direction, A.A. to Dire Dawa, were on 26 and 29 Dec 1929, with the letters having a new air commemorative stamp and a special "First Flight" label, but there were totally less than 500 covers in the two flights. There were other flights in the following years.

[Norman Cape 1982 + Nordbø]

In the second half of June 1929 Dejazmach Imru received with honour at Dire Dawa the new archbishop and four bishops who had been consecrated in Alexandria.

There was a Swedish BV mission in Dire Dawa. Miss Anna Holmberg arrived there in 1929 and worked at the BV station for six years. She left for Sweden in 1935. She worked together with Desta Gebre Yesos, and he stayed on during the Italian occupation..

1930 Micha Babicheff, son of a Russian officer and an Ethiopian mother Takhaba, was trained as a pilot by Monsieur Vedel, and then received further training in France. Five others also received aviation training at Dire Dawa by Vedel (Asfaw, Tesfaye ..).

There was a succession of special through trains bringing delegates to the Coronation in November. "Flag-staffs painted with the Abyssinian colours had been planted down the main streets, and lines of yellow, red, and green flags strung between them; motor-cars had been brought by train from the capital - for there are no roads outside the town - to convey the delegates to breakfast; -- We breakfasted at the hotel, and smoked a pipe on the terrace, awaiting the return of the delegates. Presently the soldiers who had been squatting on their haunches were called to attention; the cars came down the hill bearing diplomats handsomely refreshed by a banquet of porridge, kippers, eggs, and champagne. We returned to the train and resumed our journey."

"On the morning of November 15th we left by the last of the special trains. The departures took place with far less formality than the arrivals. -- We dined that evening in a pleasant little party consisting of the Plowmans -- the Cypriotee manager of the local bank, Mr. Hall's brother, who was in business at Dirre-Dowa, and his wife, an English lady -- We sat in the open under an orange-tree and drank chianti and gossiped about the coronation, while many hundreds of small red ants overran the table and fell onto our heads from above."

[E Waugh, *When the going was good*, London 1946 p 86-88, 130]

1931 In 1931 Ato Makonnen Gabrehote (=Gebrehiwet?) left the P.T.T. in the capital and became chief of customs in Dire Dawa.

When the Bank of Ethiopia was created in 1931 it got a branch office with five employees in Dire Dawa.

Ato Berou Gochié /=Biru Goshe?/ was *receveur* at the post office in Dire Dawa during 1908-1924, later in Harar and in 1931 transferred to Addis Abeba and promoted.

Ato Desta Wolde was at the post office until Ato Alamo Tsekol /=Alemu Chekol?/ was

- transferred in late 1931 from Harar to be *receveur* at the post office in Dire Dawa.
[Les nouvelles (A.A.) Nov 1931 p 2 + Jan 1932]
- 1932 The aviation school at Dire Dawa (partly at Jijiga) in February 1932 celebrated that Demissie Hayle and Siyoum Kebede had been sufficiently trained by Monsieur Vedel. They had each flown 112-115 times in double command with Vedel and 58 flights on their own and were to be tested for certificates. At one of the tests the postmaster and the director of road building were given the chance to be passengers. The customs director got a flight with Asfaw. Champagne was served in Hotel Umberto.
[Les nouvelles (A.A.) Mars 1932 p 3-4]
On 9 March 1932 two French aviation tourists, Lavail and Fèvre, landed at Dire Dawa with a Caudron airplane. On 16 March they left for Addis Abeba.
[Les nouvelles (A.A.) Avril 1932 p 2]
Ernst Heinrich Schrenzel travelled around 1932. He describes the environment in Dire Dawa at length but does not give concrete details of contemporary history.
[E H Schrenzel, Abessinien, Berlin 1932 p 59-62]
- 1933 There was a strike of railway personnel from 29 May to 3 June 1932.
A 54 km long road to Harar for motorcars was opened and was the first major such road project in Ethiopia.
The French author/journalist Henry de Monfreid left Dire Dawa in February 1933, according to his own interpretation expelled because of his book *Vers les terres hostiles de l'Ethiopie*. Among other activities he had operated a small electric power plant, for which he considered there were 43 years left of his concession.
[Monfreid, Le drame éthiopien]
In the early 1930s it took the train twelve hours to go the 311 km from Djibouti.
The Municipality was directed by Lij Teferi and customs by Negadras Makonnen Gabré Hot /=Gebre Hiwet?/. Dire Dawa was centre of Issa & Adal district and of Gurgura district. [Zervos 1936]
- 1935 On 8 January the 11-year Duke of Harar greeted the Swedish Crown Prince and his group, who passed on their way to the Ethiopian capital. Ras Desta had been sent as assistant. The Swedish party disposed of the Emperor's private carriage, a gift from the Franco-Ethiopian railway company at the Emperor's coronation. The visitors were served a meal at the palace and stayed a couple of hours in the town.
[E Virgin, Abessinska minnen, Sthlm 1936 p 168-170]
Before the Italian occupation there was Consul Paris of France, Consul Bollolakos of Greece with secretary Macaronas, and Consul Eug. Toselli of Italy.
M. Lycoudis was president of the Greek community, with Hourmouzis as vice-president, and Shek Nathoo Mooljee of the Indian community.
There was a hospital for the railway company with chief physician Renault and a doctor Martin, and Hôpital Hailé Sélassie I for which the emperor laid the cornerstone in June 1934 and with surgeon Paspatis as head. Both hospitals had pharmacies. There was one dentist J. Nasser in town.
Dr. Reuben Young, a black American/?/, was Municipal Health Officer of Dire Dawa after/?/ 1930.
The Lazarists had the only Catholic mission so far, with a good printing office (Baeteman's large Amharic-French dictionary was printed there in 1929) but for quite some time they had ceased publishing their periodical *Le Semeur d'Ethiopie*.
There were at least eight schools, most of them run by foreign communities and only a primary school by the Government.
The Catholics, Greeks and Armenians each had a church in Dire Dawa.
Staff in the Bank of Ethiopia were Nasser, Yezedjian and Vaccek.
Owners of the main hotels were Bollolakos of the Continental, Umberto Munichi of D'Italie, A. Nouaros of De Paris and Dervis of Hotel Dervis. G. Gleyze had a cinema for sound films and Koutallis had Cinéma National for silent films.
The electric power station was run by Lipman et Corn. There were a couple of factories for food and for cigarettes, directed by Paléologis and by Minassian respectively.

Among trading agencies, with export especially of coffee, there were Arabian Trading Co., A.L. Herald, Minassian & Fils, Seferian & Co., Said Bazarah, F. Livierato, G.M. Mohammedally, Nathoo Mooljee, Matig Kevorkoff, B. Barozzi, M. Lycoudis, Philippatos frères, Kominatos frères, E. Eliopoulos, Vosikis, Vranatis. Foreigners earning their income in various branches were J. Tsellatis, Karellas, Kisseneghis frères, J. Belonias, Pantaléon frères, Alexandrou, F. Kouridis, Diakakis, Monos, Mandalidis, H. Minassian et fils, Onik Papazian, Varjabedjian, G. Righas, Hasanally & Co., Haritos, M. Chantokakis, Lacknichand Bayvandas, J. Rodopoulos, M. Marcovith ("chat monopole"), Théophilotos, Isaak Cohen, Richard, A. Schramek, Krob frères.

[Zervos 1936 p 359-362]

Martin Rikli was a film photographer at the Emperor's court for some time. Some very old guns left in Dire Dawa were among the most curious objects he took photos of:

"Es handelte sich um 40 uralte österreichische Geschütze, die, schon im Jahre 1866 vollkommen unbrauchbar, dem Kaiser Menelik für teures Geld angedreht worden waren, und die man mit grosser Mühe hierhergebracht hatte. Ohne je einen Schutz abgegeben zu haben, standen sie noch immer im offenen Felde da, mit verfaulten Rädern, die Bronzerohre halb überwachsen, stumme Zeugen eines Kaufs, der noch nach 70 Jahren als nationale Schande betrachtet wurde."

The Emperor reproached Rikli's servant for having shown him this place.

[M Rikli, *Seltsames Abessinien*, Zürich /1946?/ p 146]

Concerning customs inspection, import of weapons and ammunitions required permit both from the French and Ethiopian authorities. Tobacco and matches were monopoly products, so import of these was in principle forbidden.

[H Juell, *Etiopia*, Oslo 1935 p 34]

Journalists, among them Farago, started to arrive by train when war seemed near.

"The train arrived at Dire Dawa on time - 4.34 to the minute. We got out of our white carriage -- Hordes of people met the train. Perhaps fifty of them rushed about the narrow platforms. They were all porters of the only two hotels in the town, and were divided into two groups. At the head of each a man waved his arms. They were the proprietors and they fought bitterly for every passenger. -- The hotel whose men snatched up the luggage quickest won, and we could do nothing but follow our property. The Continental Hotel won me. It was a fine and, at first sight, comfortable hotel /but there was no water at the time and not on the following day, either/."

"In Dire Dawa I also experienced my first inspection from the Abyssinian customs. Bellowing officials stood at the low benches and turned our bags upside down. I had to pay 3 talers for my typewriter. The whole pantomime was begun again before we left the next morning. The luggage was rummaged through a second time and I had to pay another 3 talers duty on my typewriter."

When leaving Ethiopia again, Farago ordered a lorry to take him to Dire Dawa. He was kept waiting by toll-keepers and arrived too late to catch the train, so he had to wait at Dire Dawa from Wednesday to Saturday.

[L Farago, *Abyssinia on the eve*, London 1935 p 17-18, 277 (Sthlm 1935 p 18-19)]

When Geoffrey Harmsworth passed Dire Dawa he met Ras Nasibu, who was taking up governorship of Harar, and the Emperor had gone there a day earlier so Dire Dawa was decorated. Harmsworth also dined with M. Paris, the French Consul at D.D.

[G Harmsworth, *Abyssinian adventure*, London 1935 p 170-172, 236-237]

On 4 September 1935 a British military transport passed Dire Dawa by train on its way to Addis Abeba. It was a Sikh detachment for the defence of the British Legation in the capital, commanded by Major Charter.

[G L Steer 1936 p 119]

Late 1935 "Mussolini had telegraphed that -- in deference to the expressed anxiety of certain European powers and the United States as to the safety of their subjects, de Bono was to refrain from air attacks on the cities of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa."

[Greenfield 1965]

When the Swedish volunteer Count Carl Gustaf von Rosen arrived to Djibouti with his airplane intended to fly as a Red Cross ambulance in Ethiopia, the plane had to be mounted and tested first after unloading from the ship. Unfortunately, when ready to start flight, von Rosen was hit so badly into his thigh by the propeller that he had to be carried to the hospital. After spending the night in the hospital, however, next morning on 7 December 1935 he was helped into the plane and flew from Djibouti to Dire Dawa in 2 hours 20 minutes.

After refuelling at Dire Dawa, von Rosen continued and reached Addis Abeba after another 3 hours. The aircraft, a Heinkel HD21, was his own property, but for better capacity he had to fly other planes for the ambulance.

[Herrmanns 1975 p 78 + Svenska vingar ..., Sthlm 1999 p 8]

1936 One Doctor Goldstücker lived in Dire Dawa also into the war time.

When Håkan Mörne left the Finnish Red Cross Ambulance to return to Finland in late April 1936 he went by a train from Dire Dawa together with people "who could be called refugees". There was a Dutch doctor Belmonte, an Austrian captain Rudolf Bruner, a German dentist, the Egyptian doctor Nashid from Harar, etc. They spent the last night at Hôtel d'Europe, owned by a former advocate from Moscow.

Later when Italian ambulances arrived in May and took over, the rest of the Finnish ambulance men went home. They were sitting in a dining room in a hotel in Dire Dawa dressed in their Red Cross uniforms and there were Italians at other tables. When an Italian officer entered and was greeted by them, the Finns thought it did not concern them, but the Italians did not want to sit with such inpolite people, so the following meals for the Finns were served in their rooms.

[H Mörne, Afrikansk oro, Sthlm 1936 p 171-172, 209-210]

Menilek Iyasu was a Muslim son of Iyasu living in Dire Dawa. The French seem to have considered that he could become a successor of Haile Selassie I. Menilek Iyasu himself had so many objections to this thought that it was dropped. This according to Tekle-Hawariat Tekle-Maryam who lived in exile in Djibouti.

[Studien zur Kulturkunde 104, Köln 1994 p 571]

When Haile Selassie passed Dire Dawa on 2 May 1936 to go in exile in England, he made a stop and discussed with the British consul in Harar, Chapman-Andrews, who supported the Emperor's decision to leave his country.

At 2.30 on /6/ May 1936 the forces of Graziani coming from the Harar direction reached the barbed-wire fence at Dire Dawa and met two French armed cars (after all the railway was under French administration). The French commander was astonished. He had expected the Italians one day later, and from the Addis Abeba direction.

On 7 May the first train directed by Italians had left Addis Abeba with the 46th Infantry Regiment on board. The Italian forces from the two directions met in Dire Dawa, and the occupation of the town was more or less a formality only.

[C Potyka, Haile Selassie, 1974 p 179, 176]

Among those who passed the railway station a couple of hours after the Emperor was the Swedish captain Viking Tamm. He was surprised to see Ras Hailu enter a train in the opposite directions. The Ras had been released from prison when the Emperor left Ethiopia. Among chiefs who refused to accompany Haile Selassie in exile was Tekle Hawariat.

[V Tamm, I tjänst ..., Sthlm 1936 p 318]

At Dire Dawa, the Emperor informed the political prisoners whom he had taken with him on the train - Ras Hailu, Ras Gebre Hiwot, Dejazmach Amede Ali, Dejazmach Belai Ali and others - that he was going to Geneva to appeal to the League of Nations and that he was giving all of them his pardon, urging them to do what they could to keep up resistance against the enemy.

[J H Spencer, Ethiopia at bay, USA 1984 p 64]

Graziani's forces, coming from the direction of Harar, occupied the railway station in Dire Dawa on 6 May 1936, early in the morning. (It was on this day that the biggest victory celebrations were held in Italy.)

[G L Steer 1936 p 119]

When the Allied forces captured Dire Dawa, the civilian foreign population in the town, according to Birkby, were 120 Italians, 27 Greeks and 8 Armenians /and how many Indians and Arabs?/. Most of the Greeks had recently been released from an internment camp, and both Greeks and Armenians had earlier been disarmed by the Italian authorities. The police force consisted of 39 Italians and 55 Ethiopians, and they were mostly posted at the homes of senior Italian officers.

When the risk of riot and pillaging became obvious, the police commissioner hastily re-armed the civilian foreigners. On 29 March 1941, the South African troops were met by a 'frantic' Italian police captain, with a white flag, several priests and the assistant governor. They brought with them a letter in halting English written by a Greek shopkeeper.

[cited in Eth. Observer from Birkby, It's a long way to Addis, p 221-222]

At noon on 9 May Marshal Badoglio arrived at Dire Dawa in a train from Addis Abeba. On the station platform Graziani and his entourage were drawn up to meet him. Their ceremonial greeting signified the end of the campaign in Ethiopia.

[A J Barker 1971 p 123]

Official name of the Ethiopian post office was *Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones Ethiopiens, Bureau de Diré-Daoua*. The latest letter known to have been sent before the Italians arrived was one of 8 May 1936 to the stamp dealer Zervos in Addis Abeba. When he received it, its arrival was already stamped by Italians on 22 May when their post office in Addis Abeba opened.

[Menelik's Journal (USA) no.4 Oct-Dec 2002]

Post office of the Italians was opened 9 May 1936 and closed 23 March 1941. Its cancellations kept the previous spelling DIRE-DAOUA in early 1936 but then it was changed to DIRE DAUA * ETIOPIA or in some applications DIRE DAUA * HARAR or DIRE DAUA FERROVIA for the railway. [Philatelic source]

The weekly air route between Asmara and Addis Abeba was inaugurated on 18 October 1936 and also passed Dire Dawa.

1938 About 20,000 inhabitants of which 3,000 Italians, 290 Greeks, 110 French and altogether about 3,500 Europeans.

The road Dire Dawa-Harar 50 km was gravelled in the 1930s but not asphalted, and 221 km from Dire Dawa to the border of French Somaliland was maintained but not coated. *Commissariato* in the former Imperial palace. French and Greek consulates.

In front of the railway station there was a piazza, and the main street nearest to the railway was named Viale Benito Mussolini. There was a stele commemorating Italian military feats. The post office was just in front of the railway station. There was a bend in the river near the hill with the *Commissariato*, and in front was the Casa del Fascio, with a cinema and where an expo of Italian products was held in 1937.

Near the hill "on the site of a graceful Ethiopian church" the Italians started to build a new Catholic church.

On the road towards Harar there was first the Albergo CIAAO with 40 beds, a new market, and an elementary school. It was planned to extend the city considerably in this direction.

Restaurants/hotels were named Continental, Dervis, Impero, Roma.

In the SW part of the existing city there was the Greek-Orthodox church of the Holy Trinity finished in 1933, having two bell-towers at the façade and a hall with semicircular vault of woodwork.

The Italians built a mosque in Dire Dawa.

The cement factory was under construction in 1938 by *Cementerie d'Etiochia S.A.*

In the NE part there was the railway customs and the Catholic mission, which passed from French to Italian Capuchins in 1936. The mission had schools for European and Ethiopian children and a printing office, the proceeds of which were earmarked for the leprosarium in Harar.

There was an early Christian cemetery, but further to the NE there was a new Christian cemetery, opposite Campo Allogio for workers, along the railway towards Djibouti.

Outskirts: The Gondrand transport enterprise was about 2 km to the north, and in its neighbourhood was Ramsadi hill with a surprisingly wide view. Passing through the market area to about 2 km from the city, there was the lake Arre serving as water supply. Near it were irrigated small plantations of bananas, oranges, coffee, etc.

[Guida 1938]

There was an Italian workers' camp named *Filippo Corridoni* with a capacity around 1938 of 1,200 persons. An undertaking registered for road transport was Bruno Carlo.

On 22 December 1938 the Swedish BV mission signed an agreement to sell their mission stations, including the one in Dire Dawa, to the Italians as Evangelical missions were not permitted to work in Italian East Africa.

During the Italian occupation the Indians were all forced to vacate their houses in the European quarters and had to move to the native quarters. The Indian library was closed. Indians did not dare to enter any hotel or coffee shop.

[New Times and Ethiopia News]

1939 The cement works produced 35,000 tons of cement in both 1938 and 1939, using the local Mesozoic limestones. [Mohr, Geology]

For electric power supply, the Italians had by 1939 installed a plant with three engines for charcoal gas, with a total capacity of 540 horse-powers.

1940 The first bombing by the Allies of Italian-held targets in Dire Dawa was on 12 June 1940. [E Rosenthal, The fall ..]

1941 "On the night of 28 March the 40th Colonial Battalion stationed at Diredawa on the railway below Harar refused to board the last train for Addis Ababa. They mutinied and seized the arsenal. The mutineers festooned themselves with hand-grenades and, crossing the dry river bed -- set about celebrating and looting in the traditional Ethiopian fashion. The head of the Italian police force thereupon telephoned Harar, begging to be 'invaded' and 'occupied'. But by the time the Transvaal Scottish reached Diredawa, four civilians and three Italian policemen had been killed. -- The mutineers rejoiced at the arrival of their new 'allies', but to their utter disgust, the South Africans, in a day and a night, in the only street-fighting of the war, restored 'order'." [Mockler 1984 p 368]

The 1st South African Brigade occupied Dire Dawa on 29 March 1941.

[Shirreff 1995 p 140]

"The South Africans took the lead from the Nigerians at Harar -- The defenders present at Dire Dawa estimated that the rebuilding of the blown out mountain sides and the bridges would stall the advancing forces for eight to ten days. Instead, it took just 36 hours. -- The Italians made no significant attempt to defend themselves at Dire Dawa, with the exception of a bitter but short defence by two Italian companies at the approach to the town. It was two companies of the Transvaal Scottish infantry which entered Dire Dawa unopposed on 29th of March."

The troops starting from the Red Sea coast in Somaliland had covered 1,700 km in 30 days, an average of 56 km a day, "the fastest advance ever made in military history". 35,000 prisoners had been captured. The air base at Dire Dawa was a great asset as soon as the runways had been cleared. Even the Djibouti-Addis Abeba railway proved to be an asset to the advancing troops.

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 132-133]

"After receiving the surrender of Harar -- Cunninghams's troops had paused to repair the escarpment road which had been dynamited by their retreating enemy, and had then pushed on to Dire Dawa -- Paradoxically they had been urged to hurry by the Italian police commandant from Dire Dawa. The main Italian force had left, but one of their colonial battalions had mutinied and was engaged in looting the town."

[Greenfield 1965 p 261]

For military mail serving mainly South African forces at Dire Dawa in the period 16 April-8 June 1941 a postmark A.P.O-U-M.P.K 24 was used, meaning Army Post Office - Unie Militer Pos Kantoor.

[Philatelic source]

Railway traffic Djibouti-Addis Abeba was in operation again by 3 July 1941 and on full

schedule by early September. In a five month period September-January the railway carried 228,900 passengers.

[R N Thompson 1987 p 208]

Mesfin Sileshi (b 1905) was made Dejazmach and appointed Governor of Dire Dawa in 1941.

1942 The Reserved Area according to the Ethio-British agreement of 31 January 1942 included also the railway from Dire Dawa to the French Somaliland border. The governor of Djibouti supported the Vichy régime and thus represented an enemy of the British. A British mixed prisoner-of-war/civilian internment camp at Dire Dawa later became a 'definitive' civilian internment camp, a transit camp for evacuees awaiting repatriation. "The F.A.U. /Friends' Ambulance Unit/ went to Ethiopia in 1942 -- It was not, perhaps, so surprising, in view of its novelty, that public health work broke down almost everywhere in the provinces, Dire Dawa, the railway centre, being an exception to this." [M Perham 1948 p 245]

In May 1942 trains with Red Cross marks passed Dire Dawa towards Djibouti. They carried Italian civilians on their way to Europe, but as war was going on there these Italians were taken on Red Cross ships around Africa and entered the Mediterranean via Gibraltar.

[L Carnazza, Eine Frau erlebt .. p 233-253]

After the liberation, the Ethiopian post office was opened on 15 June 1942.

In a decree of 1942, Dire Dawa is listed as one of only six "Schedule A" municipalities in Ethiopia, while there were about a hundred in "Schedule B".

1940s The restaurant Mensa Sabiyan was known to offer dishes made from wild boar meat. This animal could be hunted in the Dire Dawa region.

1945 Monsieur Monod Herzen was at the *Consulat de France* in early 1945.

It is known that still in May 1945 mail to other countries even from such an important town as Dire Dawa was forwarded only by the Addis Abeba main post office. An example is a letter from A. Livierato, Katsaitis Frères & Co. Succrs.

[Philatelic source]

1946 The Swedish doctor Einar Wide (b 1905) was provincial medical officer in Dire Dawa 1946-1947.

Dire Dawa was among the early provincial towns to have its own football league. In 1947/?/ their Taffari team participated in the Ethiopian Championship series. There was also a Cotton Team.

The Railroad Workers Syndicate of Dire Dawa was formed in 1947, for welfare purposes. By and large, its leadership co-operated with the Government, although it was also involved in a fierce strike that was put down by troops in 1949. But this was exceptional. [Gilkes 1975 p 166]

Gerda Nerman, previously in Harar in the 1930s, started at the BV mission station in Dire Dawa in 1946, but she fell ill after a while and had to return to Sweden, and there was no replacement for her.

Swedish medical staff worked at the provincial hospital in Dire Dawa about 1946-52.

1947 Axel B. Svensson, head in Sweden of the BV Mission, arrived on a visit to Dire Dawa on 12 November 1947.

The Littorina of the railway came to Dire Dawa in the evening. Mr Svensson was met by Ato Desta Gebreyes and other Ethiopian teachers of the BV Mission School which had 159 children at this time.

Svensson stayed in Continental Hotel, manager of which was a Greek Kosti who had lived in Ethiopia most of his life. He also met a merchant Georges J. Tzelatis who used to do business with the mission already in the 1920s, and then during the Italian occupation for three years paid out salaries to Ethiopians at the Swedish Mission BV and also advanced other expenses - from commercial rather than religious interest. A couple of times Tzelatis was arrested by the Italians who suspected some kind of political intrigue. He was repaid by the Swedes in January 1939. During World War II the Italians sentenced him and intended to execute him on 30 October 1940, but by chance this was

- seen by an Italian general who knew Tzelatis and saved him.
[A B Svensson, *Det återuppståndna Etiopien*, Sthlm 1948 p 96-100]
- 1948 By 1948 there were EAL domestic flights Dire Dawa-Addis Abeba.
- 1949 In 1949 the general hospital had two doctors and 100 beds, and the railway hospital had one doctor and 25 beds.
- 1950s Dejazmach Werqneh Weldemmanuel had the longest post-war tenure as governor of Dire Dawa. First asphaltting of the main streets was done in his time.
Later (1960s?) there was governor Asefa Gebremariam who had stronger local roots than the other governors. He induced the Emperor to order that a bridge over the Dechatu should finally be built.
[Getahun Mesfin Haile]
- 1950 Life near the Swedish Mission BV clinic around 1950 is described by Elsa Olofsson:
"I ett enkelt litet hus i utkanten av Dire Dawa satt vi, tre svenskar och en gallaman. -- Det var ett alldeles fyrkantigt hus med platt tak -- Vi njöt av att vara inomhus och slippa vara utsatta för de brännande solstrålarna. -- /Gallamannen i huset berättade:/ En dag hände det. Det kom som en blixtnedslag från klar himmel. -- Pesten kom och härjade förödande hans hjordar. På kort tid hade han förlorat alla sina djur.
Han fann ingen annan utväg än att söka sig ner till Dire Dawa och fråga efter arbete där. -
- Efter någon tid blev han arbetslös, och under sitt sökande efter nytt arbete kom han till missionsstationen i Dire Dawa. Det var sista utvägen. Han ville inte gärna komma de kristna alltför nära. -- Det var visst något röjningsarbete vid ett bygge. Medan han gick där på dagarna, såg han med avund på alla de små barnen i skolan. -- En dag kom en liten parvel fram till honom och erbjöd sig att lära honom läsa. *Då* vaknade hans gamla hopp till liv igen. Han lämnade allt han hade för händer, och de satte sig under en akacia. -- Efter hand fick han hjälpa till med sjukvården. Han försummade inte att delta i gudstjänsterna och andaktsstunderna på missionsstationen. -- Det gick månader och år. -- Missionären hade inget annat att göra än att tidigt och sent ropa till Herren för den unge mannen -- En dag skulle dock missionären få svar på sina böner. -- Under glädjetårar och tack till Gud satt hon och lyssnade till hurusom denne unge man i kretsen av sina kamrater inte endast försvarade de kristna och deras religion utan också vittnade med övertygelse och värma om vad han själv funnit i Jesus Kristus -- Det kom att dröja ännu en tid, innan gallamannen tog steget fullt ut, avsvor sin gamla religion, bekände sin tro på den treenige Guden och blev genom dopet upptagen i den kristna församlingen. Men dagen kom."
- [Elsa Olofsson, *Upplevelser ...*, Stockholm 1954 p 20-27]
- 1953 A series of seismic shocks in the Harar region in 1953 caused some damage also in Dire Dawa. [P Gouin]
There was a 420 kW hydro-electric power station established in 1953, in addition to an older 300 kW thermal station.
One of two provincial Desert Locust Control headquarters inside Ethiopia was at Dire Dawa (1953-).
The Swedish BV Mission in Dire Dawa during 1953 had one baptism, one wedding, and communion two times. Local staff of the BV at this time were teacher Desta Ghebre Yesos, pasto Ghetaneh Meshesha, teacher Kelkelie Wondemu, teacher Mengesha Melke Tsadeq, teacher Mikias Worqalemmahu, teacher Mullugheta Hailie, teacher Zennebe Feqie.
The BV Mission had 161 male and 69 female students up to grade 8, no boarding, evening classes for 35 adult students. Teachers were Desta Gebre Yesus (headmaster), Yosef Limay, Getaneh Meshesha (priest), Mengesha Melke Tsadeq, Mullugeta Hailie, Zennebe Feqiebellow, Kelkelie Wondemu, and Mikias Worqalemmahu. [BV report for 1953, Sthlm 1954]
- 1954 In 1954 there were 77 telephone numbers but only a dozen of them on personal names.
- 1955 "In 1955, the seizure by government troops of water holes near Dire Dawa, in an attempt to bring rebellious Issa tribesmen to heel, led to another series of engagements."
[Greenfield 1965]

Around 1955 there was one post office in the town and one at the airport.
 Main exporters-importers with **business in Dire Dawa** around 1955 were:
 Abubaker, Abdullahi (established 1934) import of textiles;
 Bilfakih, Maroof Abubaker (1941) imp. sugar, soap etc, exp. coffee, skins;
 Dayaljee, Babulal, miscellaneous;
 Doshi, Dalpat Kapurchand (1929) import of textiles;
 Hadj, Said Abdu Abdulla, imp. textiles, household goods, exp. cereals, oilseeds;
 Livierato, Aristides (1951) exp. coffee, oilseeds, cereals;
 Livierato, Maison F. (1900) exp. Ethiopian products in general;
 Manekchand, Anderjee (1908) imp. textiles, exp. coffee, cereals;
 Mitchell Cotts & Co. branch (1943) imp. motorcars etc, exp. oilseeds, pulses, cereals;
 Mooljee, Nathoo (1905) imp. textiles, sugar, exp. coffee, cereals, peas, oilseeds;
 Nadel, David D. (1921) imp. textiles, corrugated iron sheets, sugar;
 exp. coffee, hides, skins, beeswax;
 Patel, Dahyabhai S. & Bros. import of textiles, tea;
 Paul Ries & Sons (Eth.) Ltd. branch (1948) imp. motorcars and many other goods,
 exp. coffee, hides, skins, beeswax, civet;
 Seferian & Co. branch (1908) imp. Volkswagen cars and many other goods,
 exp. coffee, oilseeds, pulses, cereals, beeswax;
 Shamsuddin, Ahmedali & Co. branch (1936) imp. textiles, also insurance activity;
 SNEDA, Société Nationale Ethiopienne pour le Développement de l'Agriculture,
 branch (1950) exp. oilseeds, pulses, also coffee and grain cleaner;
 Wubé, Makonnen, branch (1925) imp. cotton, piece goods, exp. hides, skins.

[Economic progress of Ethiopia, A.A. 1955 p 148-158]

Enterprises with product preparation around 1955:

Main coffee cleaners with plants in Dire Dawa were

A. Besse & Co.

Paul Ries & Sons

F. Livierato

S.A.N.E.

Myriallis Papaphilippou

Maroof Abubaker Balfakih

Valendis Bros.

Abdul Kader Salim Bashanfer,

Ethiopian Mercantile Co.

Seferian Co.

D. Karikas & Son

Aristides Livierato

Nathoo Mooljee

Main grain and oilseeds cleaners were

Valendis Bros.

Myriallis Papaphilippou,

S.N.E.D.A.

Michell A.P. Zecou

and A. Mihos had an enterprise for wheat flour (also one in Addis Abeba) and for a meat packing plant, the machinery of which had not yet arrived in 1955.

[Economic progress .. p 166-167]

In 1955 a public address system was installed in a central square in Dire Dawa (and in ten other towns), used for receiving transmission from Radio Addis Ababa and re-broadcasting it.

1956

During a visit in 1956 the Emperor received leading personalities of the Issa and Tertara tribes on 7 Aug, he inspected the cement factory on 12 Aug, and the Emperor and Empress inspected a new meat-canning factory on 19 Aug. With three airplanes from Dire Dawa, the Emperor and his party started a tour of Ogaden on 25 August.

In the imperial entourage was also Sylvia Pankhurst who wrote about it in the first issue

of Ethiopia Observer, which was published in December.

A small English-French-Amharic dictionary "Vocabulary-Vocabulaire" of 140 pages was produced at the Lazarist printing shop in 1956.

Director (-1956-) of the cement factory was an Italian, assisted by some French technicians.

Dire Dawa Hotel was the former C.I.A.A.O. There was an outdoor cinema.

1957 The Norwegian contractor Veidekke constructed the improved runway in Dire Dawa and it was completed in early 1957. As inauguration ceremony, four Air Force jet aircraft made a show and a mock bombing. It happened that passenger planes with bags of *chat* instead of people were flown from Dire Dawa directly to Aden. The author cited here was once the only passenger on such a flight.

[C Johnsen, Eventyrlige Etiopia, Oslo 1958 p 151-152, 167 (Sthlm 1960)]

Hourly surface meteorological observations at the airport (-1957-) were made by ICAO-trained staff. Dire Dawa had for quite some time been served daily by airplanes to/from Addis Abeba as part of the international flights to Djibouti and Aden. If there were empty passenger seats, bags of *chat* were put there instead, destined mainly for Aden.

"It was a mixture of Italian and French, with curb-side cafés, small European shops, tree-lined streets with high white walls - a pastiche of sunlight, flowers and the heavy shade of trees. Behind the town an odd story-book type of palace with a picturesque approach that wound up to the high entrance, gave the town a slightly film-set effect."

[Barbara Toy 1961 p 199-200]

1958 Christ's School of the Swedish BV Mission around 1958 "was probably the first Ethiopian eight-standard school with an exclusively indigenous staff". Headmaster was Desta Guebre Yesus. [Mission source]

At this school 16 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960.

1959 An anti-smallpox vaccination drive opened on 26 Feb 1959.

(There was serious outbreak of malaria in Ethiopia in 1958.)

Sub-provincial Governor of Dire Dawa awraja in 1959 was Kenyazmach Asfaw H. Mariam. Mayor of Dire Dawa city was Lt.Col. Asfaw Haile Mariam.

Are these two the same person or not?

At the Highway Authority branch in Dire Dawa the District Engineer was Ato Tewolde Desta. Regional manager of Telecommunications (IBTE) was Ato Worku Tesfa.

There were branches of 8 insurance companies in 1959, and half of them were left a few years later.

The five largest **coffee** exporters in the first half of 1959 had the following order:

- Maison F. Livierato
- A. Besse & Co.
- A.S. Bashanfer
- Valendis Bros.
- D. Karikas & Sons

Counted for the whole year Jan-Dec 1959 there were two others among the five largest:

- N. Lazaridis
- S.J. Magdalinos

1960 In the first half of 1960 the order of coffee exporters was:

- A. Besse & Co.
- Ethiopian Mercantile Co.
- Maison F. Livierato
- Valendis Bros.
- Myriallis Papphilippou

During a tour in August 1960 the Emperor named his Imperial Palace with the new name Yeselam Adarash (Hall of Peace). The Emperor used to spend part of the rainy season in Dire Dawa every year.

Colonel Tessema Izineh was appointed Mayor of Dire Dawa on 22 August 1960.

After a tour since 27 July of Harar, Dire Dawa and Erer Gota the Emperor and much of

his family were flown from Dire Dawa to Addis Abeba by the Emperor's special aircraft Ilyushin 14 on 24 August 1960. [News]

(This particular airplane was later used for transport but practically not at all by the Emperor himself, according to a Swedish aviation publication.)

An agreement signed with the American company RCA on 10 September 1960 concerned construction of several 1 kW radio transmitters in the provinces, of which one station in Dire Dawa. [News]

Airport director in Dire Dawa in 1960 was Taye Tilahun (in the 1980s he was ambassador to Sweden and later settled in the USA).

During one of the desert conflicts between Afar and Issa (when?) the Air Force in Asmara, established there from 1952, received orders to fly about ten Saab B17 to a secret destination, which turned out to be Dire Dawa. Five Swedish technicians were on board. When they tried to open the old Italian hangar at Dire Dawa airport to have a workshop inside there, one of the big doors fell and an Ethiopian mechanic was crushed to death. The air force detachment stayed for about 4-5 weeks. There were rumours that 5,000 warriors on camels were at 25 km from the town, but the air force did not need to take part in fights.

[Svenska vingar .. Sthlm 1999 p 63]

Once an air force Saab B17 landed into a cloud of grasshoppers at Dire Dawa, because the pilot felt after some time that he could not wait any more for them to go away. It took several days afterwards to clean the airplane and make it fit for service again.

[Svenska vingar ..]

By 1960 Dire Dawa had one of the ten municipal slaughter houses in Ethiopia.

1961 Some Ethiopian airfields were improved to serve jet traffic, and contractor for improvement of the runway in Dire Dawa in 1961 was the Swedish firm Skanska.

1962 The airport improved to international standard (one of four in Ethiopia at that time) was inaugurated in late 1962

(The Emperor made his inauguration flight there by jet airplane on Kidus Gabriel's Day 1963.)

The population was estimated to be 56,000-60,000. A little earlier it had been stated to be only 33,169 but that figure concerned only those who had registered to obtain an identity card.

[News]

The average daily traffic on the Dengego side in 1962 was 231 buses, 98 cars, and 67 trucks. Ditto on the Harar side was 187 buses, 87 cars, and 53 trucks.

There were only dry weather roads along the railway to Djibouti and northwards to the Assab road.

On 17 October 1962 the Emperor inaugurated the Prince Makonnen secondary school, the Haile Selassie I hospital, and a health centre.

1963 The Cotton Company of Dire Dawa, a subsidiary of the Sabean Utility Corporation with 50% Government participation, in 1963 made a loss of Eth\$750,000. This was due to a prolonged labour dispute lasting for six months. In the consequent reorganization the Cotton Co. became fully independent. Its capital was 50% Government and Sabean retained 16% of the shareholding. An agreement was made with Fuji Spinning of Japan to take a 30% holding.

[Gilkes 1975 p 155]

1964 The building for the automatic telephone exchange was designed by architect Chomette and was partly completed in 1964.

With Fuji Spinning and Marubeni-Iida as substantial share holders of the Cotton Company of Ethiopia, production was re-started in 1964. By 1966 the Cotton Co. had about 3,000 employees.

[News]

1965 A fact-finding mission of the OAU concerning the political future of French Somaliland arrived in Dire Dawa on 20 January 1965. A crowd of more than 17,000 (according to the newspaper) welcomed the four-man group with placards "Djibouti is Ethiopia".

Governor of Dire Dawa at the time was Kenyazmach Bekure Wolde Giorgis.
[Eth.Herald 1965-01-22]

Official statistics for 1965 say that there were 2,880 owned, 9,330 rented, and 1,400 unspecified dwellings. Of these 3,330 used piped water, 40 water from wells and 150 from streams. 5.4% of the households had flush toilets, 72.8% had pit latrines, and 20.9% had none.

23% of the males and 26% of the females living there were born in the town.

Of the town population in Dire Dawa ten years of age and older, there were 16,020 men of whom 46.1% literate and 18,260 women of whom 12.3% literate.

A census of urban centres 1964-68 registered 1,120 Gurage at Dire Dawa.

The Ras Hotel with 50 air-conditioned rooms with telephone, swimming pool and roof garden was ready by 1965.

In 1965 Dire Dawa had 13 industrial establishments: 5 food, 2 beverages, 3 wood, 1 cement, 1 textile, 1 printing.

Dire Dawa was, together with Addis Abeba, one of the two main coffee marketing centres in Ethiopia.

On 22 May 1965 the Emperor watched at Dire Dawa a performance in combination of the Army and Air Force. During a two-week stay 8-19 August the Emperor visited various establishments.

Asphalting of the road Dire Dawa-Harar was ready by mid-1965.

President Radhakrishna of India during a state visit to Ethiopia received members of the Indian community in Dire Dawa on 11 October 1965.

The Extension Program of the university in the capital had 40 students in Dire Dawa in 1965.

"The city is divided into two parts by the Dakatu River, more appropriately called a *wadi*, since it is dry except during the rains. The old city is on the south bank of the river, the new city on the north. -- The old city is a maze of twisting streets and Arab-style houses, their pastel walls weathered to a rainbow of soft colours. In the centre of the city is a market -- You will see camel trains plodding in from the dusty plains, and Somali women in black velvet robes, their faces veiled in purple. The new city, with its broad, tree-lined streets and trim modern buildings, presents a sharp contrast."

"The new Dire Dawa also boast a cement factory, a cotton factory, a modern jet airport, a new hotel, an ultra-modern secondary school and a fine hospital.

The visitor to Dire Dawa will not find many places of particular interest. It is, however, the ideal place to relax -- The new Ras Hotel is the tallest building in Dire Dawa, located in the southwest corner of the new city. The hotel has modern rooms, air-conditioning -- and a swimming pool. -- The Continental Hotel is a very old establishment and was aptly described by Evelyn Waugh in one of his early novels -- one block south from the railway station and is located on the corner. -- in an emergency are the Central Hotel and the Pension Olmeda. -- There are two good cinemas in Dire Dawa. Both usually show English language films." [Welcome to Ethiopia, A.A. ca 1965 p 82-83]

Kenyazmach Bekure Wolde Giorgis was Governor /of the awraja?/ in 1965.

Trading firms with seat in Dire Dawa around this time:

- Sahle Kebede, manufacturers' agent, pharmacy
- Harar Trading Co., aluminium ware, chemicals, paints, tools
- Mubarak & Obied S. Bin Shahnah, aluminium ware, coffee
- Abdulkader Salem Bashanfer (or Bashemfer), jute bags, cereals, coffee, corrugated sheets, oil seeds, rice, salt, sugar, textiles
- Manilal Jechand, jute bags, blankets, cereals, coffee, ready-made goods, textiles
- Dhirjalal K. Ghelani, jute bags, cutlery, hosiery, ready-made goods, spices, textiles
- Mansuklal Popatlal Mehta, jute bags, blankets, cereals, coffee, ready-made goods, textiles
- Ethiopian Share Co., building materials, tools, paints

- Mario Barbano, carpets, hardware, plywood
- Valendis Bros., cereals, coffee, hides and skins, oil seeds, textiles, yarns
- Karicas D. & Sons, coffee, general merchandise
- Lagoussis (Ch.) P., coffee
- Osman Saeed (Haji), enamel ware, fancy goods, jewellery, plastic goods, spices
- Abdul Kader Thabit Mohamed, food stuffs, rice, tea
- Chandris Africa Ltd, meat, slaughter-house
- Babulal Dayaljee, ready-made goods, textiles
- Shibeshi Tesema, general retailer
- Mokbil Mohammed, textiles, watches
- Mesfin Amdie, motor transport

1966 In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Dire Dawa.

In early 1966/?/ an expedition of the Swede John Eriksson passed Dire Dawa. The head of customs, with office upstairs reached by rickety wooden steps, needed written approval from his superiors in Addis Abeba before releasing Eriksson's vehicles from the railway customs. It was in the dry season, but nevertheless there was a tropical rain which damaged telephone to Addis Abeba and prevented air traffic. Eriksson was not prevented from removing his cameras and other objects from the vehicles and bringing them to the hotel. The Governor told him that photography was not forbidden in Dire Dawa but recommended him to keep to the "nicer parts of town". At the hotel Eriksson met a Swedish family Gunnar and Sylvia Rahm on excursion from Debre Zeyt where Gunnar was air mechanic. Because of partly bad roads they had taken their Volkswagen on the train the last part before Dire Dawa.

[J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Stockholm 1966 p 22-23]

Thelma Tonkin travelled in Ethiopia within 1961-1969: Dire Dawa is hot and dusty.

A river runs through its middle without the benefit of bridge, and the houses fan out on either side. There is a street of shops mostly selling agricultural machinery, and only four buildings of importance, the railway station, the Governor's palace, the Mosque and the Christian church. Strangely enough there is nothing that recalls the French in this end-of-the-line town of Dire Dawa.

[T Tonkin, Ethiopia with love, London 1972 p 183-185; example of a foreign visitor's first impressions when not yet having seen much]

On 9 June 1966 the Emperor arrived for his customary visit of the season to the region around Dire Dawa. He returned by special train on 26 July.

Because of drought, the Emperor came back and on 13 August 1966 distributed 57.7 tons of grain at the stadium in Dire Dawa. He returned to the capital ten days later.

A survey at the end of 1965 found 13 industrial establishments in Dire Dawa (5 food, 2 beverages, 1 textile, 3 wood, 1 building, 1 printing). A new slaughterhouse was under construction.

1967 By 1967 Dire Dawa had almost 500 telephone numbers, more than Gondar, Harar, Jimma etc.

Population 50,733 as counted in 1967. 66.8% were illiterate. 50% were stated to have Amharic as their mother tongue and 51% to be Christian. The rest were divided on several languages, and 46% were Muslim.

"For several months last fall /1967/ Dire Dawa was the headquarters for a unit of the Ethiopia-U.S. Mapping Mission. Each day helicopters rose from the city and noisily clip-clopped across the Rift Valley, frightening the herds of animals and destroying briefly the tranquility of an ancient way of life."

[Natural History, March 1968 p 53]

The Asfa Wossen Sports Stadium had a sitting capacity of 5,000 and was the property of the Municipality. In 1967 a Hungarian Keretz served as a football coach in Dire Dawa. The Swedish volunteer Ingrid Lindros was at the Community Development Office

in 1967.

Visits of the Emperor: - Returning from Yugoslavia, the Emperor stayed at Dire Dawa 10-19 and 24-25 August 1967. Among places inspected was an ammunition store, the customs offices, the meat factory of Chandris African Ltd., and the military and civil airports. On 15-17 November the Emperor visited various places, including that on the 16th he inaugurated a new building of the St. Mary Catholic mission school, with 550 students.

1968

Some of the schools in Dire Dawa in 1968:

Prince Mekonnen primary school had 504 boys and 385 girls, with 13 male and 5 female teachers.

Kezira primary school had 556 boys and 528 girls, with 17 male and 2 female teachers.

Islam primary school had 253 boys and 97 girls, with 5 male and 2 female teachers.

Alliance Française primary school had 186 boys and 55 girls, with 4 male Ethiopian, 1 female Ethiopian and 7 female foreign teachers.

Greek primary school had 8 boys and 11 girls in grades 1-5, with teachers one male Greek and one female Greek.

Names of some other primary schools in Dire Dawa at this time:

Aba Desalegn Gebre Giyorgis, grade 1,

Aba Tsige Maryam, grade 1,

Abate Tiruneh, grade 1,

Abdul Haji Hassen, grade 1,

Alemayehu Argaw, grade 1,

Ali Abdela, grade 1,

Asfaw Zegeye, grade 1,

Kiros Wolde Meskel, grade 1,

Mehal Ketema ("centre of town"), grade 1,

Mekarimile Ahlak, grade 1-6,

Mohamed Umer, grade 1,

Tiliku Gebeya ("the grand market"), grade 1-4.

Prince Mekonnen secondary school had 658 male and 111 female students in grades 7-12, with 27 teachers of which 20 foreign;

Bisrate Gabriel C.M. School had 90 male and no female student in grades 7-8, with 3 teachers of which one foreign;

Christ School had 38 male and 43 female students in grades 7-8, with two Ethiopian teachers;

Alliance Française School had 42 male and 17 female students in grades 7-8, with two foreign teachers;

Imebetachin C.M. School had 15 male and 3 female students (grade?) with two teachers of which one foreign;

Mennonite Mission Typing School had 59 female and 20 male students, with one foreign teacher.

Dire Dawa was mentioned in 1968 as one of four towns outside Addis Abeba and Eritrea having an automatic telephone exchange.

1969

'Miss Asmara Expo', Zewdi Araya, was briefly arrested in March 1969 for touring Dire Dawa, with escort from the Ethiopian Tourist Organisation, dressed in a mini-skirt. The secretary general of the Municipality intervened to have her released from police questioning "for wearing a dress incompatible with the local tradition".

[Addis Reporter, March 14, 1969 p 7]

According to Urban Survey, Second Round 1969-1970 of the CSO, Dire Dawa inhabitants were 52.3% 'Abyssinians', 20.5% indigenous populations and 27.2% others.

1970

Pricing policy of the railway was such that around 1970 it cost about 2½ times more to send coffee from Dire Dawa to Djibouti than from Addis Abeba to Djibouti. It would thus be cheaper for the exporter to send the coffee by truck from Dire Dawa to Addis Abeba

- and from there by rail to Djibouti!
- 1972 Ato Alfred Shafi was governor when the bridge over the Dechatu (Dachatu) was completed in 1972. He also presided over the full takeover by the municipality from the railway company of the water distribution system of the city. Alfred Shafi's period as governor was short but energetic and progressive. He is said to have made rounds of the quarters incognito to see for himself the state of things.
(Some names of officials and notables at unspecified times are Ahadu Sabure, Kenyazmach Yirgu Teklemariam, Werqeneh Welderufayel, Ugaz Hassan Hersi, Fitawrari Buh Gedid, Begashaw Aferu, Sentayehu Kidane, Sub-lieutenant Mitiku Adilu, Sergeant Mantaliya Gebre-Sadiq, Beneberu Weldaregay, Robi Gelda.)
[Getahun Mesfin Haile *in* AddisTribune 2003/01/17]
- 1974 In March 1974 there was some unrest of workers in Dire Dawa in connection with the ongoing revolution.
Six people were wounded when police opened fire on demonstrating railwaymen and students on 17 April.
[News + Radio Ethiopia]
- 1975 Population 76,639 in 1975.
Following the 1974 revolution many Europeans, Yemeni Arabs and Indians left Dire Dawa. The Greek and Armenian churches had to be closed (when?) due to dwindling membership. The Soviet Russians and Cubans who were in the area during a few years for political/military reasons did not mingle with the local population and meant little for the town life.
It was announced on 3 February 1975 by the Derg government that the Cotton Company of Ethiopia (with Japanese investment) was among 14 textile enterprises to be fully nationalised.
Nationalisation also applied to the cement factory in Dire Dawa, with German investment of Krupp. [News]
The 5th Cement Plant /this one?/ cost 800 million Birr.
- 1976 In August 1976, the entire leadership of the local branch of the teachers' union was sacked for alleged anti-revolutionary activities. Ten new officials were appointed pending fresh elections. A few days later, on 4 September, teachers in Dire Dawa were called to a seminar at which the Minister of Education, Dr Haile Giorgis Dagne, flanked by the Dergue's political indoctrination officers, emphasized that the new educational curriculum to be introduced would help them disseminate Marxist-Leninist philosophy to the masses.
[C Legum, *Conflict in the Horn of Africa*, London 1977 p 44]
- 1977 Dire Dawa was the second biggest stronghold, after Addis Abeba, of the EPRP radicals. In the beginning of 1977 the long borders with Somalia were more tense than ever. The Somali Republic looked poised to 'salvage the Ogaden' when the Ethiopian nation finally fell apart. Ethiopian reinforcements were moved up to the border during the year, but their armour (thought to include only 25 serviceable tanks) paled to insignificance beside the Somalis' new Soviet weaponry.
[Legum as above p 51]
In June 1977, Somali army units, ill-disguised as guerrillas by removing the insignia from their uniforms, crossed into the Ogaden and headed for the besieged administrative centres, which were to be attacked simultaneously on the night of 9 July. One unit was sent to attack the air base at Dire Dawa at the same time.
The plan misfired badly because it underestimated the strength of the defending garrisons, which had been reinforced by troops and police withdrawn from the smaller centres.
[Markakis 1987 p 229]
On 9 August 1977 it was reported from Djibouti that all railway stations between the Djibouti border and Dire Dawa were in the hands of WSLF, the Western Somalia Liberation Front.
[News]
On 15 September 1977 visiting journalists were driven on dirt roads into the surrounding hills to see the debris of war after the invasion attempted by Somalia. "From the evidence

produced here it is clearer than ever that the conflict is a fully mechanized war of two well equipped armies." [News]

There were left around Dire Dawa twelve tanks of the Soviet model T55, with Somali symbols. There were 31 attacking tanks which approached in bad weather so that they were discovered only late by the Ethiopians during a routine flight. Most of the Ethiopian armour was in Eritrea at the time. The commander Major Tadesse Teklehaimanot estimated that about 4,000 Somalis attacked, and that about 900 Somalis and 150 Ethiopians were killed. 21 tanks were captured, of which 12 were left standing useless as mentioned above.

[Berit Härd *in* Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1977 no 2 p 9-10]

1978 During the Somali invasion of the Ogaden the railway line was blown up and closed for a year. By March 1978, however, it had been reopened as far as Dire Dawa.

In 1978/79 the railway carried 132 million passenger-km and also 148 million freight ton-km. There was 681 km of this railway inside Ethiopia.

[Africa south of the Sahara, 12th ed., 1982-83]

Around 1978 there were in Dire Dawa petrol filling stations of Agip, Mobil and Shell (but not of Total) and they were all at a roundabout to the south-west of the palace, near the Ras and Kulube Hotels and where the road out of town towards Harar starts.

The population was estimated at 72,202.

1980s Main hotels around 1982 were Diredawa Ras with 79 beds and swimming pool, manager Teferi Tasseaw, and Karamara with 50 beds, manager Demele Abebe.

1985 Around 1985 East Germans worked out of Dire Dawa airport with one Ilyushin aircraft and later two Antonov-26 planes. They were involved in the resettlement programme and had only a small role in the transport of famine relief supplies.

[Jansson et al 1987 p 44]

In March 1985 was the inauguration of a fairly large 'sub-surface water dam' at Melka Jebdu near Dire Dawa. This was an area with large plantations of fruits and vegetables. The dam supplied about 2,500 people and 500 animals, and surplus water was used for irrigation of 500 fruit trees. A couple of Swedish volunteers worked at Melka Jebdu. The inauguration of the dam was filmed for Ethiopian television. However, in the rainy season the flowing water carried with it large stones which tore the dam to pieces.

[C-G Landergren, *Medmänsklig ..*, Sthlm 2003 p 124-125]

In October 1985 it was published that a Canadian firm Associated Engineering Services had been awarded a design contract for water supply to Dire Dawa. Bids for construction work were invited in September 1986.

1987 Population 107,150 in 1987, more than a doubling in twenty years' time.

1990s "-- Dire Dawa consists of two distinct settlements, separated by the Dechatu stream, which for most of the year is only a dry bed but during the rains flushes into a torrent. To the north and west of this water course lies 'Kezira'. -- This area consists of the railway station and its installations, stores, and workshops, as well as many houses, shops, offices, and other modern buildings. This part of town differs from most other Ethiopian settlements in that it was constructed in a carefully thought-out manner, with straight, asphalt roads and well-aligned buildings. It is also unusual in having piped water, which comes from two nearby natural springs, and a drainage system.

On the other side of the river lies 'Megala', site of Dire Dawa's very substantial Kefira market, which handles an immense variety of goods. --

Ask for directions to the nearby caves - some featuring stalactite and stalagmite formations - with prehistoric paintings, evidence that humans have inhabited this part of Africa for more than 20,000 years." [Camerapix 1995]

- but Lega Oda rock paintings are at a distance of 37 km from Dire Dawa.

"-- the second most populous town in Ethiopia /when Asmara does not count after the independence of Eritrea/. -- founded in 1902 to service the rail link from Djibouti to Addis Ababa, and it was at one time a booming trade centre, but its economy has been hit by the on-off nature of trade with Djibouti in recent years."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

- 1991 Dire Dawa was taken by the EPRDF on 31 May 1991. There were reports of about 100 people killed during the fighting for Dire Dawa, where the local population had resisted the entry of EPRDF forces. [News]
Irene Blomkvist left around August 1991 after having worked for Swedish *Save the Children*. Nurse Elisabeth Turesson who had also worked there left Ethiopia around November.
In 1991 when the SNM (Somali National Movement) took over the north of Somalia, they dismantled and sold off cheaply the only publicly owned industry in the whole Somali northern region, a cement factory located near Berbera.
The whole plant was shipped off to Ethiopia to help expand the cement factory in Dire Dawa.
[Abdullahi Dool, Failed states, London 1998 p 244]
Mahmoud Dirir was born in Dire Dawa. He was a journalist and became a refugee in Middle East countries. In 1991 he returned and in Dire Dawa launched a weekly Somali-language newspaper called Waayaha Diri Dhabe (The Somali Times). In the Derg time, he joined the Western Somali Liberation Front and became chairman of the Western Somali Youth League. From 1991 a coalition of 13 different fronts created the Ethiopian Somali Democratic League, ESDL, with Mahmoud Dirir as secretary. He was appointed ambassador and stayed for 2½ years in Harare, Zimbabwe. Back home again he became Minister a couple of times. He hoped to write a political novel in English about Haile Selassie's attacks on Somali people.
[AddisTribune 2003/02/14]
- 1994 Population of the town 151,864 according to the 1994 census (within the administrative council there were 173,188 urban and 78,676 rural residents). The proportions of ethnic groups were 48% Oromo, 28% Amhara, 14% Somali and among the rest e.g. some Gurage. 63.2% were Muslims and only 0.7% Catholics. By population Dire Dawa was still the largest provincial town.
"In Dire Dawa, shortly after the FDRE was established /Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the end of 1994/ a local AAPO official, who had repeatedly reported to his party that Front cadres had warned him to stop his work for the AAPO /All Amhara People's Organization/, was beaten and assassinated by government officials - prelude to the shutting down of the local AAPO office."
[T M Vestal, Ethiopia - a post-cold war ..., USA 1999 p 146]
A film made in 1994 about a journey to Addis Abeba with the Djibouti railway says that all passengers got off for the night in Dire Dawa. The richly flowering trees along a main street are shown, and Wagda Hotel is mentioned.
There are hardly any French left in town, but there is still the French-speaking school of the Alliance Française. Once the French culture was so dominating that the religious holidays celebrated were the European rather than the Orthodox Ethiopian ones. Habits such as playing *boule* still exist.
The railway workshops are at Dire Dawa, still with a few French technicians. (No Scandinavian influence though one can see with large letters on the wheels that there are SKF ball bearings from Sweden.) Scrap metal is melted so that replacement for worn braking-blocks can be manufactured.
There are large sheds where coffee cleaning is still done by hand. A French-speaking Greek coffee exporter Yanis grows himself some of the exported Harar Star coffee. The *khat* sold in the market is grown in the highlands and brought from some distance.
[The film seen by B Lindahl]
- 1995 By the mid-1990s Dire Dawa had one of the highest unemployment figures in Ethiopia, with estimates ranging from 24 to 35 per cent.
The OAU Observer Group of 81 members were represented at the polling stations of Dire Dawa and eleven other major towns at the elections on 7 May 1995.
Three EPRDF security men said to work closely with the senior authorities in Dire Dawa were shot dead on 11 July 1995 by unidentified gunmen in a part of town called Taiwan.
[Urji news]

Some 1,500 Ethiopians who sought refuge in the Shebele camp of Djibouti were repatriated and reached Dire Dawa in mid-July 1995.

"Dire Dawa is hot, sweaty and entirely without charm. -- Of slight interest to tourists is the busy covered market in the atmospheric Muslim quarter, and the station building itself. There's a fair bit of French spoken in Dire Dawa, and - a rather surprising local quirk - the game of bingo is apparently very popular in the town's bars."

"The government-owned Dire Dawa Ras Hotel is much as you'd expect, with comfortable rooms, pleasantly leafy grounds, and the unexpected bonus of a swimming pool. Rooms cost US\$30.

The Kulube Hotel next to the Shell Garage has comfortable self-contained rooms for US\$10. This is fair value for money, but unfortunately the owner of the hotel is a complete shark. -- A less grasping compromise between price and quality is the National Hotel -- The Sai Hotel opposite the railway station is said to be good, but it was full on every occasion I popped by -- The government-run Continental Hotel has acceptable rooms -- but having located the elusive old gent who keeps the key to the communal toilet and shower, you'll find the facilities are singularly turgid. The Wagda Hotel is better -- and while the communal shower and toilet wouldn't win any prizes for hygiene, they at least look like they see the occasional mop."

[Bradt 1995(1998) with town plan sketch on p 177]

1996 Ahmed Mohamed, a representative of the Oromo Relief Association, was arrested in February 1996 and "disappeared", but he was released in October.

[Amnesty International]

Radio Ethiopia said at the beginning of February 1996 that a blast at the Ras Hotel in Dire Dawa on a Friday evening destroyed ten rooms on the first floor. One person was killed by debris and four were taken to hospital with minor injuries. (Two weeks earlier there had also been an explosion in a government-owned hotel in Addis Abeba.)

It was stated in November that the police force central bureau considered one Muhammad Dol alias Barreh to be the leader of the attack on the hotel. [News]

A 39-year-old Dutchman H. Herder was shot dead in daytime on a market place in Dire Dawa on 3 March 1996. He was a representative of the organisation Terre des Hommes. It was not known whether it was just an accident or a manifestation of allegedly growing anti-western sentiment in Ethiopia. [News]

One Eric Mercier [phonetically derived spelling] was shot dead in Dire Dawa in the afternoon of 16 October 1996. He was a research fellow of the French Centre for Yemeni Studies and had been in Dire Dawa for some time, carrying out research on the large Yemeni community in the town. Two weeks earlier, a German tourist had been killed.

[News]

1997 In April 1997 three former district governors were arrested in Dire Dawa - Bashir Sheikh Abdi, Mohamed Ahmed Sheikh Abdi, and Yusuf Muhumed Moallim. They were suspected of relations to the ONLF and by the end of the year they were still kept in isolation cells without trial.

[Amnesty International]

1998 The airport is named *A.T.D. Yilma International*. There are scheduled domestic EAL flights between Dire Dawa and Addis Abeba. The paved runway has a length of about 2700 m. Instrument approach procedure has been published.

1999 "The Addis Ababa to Dire Dawa route by train is very picturesque but the journey is extremely uncomfortable. It is not advisable to go beyond Dire Dawa by train."

One of the oldest known prehistoric sites is the cave Porc Epic near Dire Dawa /see also Lega Oda/, unearthed by -- Abbot Breuil and Father Teilhard de Chardin. This shelter has yielded a lower jaw bone of Homo sapiens archaic dating from between 60,000 and 77,000 years ago.

"Located in a fine building was a French school which was undoubtedly the best in the town. The young pupils there learned the language of Molière, a precondition for obtaining employment on the railway. The fine houses are now, for the most part, empty and dilapidated. By contrast, the arcades of the town centre are bustling with many small

shops."

A dual carriageway bridge crosses the dried up river bed and descends to the bottom of the hill where an Arab quarter has grown up around the Afetiessa market, set back on a wide stony area. The numerous green painted domes of the minarets emphasise the predominance of Islam in the area.

"To the north there is an enormous souk dealing in smuggled goods. The Taiwanese market supplies the whole region. -- During the time of the Derg regime this veritable Ali Baba supermarket was the only means of supplying the region with consumer goods; the authorities turned a blind eye."

"French is still the only language used on the railway and it is in French that the displayed timetables are written. -- Today's timetables are extremely unreliable."

When travelling from Addis Abeba, the locomotive finally has to use all of its power to climb up to Biquet, a village largely populated by Somali Issa. Soon afterwards the train pulls into the station of Dire Dawa. Allow between 12 and 24 hours for the whole journey.

[Aubert 1999 p 14, 28, 139-148]

In August 1999 there was a 3-day standstill of the railway when a train had been derailed by a bomb one hour after the train left Dire Dawa on Saturday 21 August.

Another bomb blast happened to a train going to Addis Abeba in November 1999, at 12 km from Melka Jebdu. Two people were killed.

[News]

2000 "The Lyos Hotel is probably the best budget deal in town, although it's set a little way out, west of the town centre. -- Makonnen Hotel near the train station is an old Italian colonial hotel -- often filled with Djiboutian merchants -- Fasika Hotel, north-east of the centre on the airport road, is one of the best mid-range places. -- The Ras Hotel, with tired, over-priced rooms, is worth a visit for its outdoor pool and garden only. -- Much better value is the well-run Muslim Sai Hotel, 2 km east of the centre on the Megala side of town -- Officially, couples should be married - you may be asked for proof of this."

Something like European supermarkets on the outskirts of town are the Ashton Market and the nearby Taiwan Market.

There are flights twice daily to Addis Abeba, and twice weekly to Jijiga and to Djibouti.

[Lonely planet 2000 p 294-297, with town plan]

2000s Besides the capital Addis Abeba, the only city in Ethiopia which has its own separate city administration is Dire Dawa with its Council Office. Chairman was Solomon Hailu (-2001-). Important units are Dire Dawa Council Islamic Affairs Supreme Council and Dire Dawa Sport Commission as well as Coffee Inspection & Auction Control Branch Office CTA.

Population around 202,700 in 2001, then still the largest town in Ethiopia outside the capital Addis Abeba. Foreign influence is still much in evidence.

"I have found that Dire Dawa takes a certain amount of time of getting used to. --

The place to stay in DD for ferenjis like me is the Ras Hotel. -- One of my first memories of the Ras Hotel is seeing the scarred front entrance, damaged by a grenade attack /in 1996/, now carefully covered up. The discriminatory rate of 250 birr for ferenjis compared to 68 birr for nationals further fails to endear me to the place. The hotel also sports an alarmingly greenish pool with a large number of potential health victims splashing around."

"The train station -- sits on the main square with an old narrow gauge engine decoratively resting in the middle of the square out front. The building has an impressive yellow and white front -- although the inside is run down. -- Even the old Imperial Palace reflects French influence, with grand lawns leading up to impressive pillars guarded by giant vases -- Numerous other more mysterious edifices hid their charms behind high stone walls -- Even today there is a regular exodus from Djibouti to DD during the hottest months, although the French mostly departed long ago."

"The Commonwealth soldiers graveyard was rehabilitated with nice straight lines of grave

markers for a visit by Princess Anne (in her capacity as President of Save the Children UK), access through a metal gate can often be gained from the guard with a key. -- the 50 or so headstones bear the names of Africans from colonial Kenya, Ghana, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, amongst others, showing that those who sacrificed their lives in the battle with the Italians were mostly Africans -- Three British airmen are buried in the back. The graveyard is very nice and well kept, a huge contrast to the Christian graveyard behind, which has wonderful grave markers but has been turned into an unofficial community toilet."

"There are big markets near the bridges over the main river. -- As well there is Taiwan and Little Taiwan, markets named for the overwhelmingly Asian origin of the goods. -- Both are in the Aley Beri section of town, a Somali name -- Taiwan is a more formal market, where traders likely have licenses -- Little Taiwan is a warren of shops down narrow laneways --"

"Not far beyond the market is the 'Dairy Farm and Zoo', a private establishment which encourages visitors -- Despite the depressing zoo, the farm as a whole was quite nice, with a thick foliage crowded with thousands of busy weaver birds. There is an elaborate villa."

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2001/11/30]

Official data from the Dire Dawa Administrative Council in 2001:

Average temperature is 24.8 degree centigrade, and average annual rainfall 604 mm.

There are around 61,000 cattle, 37,000 sheep, 80,000 goats, and 12,000 camels.

"Currently there are 136 investors working in various sectors", of which 33 in industry, 24 in agriculture, 17 in commerce, 34 in real estate and the rest in half a dozen other branches.

Among commercial establishments around this time there are:

- Dire Dawa Edible Oil Factory
- Dire Dawa Food Complex S.C.
- Mulugeta Afework Private Coffee Exporter
- Sheik Habib Farid Coffee Export PLC
- Mohammed Abdullahi Ogsadey, coffee and general export
- Moplaco Trading Co. Ltd., coffee export
- Abadir Coffee Trading PLC
- Pan Dire Dawa Pulmonary Trading PLC
- Farah Tahir Kairreh, fruits, vegetables
- Tahir Deriye Dude, fruits, vegetables
- Ahmed Mohammed Farah, fruits, vegetables

2002 Spelling used by the post was DIREDAWA (-2002-).

2003 The branch office of the private Dashen Bank was computerized and by early 2003 had been upgraded to Wide Area Network. Dashen Bank then had 28 offices in Ethiopia.

[Addis Tribune 2003/05/30]

2004 The Bilal Hospital was inaugurated in January 2004. It is a 40-bed private hospital in Dire Dawa established by Dr Abdulsalam Barre and Mrs Nejah Abdulsamed, two Ethiopian-Americans.

[AddisTribune 2004/01/16]

Missionaries of Charity Sisters, founded by Mother Teresa in India, came to Ethiopia in 1973. Among their 15 branches by 2004 was one in kebele 20 of Dire Dawa, with a home for sick and dying destitute, a unit for mentally sick, a mother and child care unit, and a feeding centre. There were congregation members in 2004 by names Maria Ajit, Deo Grati, Deepti Priya, Clarisse Marie, Aloysia, Clementeen, Josemina, and Maria John, within the Ethiopian Catholic Church.

[www.ecs.org.et]

2005 In a sudden flood of the stream through Dire Dawa at least 21 people were drowned in mid-April 2005.

[News]

In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dire Dawa zone 1 constituency had

64 polling stations and 58,510 registered voters of whom 84% cast their votes. Leading party was CUD with 26,169 votes and candidate Ato Dereje Debebe W/Mariam. Second was EPRDF with 13,141 votes and candidate Ato Mohammed Abidulahi Ahimed. The independent candidate Ato Beyan Adem Sultan received 1,670 votes. Other two male and two female independent candidates got 820, 730, 652, and 320 votes. The remaining 5,819 votes are not explained.

The Dire Dawa zone 2 constituency had 79 polling stations and 52,502 registered voters of whom 87% cast their votes.

Leading party was SPDP with 18,650 votes and candidate Ato Mohammed Yusuf Umer. Second was CUD with 13,414 votes and candidate Ato Birihanu Kenaw Gelet. An independent candidate Ato Abidulhamid Bekri Hassen received 5,604 votes. Other five male independent candidates got 862, 639, 526, 418, and 0 votes. The remaining 5,485 votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

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- picts Exhibition catalogue regarding Alfred Ilg, A.A. 2000 p 30
railway installations about the time the first train arrived on 24 Dec 1902;
F Rosen, Eine deutsche ..., Leipzig 1907
p 25 monsieur Carette with lion;
K Herzbruch, Abessinien, München 1925
p 22-23 caravan camps, marketplace;
E H Schrenzel, Abessinien ..., Berlin ca 1925
p 63 treasury, 70 European quarters, 77 railway workshops,
80 French consulate, 260 Bank of Abyssinia;
K Lubinski, Hochzeitsreise ..., Leipzig 1929 p 132 Orth. church;
A B Svensson, Genom Abessinien ..., Sthlm 1930
p 33 mosque, 35 BV mission station, 37 market;
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F Wencker-Wildberg, Abessinien, Berlin 1935 /pl 22/ overall view;
G Agge, I svart tjänst ..., Sthlm 1935 p 80 views of
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A B Svensson, Abessinien under italienarna, Sthlm 1939
p 205 courtyard of the BV mission station;
E Virgin, Abessinska minnen, Sthlm 1936
p 172 visit in Jan 1935 of Swedish Crown Prince;
F Quaranta, Ethiopia, London 1939
p 82 Dopolavoro Club, 94 cement factory;
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Gli annali ..., anno III vol I, Roma 1940 p 716-717[8]
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916-917[3] Casa del Fascio;
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A B Svensson, Det återuppståndna ..., Sthlm 1948 p 128
air view of the town, and BV mission school;
A M Rubin, I Etiopien, Sthlm 1957 p 145
Imperial palace, and market outside town;
Ethiopia Observer 1957 no 5 p 171 cement factory;

Aethiopian, München (Terra magica) (1958)1963
 pl 40 shoemaker symbols on small shop;
 Eth. Economic Review 1959 no 1 p 7
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 Missionssällskapet Bibeltrogn .. 1911-1961, Sthlm 1961
 p 97 staff and students of the BV mission station;
 J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Sthlm 1966
 p 48-49[4] caravan camp, grasshoppers;
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 16 interiors of textile mill, 19 entrance of Chandris
 meat factory, 21 Emperor at the Coca Cola factory,
 24 interiors of railway workshop;
 B Gérard, Éthiopie, 1973 p 119 pool of Ras Hotel & view beyond;
 D Griswold, Eyewitness Ethiopia (World View Publ.) 1978
 p 38 captured Somali weapons on display;
 G Hancock et al, Under Ethiopian skies, London (1983)1987
 p 176 stall in the Afetieissa market, 177 woman;
 B Zewde, A history of modern .., London etc 1991
 p 102 crowd at the railway station;
 Camerapix 1995 p 138 railway station;
 M Aubert, Ethiopia, (Local Colour) Hong Kong 1999 p 15 street scene.

maps

1:25,000 town plan, *in* Guida dell'A.O.I. 1938;
 municipal borders, *in* Gli annali .., III:I /Roma 1940/ p 905.

Dire Dawa : Addis Alem

An area started by the Italians.

Dire Dawa : Addis Ketema

An area started by the Italians.

Dire Dawa : Chiri

The black sand of this wadi contains magnetite-haematite with 1.5% of titanium oxide.
 [Mineral 1966]

Dire Dawa : Fil Wiha (Felweha)

An area started by the Italians.

Dire Dawa : Hanani

In black sand of this wadi, analysis revealed magnetite-haematite
 with 2% of titanium oxide.

[Mineral 1966]

Dire Dawa : Hassen Sefer (Hassän-Säfar)

An area on the Kezira side from which the Italians forcibly evicted the Ethiopian
 inhabitants so that they were resettled further away. Hassen Sefer was turned into a
 modern residential area for Italian officers and their families. For a while it was known as
 Case I.N.C.I.S., corrupted into Kazanchis by the locals.

After the expulsion of the Italians, Greek refugees were briefly quartered there so that the
 area became known as Grikamb.

[Getahun Mesfin Haile *in* AddisTribune 2003/01/17]]

Dire Dawa : Kezira (Käzira)

This was already from the beginning one of the two main sides of the Dechatu river and
 the one laid out in a European pattern. Its plan was designed by French engineers of the
 railway company.

There were first three long straight streets parallel to the railway (with names Mussolini,
 Badoglio and Graziani in the Italian time) and a few more nearer the valley, with about 18
 shorter streets across.

The palace was built in the pre-Italian time by the Yemeni contractor Salah Jemal.
 Many Ethiopians moved in during the first post-Italian period.

[Getahun Mesfin Haile]

(Was anything built of an Italian town plan for extension south-eastwards?)

Dire Dawa : Magalla (Mägala, Megala, Magalo)

This was one of the two main sides of the Dechatu river from the beginning, with local people as inhabitants and criss-crossing alleyways. There was much Yemeni influence, with masons accustomed to build in stone and Yemeni contractors such as Salal Jemal and Mohamed Jobani. A "shop language (kälam al-suq)" variety of Arabic was the lingua franca for a long time.

In the post-Italian period a master plan was introduced to give also this part of Dire Dawa a more orderly street pattern.

[Getahun Mesfin Haile]

In tourist literature Magalla is sometimes called Old Town though on the whole construction on the Kezira side started at about the same time. The main market is here and named Kefira (Qäfira).

Dire Dawa : various parts

From the 1940s onwards emerged sections like Polis Meret, Allaybede (Aley Beri), Gugguba, Sabbiyan, Gorro, settlements on the slopes of Gendegara, and the satellite township of Melka Jebdu.

Kebri Jolle (Qäbrijolle) and Afet-al-Issa (Afätessa) were started in the pre-Italian period. Gende Depo (Gandädepo) and Gende Kore (Gändäqoré) on the Kezira side started as small clusters. Gugguba has miserable hovels, and Gende Miskin means "poor quarter" even by name.

Dire Dawa : Zinjero Gedel (Zenjäro Gädäl)

At "Baboon Cliff" in the north-west there were plenty of monkeys in former times. It was once a waterlogged valley but has turned into a dry parched ravine. Much of its vegetation has disappeared.

JDJ53	Dire Dawa awraja (centre in 1964 = D.Dawa)	09/41	[Ad]
JDR36	Dire Dawa & Isa & Gurgura awraja 10°15'/42°10' (centre at least 1969-1980 = Dire Dawa)	09/41	[Gz]
	dire de...: <i>dega</i> (däga) (A) highland		
HDK74	Dire Dega 09°43'/37°56' 1809 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
	dire g...: <i>guto</i> , <i>gutoo</i> (O) 1. cave, lair; 2. cage or hatchery for birds /hens/		
HDT01	Dire Guto (D. Goto, D. Gofto) 09°59'/38°35' 1914 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDT02	Dire Habi 09°58'/38°40' 1844 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
	dire ja...: <i>jara</i> , <i>jaraa</i> (O) big, huge		
JDJ51	Dire Jara 09°33'/41°44' 1371 m	09/41	[Gz]
JDJ51	Dire Jara 09°35'/41°44' 1195 m	09/41	[Gz]
	dire ji...: <i>jila</i> , <i>jiila</i> (O) 1. pilgrimage; 2. fear, abhorrence		
HDE56	Dire Jila 08°41'/39°00' 2036 m	08/39	[Gz]
	dire ka...: <i>kalu</i> , <i>kaluu</i> (O) near		
JDG08	Dire Kalu (D. K'alu, D. Qalu) 09°08'/40°30' 1262 m	09/40	[Gz]
	dire ko...: <i>kora</i> (O) 1. (kooraa) hilltop, spur, saddle; 2. (koora) meeting of elders; 3. (koora) haughtiness		
JDH10	Dire Kora (Dire Cora)	09/40	[+ WO]
HDF93	Dire Mikael (church) 09°00'/39°37'	09/39	[Gz]
	dire shire: <i>Shiree</i> , name of a Somali family; <i>shiree</i> , slaughter an animal just for this family		
HDK45	Dire Shire 09°28'/38°01' 1744 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDK23	Dire Shunki (Direshunki) 09°19'/37°48' 1878 m	09/37	[Gz AA]
HDL98	Dire sub-district (Dirie ..) (centre in 1964 = Wobi) (-1964-1997-)	09/39	[n Ad]
??	Dire wereda (in Borana) (-2000-)	../..	[20]
JEA63	Diremtu (police station) 11°25'/40°03'	11/40	[Gz]

diremu: *dirama* (O) morning, dawn, herding the cattle out;

diramo (O) early meal; *dirmuu* (O) hurt oneself on a pointed object

HDL64	Diremu	09/38	[WO]
KCN64	Dirgab	07/45	[MS WO]
H...	Dirgimit (locality in Bulga)	09/39?	[n]
	<i>diri</i> (A) necklace, string of beads; (Geez) breast-plate;		
	<i>dirri</i> (Som) open ground, hard barren land;		
	<i>diiri, diirri</i> (Som) make warm, heat;		
	<i>diri</i> (T) ribbon; <i>dirii</i> (T) shell, armour; umbrella		
GD...	Diri (in Kelem awraja)	08/34?	[Ad]
	A private school in 1968 had 45 boys and 5 girls in grades 1-2, with one teacher.		
HC...	Diri (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	07/35?	[Ad]
	Diri Menjawa primary school (in Kefa awraja) in 1968 had 78 boys and 13 girls in grades 1-5, with two teachers.		
HCP16	Diri 07°22'/36°16' 1580 m	07/36	[MS]
??	Diri Dabe (in Ogaden)	../..	[n]
	"While defending their property, 892 unarmed herders were slaughtered (I. Wais, 1978) between 1964 and 1971 in Diri-dhabe region alone."		
	[Mohamed Dolal in Beyond conflict in the Horn, 1992 p 186]		
	<i>diri goma</i> : <i>goma</i> (A) hornless /animal/		
HCP17	Diri Goma (Diri) (grain market) 07°23'/36°17'	07/36	[Gu Gz]
HDL98	Dirie, see Dire		
JDD34	Dirikley (Dirikle) (area)	08/42	[+ WO]
HDD70	Diriko 08°49'/37°32' 2461 m	08/37	[Gz]
	(with church Giyorgis)		
J....	Diris (plateau)	../40	[Gu]
	High plateau with spiny shrubs, an artificial dam, and "miserable small villages". [Guida 1938]		
	<i>dirk</i> (dirq) (A) <i>dirki</i> (dirqi) (T) dryness, drought		
HDC06	Dirki (Dirchi) 08°12'/37°11' 2187 m	08/37	[Gz WO]
HEC27	Dirma (area)	11/37	[WO]
HDL77	Dirma Gebriel (D. Ghebriet) (church) 09°43'/39°06'	09/39	[Gz WO]
	see under Webera		
HDU60	Dirma sub-district (centre in 1964 = Sebodelemet)	10/39	[Ad WO]
HCK67	Dirmancho (Dirmancio) (area)	06/38	[+ WO]
	<i>dirmo, dirmoo</i> (O) a ball of cotton thread		
HEL68	Dirmo 12°21'/39°11' 2714 m	12/39	[Gz]
HES78	Dirni (Simen national park post)	13/38	[Br Ca]
	<i>diro</i> (A) formerly, long ago; (O) closed, locked;		
	(Kefa) silver necklace worn by a high official		
HDL23	Diro (Seyo Dire at 1 km distance to W)	09/38	[AA]
	<i>dirre</i> (A) hill, (O) ridge, plateau, flat part of hill		
HDF92c	Dirre, cf Dire	08/39	[Gu]
HDJ90	Dirre, see Dire		
JCN59	Dirre (Shek Husen region) 07°44'/40°41'	07/40	[x]
	near map cope JCP50		
	The town is situated on the plateau immediately south of the deep valley of the Webi Shebele, well within view of the mountain Abdul Kassim and a little north of the upper end of a small river Einage, with a deep and steep ravine.		
	In spite of its age, Dirre has a clear attempt at a regular town plan. From the west, the broad "Pilgrim Avenue" leads straight on, but narrowing, to an open space in front of the gate in the wall around the sacred area. At right angles a shorter street goes down southwards to one of the three big waterholes. This one is Dunkurre, in Oromo hinting that it collects only rainwater.		
	(Author Birch-Iensen made his first visit on 14 October 1955:) - Halfway along Pilgrim		

Avenue, on its southern side, is the foremost building of the town, residence of Imam Mahmoud, Khadi Ahmed and Haji Ali. On its door someone had written with elegant letter *Casa di Imama*.

Most of the buildings in the centre are not round but rectangular, the best ones constructed of dressed sandstone. Some of those with clay daub on timber have a pattern made from contrasting red and yellow clays. Round houses dominate north and south of the sacred area and are usually shelters for pilgrims, built by people from somewhat different cultures. There are plenty of cactus hedges.

A hundred metres from the westernmost waterhole, Haro Imaro, is Sheik Ibrahim's tomb and mosque. He is said to be son of Sheik Nur Hussein, around the 11th century. The plan of the tomb is a square 5x5 metres with rounded corners, with a narrow cupola to a height of about six metres (according to the author cited here with associations to a penis). The entrance is not much more than a metre high. The small mosque nearby is well built, but its whitewash is not always well maintained.

Birch-Iensen counted the buildings of Dirre and found 580 round and 160 rectangular houses. No dogs - an animal despised by Moslems.

The sacred central part of Dirre is about 200x200 metres, fenced by a wall of sandstone slabs. Its height varies between one and three metres, with grass on top - planted by man or by nature? In eleven places there are simple openings in the wall, except that on the northern side, near the long, low mosque, there is a gate of whitewashed masonry.

Pilgrims leave their luggage under a sycamore *Kiltu Handara*. A small but solid court building is located near the entrance to the sacred area. The pilgrims do not ride and they are barefoot.

Inside the fencing wall there is on the left the domed tomb of Sheik Nur Hussein. Further on is the mosque with six arcades and a small cupola. On the right side of it is Abdul Qader Jehelani's whitewashed mosque with ten imposing columns and also with a cupola and its own small encircling wall. According to Cerulli/Trimingham it is supposed to have been built by Emir Abd ash-Shakur of Harar (1783-1794).

Immediately to the east of the wall of the inner sanctuary there is a round, deeply dug pond. Its name is *Haro Lugo* which in Oromo means something like "spring with steep sides". North and south of the wall the ground is filled with about 300 + 250 graves and a handful of modest mausoleums. Even if they all are graves of religious leaders there is only one modest stone on each grave.

In front of the largest column is a three metre high monolith, dedicated to Sheik Hussein's son Mohamed Thaman, who is said to have died in young age.

Sheik Nuhr Hussein's tomb (see also Shek Husen as name of locality) has a square plan 8x8 metres with stepped crenelated corners. A text in black Arabic script on the white surface was added in the second half of the 1950s. Pilgrims make their homage inside but the entrance is low and narrow.

In the 1950s there was one school under Sheik Abdu Samed bir Mohamed with about 100 boys and girls, and a smaller and simpler one under Mohamed Yilmi teaching Amharic. The main pilgrimage to Shek Husen is around 20 December (February according to Cerulli and Trimingham does not seem to be correct). The Arafa festival on about 29 August is also a great event. The Italian occupants in the 1930s seem to have encouraged pilgrimage, on the principle of "divide and rule". Many women take part in pilgrimage, perhaps mainly for carrying water and doing other household tasks. It is not clear whether pilgrims make offerings in cash. Commerce in Dirre for everyday needs of the pilgrims is mainly organized by the traders in Ginir.

[Birch-Iensen 1960 p 106-118]

picts C Birch-Iensen, *Ett okänt Mecka*, Sthlm 1960 p 81

school interior and an old man

dirseyo: *dirso* (Som) order something for oneself;

diirso (Som) warm oneself; *dirsa* (O) male; *dirs* (O) husband

HDL72 Dirseyo 09°45'/38°38' 3397 m

09/38

[AA Gz]

HCL.. Dirso

06/38

[x]

Oromo village about 6 km north of Arbegona, towards the Garamba mountain.

[J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Sthlm 1966 p 142]

HCI45	Disa 06°48'/37°08' 1834 m	06/37	[Gz]
HCG77	Disandis (coffee plantation) 06°58'/35°26'	06/35	[Gz]
HEC79	Dishet (Discet), see under Bahir Dar	11/37	[+ WO]
HDH20	Disi (Seca) 09°18'/35°41' 1875 m	09/35	[Gz]
HDU81	Disim 10°45'/39°30' 2254 m	10/39	[Gz]
??	Diss (mountain), cf Dess	../..	[Mi]
	It is considered that gold-bearing quartz veins occur. The prospecting was carried out by the geologist Schmid of Otavi Bergbau A.G. [Mineral 1966]		
??	Dissandiba (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
	<i>dist</i> (A) clay pot, <i>disti</i> (T) saucepan of clay; <i>disti</i> (O) vessel made of branches; (Som) pot, cooking vessel		
JDH24	Disti, G. (area) 2573 m	09/41	[WO]
JEB63c	Dit Bahari (Dit Bahri), lower Awash plains	11/41	[n x]
	Cotton plantation established in 1964-65 at 40 km south-west of Dubti. The Tendaho Plantations Share Co., based on an agreement between the Ethiopian Government and the Mitchell Cotts Co. in 1960, planted about 2,000 hectares of cotton at Dit Bahri (and still more at Dubti). Around 1968 the irrigated area was about 2,150 hectares.		
1975	In early June 1975 there was a two-day battle at Asaita between government troops and the sultan's forces. The government said afterwards that the sultan's forces incited the Afar to turn against non-Afar highland plantation workers at Dit Bahari, and that they killed 221 persons. [M & D Ottaway 1978 p 96]		
1998	The area was 'virtually submerged' by the flooded Awash river in September 1998. [Reuters 98-09-29]		
	<i>dita, diita</i> (O) swelling /from an infection/;		
	<i>Dita</i> , an ethnic group in the south-west at circa HCC89. They live at the foot of the Tola massive east of rivers Bano and Wobero. In their diet barley comes first, ensete second and <i>Coleus edulis</i> ("Galla potatoes") third. [S Stanley 1966]. Tradition gives the following list of Dita kings: - Woizo, Doyo, Dogo, Girginta, Batro, Naka, Molke, Durcho, Shale, Maize, Mancho. The last one in this list was titled Grazmach Mancho in the 1950s, but it was his energetic mother Zazote who acted as the real ruler, and it was therefore she who was detained around 1955 when taxes from the area had not been fully paid on time. [Straube 1963 p 224]		
text	H. Straube, Westkuschitische Völker Süd-Äthiopiens, Stuttgart 1963 p 219-227.		
pict	Straube as above plate 11, megalithic stone ring as assembly place. <i>Dorze</i> , a group of the northern Ometo		
HCD80	Dita (Dita Dorze) 06°14'/37°28' 3043 m	06/37	[WO Gu Gz]
	Dita (mountain) cf Dieta		
HCD81	Dita, small district south of Chencha	06/37	[x]
HCR07	Dita 07°16'/37°17' 1798 m	07/37	[Gz]
HC...	Dita sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
	In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dita constituency, in the Gamo Gofa zone, had 48 polling stations and 31,906 registered voters of whom 68% cast their votes. Leading party was CUD with 10,046 votes and candidate Sergeant Kapite Wate Tesemma. Second was EPRDF with 6,176 votes and candidate Weyzerit Ankare Asane Arba. The UEDF party got 311 votes. The remaining 5,140 votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]		
picts	H Straube, Westkuschitische Völker ..., Stuttgart 1963 Tafel 3 valley landscape with Wugula area, Tafel 19 landscape with terraces, Tafel 30 cultivated terraces		

in wide and open landscape.

HES64	Divarik, see Debark		
HCU92	Dixis, see Diksis		
HFF00	<i>diya</i> (O) evening, night; (Som) blood compensation Diyadib (Diyabib, Mai Cianqua) 13°38'/39°27' 1827 m	13/39	[Gz Gu]
JDG65	Coordinates would give map code HFF01 Diyilu 09°37'/40°15' 701 m <i>diyoo</i> , <i>diyoo</i> , <i>dhi-o</i> (O) close, near, recent; <i>diyoo</i> (Arabic,Som) blood-money	09/40	[Gz]
HET85	Diyobera 13°26'/38°58' 1593 m	13/38	[Gz]
JEH08c	Diyoyta (Dioita) (place)	11/41	[+ Ne]
JEJ65	Diyoyta (Dioita) (area) 12°24'/42°02' or 12°20'/42°04' 244 m	12/42	[+ WO Gz]
HCB96	Dize 06°16'/36°17' 1559 m	06/36	[Gz]

Dizi, an ethnic group living in the Kefa region near Maji, numbering about 21,894 according to the 1994 census, see Maji

HDA29	Dizi 08°22'/35°36' 1582 m	08/35	[Gz]
HDA29	Dizi wereda (1996-)	08/35	[n]

Within the Bench-Maji Zone which was established in 1996.
Semi-sedentary population.

In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dizi (*liyu* = with adapted borders) constituency had 33 polling stations and 10,123 registered voters of whom 58% cast their votes.

The only reported party was EPRDF with 2,496 votes and candidate Weyzero Wegayehu Biyagdigne M/d. An independent candidate Ato Keysa Denka Shweda received 1,409 votes. The remaining 1,944 votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

Dj.. (mostly French and German spellings), see J..

JDK85	Djebi Abeyou, see Jebi Abeyu		
HDK	Djeldu, see Leta Kolfe		
HET78	Djibiet, see Gijet		