

- dem* (däm) (A,Geez) 1. blood; 2. sap of plant; *deem* (O) go
- ?? Dem Bahir ..../.. [Ch]  
Lake about a mile in diameter, formed in a depression on a lava field - lava blocks instead of mud can be seen on the bottom through the clear water. Close by is another similar lake, Kurt Bahir.  
[Cheesman 1936]
- HEF80 Dem Bet 11°36'/39°23' 1908 m 11/39 [Gz]  
HDK21 Dem Gijo 09°14'/37°41' 1688 m 09/37 [AA Gz]  
dema: *demma* (dämma) (A) bleed, make bleed;  
*dema, deemaa* (O) lustful, lewd, lecherous, promiscuous
- HED70 Dema, see Deyma  
HED92 Dema (area) 11/37 [WO]  
JEC50 Dema Lay Terara (Dema'lay T.) 11°19'/41°37' 831 m 11/41 [MS]  
JEC40 Demaali (Dema'ali), see Damahale  
JDC72 Demadegu, see Gicha  
GCU33 Demai 07/34 [WO]  
*demb* (dämb) (A) usage, established custom, rule
- HBL37 Demb (Uamore Demb?) (area) 03°54'/39°08' 03/39 [WO Gz]  
HFF23 Demba Mikael (church) 13°49'/39°41', east of Wikro 13/39 [Gz]  
dembal doro: *dooro* (Som), *doro* (A) chicken
- HBM73 Dembal Doro (Dembeldora, Dambaldoro) 04/39 [Gz LM WO]  
04°19'/39°38' 1133 m  
HDE37 Dembala (area) 08/39 [WO]
- dembar* (T) awkward, bashful;  
*dembara* (A) border, boundary;  
*denbari* (dänbari) (A) shy, skittish
- HCK78c Dembara, 2120 m, cf Denbera, Dimbira 07/38 [Gu]  
HCK79 Dembara 07°01'/38°20' 1789 m 07/38 [Wa Gz]  
HC... Dembara, see Denbara Kela  
?? Dembaro ..../.. [20]  
Menilek made submission to Yohannes IV at his camp at Dembaro on 20 March 1878 in an elaborate ceremony. Menilek was crowned King of Shewa on 26 March. Yohannes and Menilek were both eager to see religious controversy among the Orthodox settled. At Dembaro Menilik seems to have agreed to ban all missionaries, including the now 72-year-old Massaja, whom Yohannes ordered out of Ethiopia the next year, See also Boru Meda.  
[P B Henze, Layers of time, London 2000, p 149-150]
- HD... Dembaro Wenjo (in Gimbi awraja) 09/35? [Ad]  
Seventh Day Adventist Mission school in 1968 had 23 boys and 5 girls in grades 1-4, with one teacher,
- HED70c Dembasa (on map of 1843) 11/37 [Ha]  
HCS24c Dembaya 07/37 [LM]  
*dembe* (dämbä) (T) pen, courtyard, stable, camp;  
*arkay* (arqay) (T) bamboo
- HFD69 Dembe Arkay (D. Arcai) 14°12'/38°30' 1821 m 14/38 [+ Gu Gz]
- Dembea, also /old/ name of lake Tana
- HER07 **Dembea** (Dambea, Dambiya, Dembia), cf Dembia 12/37 [WO Pa x]  
Water-grass plain on the north shore of Lake Tana. The churches Waina Kidane Mihret, Finero Maryam, and Awah Abo were /in 1933/ from 800 m to 2400 m from the shore.  
"The accounts given of them did not promise anything of interest." [Cheesman 1936]
- 1500s "The province of Dambea (which included Dancaz and had Gorgora as its capital) lay along the north and west side of Lake Tana and covered ten or twelve leagues by twenty-

four."

"Arab-Faqih relates that, during his occupation of Dambea, Ahmad Grañ decided to occupy the islands on Lake Tana and that an Arab in his army, Ahmed bin Soliman el-Mahri, cut down eight big trees which were hollowed into large canoes each of which could hold thirty men. However only three of these boats appear to have been used."

[Pankhurst 1961 p 110-111, 277]

1550s "-- the top Christian leaders, who escaped from the massacre /by Muslims/ on March 22, 1559, held a great council at the residence of Minas in eastern Gojjam. This highest state council decided upon making Dambiya the rainy-season residence of Minas. The choice of Dambiya may have been influenced by the wealth and safety it provided. This decision also proved another landmark in the history of the kingdom. -- By the transfer of the residence of the king, the Amhara nobility was unconsciously transferring the center of political and military gravity of the kingdom across the great river /Abbay/. The queen mother and other high dignitaries followed Minas to Dambiya, where he soon founded his capital at Gubay in Emfraz."

[Mohammed 1994 p 25-26]

1570s "Sarsa Dengel's -- campaign against the Borana was short-lived -- Sarsa Dengel withdrew all the Christian regiments east of the Abbay and marched to Dambiya, from where he led a more successful expedition against Yishaq in 1579."

"One of the most singular documents written by an unknown compiler -- sums up the history of this period in a striking sentence. 'When ... the country was wasted by the hands of the Galla, Malak Sagad was exiled and came to Dambiya.' The use of the term exile has profound meaning. Sarsa Dengel's withdrawal to Dambiya shattered the Christian authority east of the Abbay. Even though he tried time and again to restore his authority in the region, all attempts failed ignominiously and therefore his withdrawal to Dambiya remained an exile in the true sense of the word."

[Mohammed 1994 p 34-35]

1600s According to Almeida, the honorary title of Kantiba was used in Dambea.

A tax on weavers, according to Almeida, "yielded 'many thousands' of pieces of cloth in Dambea and neighbouring districts, though most of these dues were given to the various nobles who administered those particular lands".

[Pankhurst 1961 p 123, 188]

1700s James Bruce described Dambea as "all sown with wheat -- one of the granaries of Abyssinia". [Pankhurst 1961 p 116]

HDS60 Dembeccia, see Dembecha

HEC36 Dembech (hill) 11/37 [WO]

dembecha: *dimbicho* (Sidamo O) large tree, *Ficus* spp.,

*Ficus thonningii*

HDS60 **Dembecha** (Denbech'a, Dembeccia) 10/37 [Po MS WO Gu]

(Dembecha, Dambacha, Dembesha, Dämbächa) 10/37 [Te Ch Ha Pa]

(with fort) 10°33'/37°29' 2083/2190 m, distance 349 km from Addis Abeba

Coordinates would give map code HDR69.

Within a radius of 10 km there are at km

2SE Usta (village)

5SE Timecha (bridge over Timeccia, Temeccia, Temscia, Tamcha)

8SW Jesunchit (Jesuncit) (area)

7NW Chereka (Cereca) (village, plain, stream)

7NW Mikael (church)

8NW Angut (village)

3N Godever (village)

7N Umberet (area)

10NE Dega Damot (Degademot) (area, see directly under its name)

?? Adea (area) 2220 m

- ?? Ilala Tsion (church) 2240 m
- 1880s The explorer Gustavo Bianchi arrived to Monkorer (Debre Markos) and stayed most of May 1880 there, but Ras Adal sent him to spend the rainy season at Dembecha, so on 21 May he left Monkorer.  
Dembecha was the largest and most important village of Damot. Its surroundings were rather sparsely populated. Hunting was good there. The local people were most interested in hunting buffalo. It took Bianchi a month and a half to build a simple hut for himself and another for his servants. He stayed at Dembecha until the rains discontinued in September.  
[G Bianchi 1896 p 556, 559-565]  
On 11 September 1880 Bianchi left Dembecha to go to the Abay river, when he learnt that he could meet the liberated Captain Cecchi there. None of them could cross the river, so they communicated only by shouting to each other. Bianchi returned to Dembecha, but on 23 October he could in Monkorer meet Cecchi, who had come there to thank Ras Adal.  
[Bianchi p 592, 602-604]  
On 3 November, Bianchi, Cecchi and Antonelli went together from Monkorer to Dembecha (written Dunbeccià by Cecchi) and stayed in Bianchi's house there. On 21 November they went from there on a five-day excursion to the Choke mountains  
On 1 December arrived a caravan with various supplies from Shewa. On 20 December Gustavo Bianchi, Pietro Antonelli and Antonio Cecchi left Dembecha to pay their respect to Emperor Yohannes at Samera (see Debre Tabor, they were permitted to meet him on 5 January 1881). Bianchi continued to Massawa to go back to Italy. He had to leave most of his things behind, including horns of animals which he had collected. Ras Adal showed discontent that Bianchi was leaving.  
[Bianchi p 616-621 + A Ribera, Vita di Antonio Cecchi, Firenze 1940 p 132-133]
- 1900 March 1900: "Dembatcha, the chief town of the province of Damot. It is a large place, situated on the lower slopes of Mount Agiasfatra, which rises steeply behind the houses. Our approach lay over a wide stretch of meadow-land, till we came to the market-place to the south of the town."  
"Through the centre of the town runs a paved lane -- the walls on either side being overhung with bamboos and creepers, often meeting overhead. -- the Shûm brought -- provisions in the name of Queen Wisseron Lacuteh, to whom the town was presented by Tecla Haymanot, when he was created Negus."  
At the market, Powell-Cotton saw skins of freshly killed bushbuck, reedbuck, and duiker, but he did not shoot any himself in this neighbourhood.  
[Powell-Cotton 1902 p 218-219]  
The Rosen party of Germans arrived there on 3 April 1905. It was market day so they preferred to make their camp 2 km away at the small river Gudala. A little earlier the party had noticed two Negro slaves and caused Basha Aichilu to apprehend the Balambaras who kept them chained, because it was no longer legal to keep slaves. In Dembecha the Balambaras was handed over to the local official and the Germans took care of the two slave boys. On the following day they passed through the town, saw the large Mikael church and continued towards the north-west. They were using the Italian 'Carta dimostrativa dell'Etiopia'.  
[F Rosen, Eine deutsche .., Leipzig 1907 p 356, 359-361]
- 1920s An American group of naturalists from Chicago arrived at Dembecha on 7 March 1927  
"The 'Broadway' of Dembecha is a curious one, worn deep by long use. It is a narrow trench, at places eight or ten feet below the land level, and walled in further by trees and hedges of tall rank cane, so that one literally sees nothing of the town after he enters it until he comes out, like the New York subway at 110th Street, already well out of town. We passed many small caravans in this long ditch, and it was, at times, difficult."  
At some distance from Dembecha they met Dr Vaviloff, a Russian agriculturalist and botanist who was gathering seeds of cultivated plants.  
[L A Fuertes, New York 1936 p 174-175]
- 1930s Large centre scattered between large trees. Italian *Vice Residenza*, post,

- telegraph, infirmary. [Guida 1938]
- 1941 Wingate occupied Dembecha (Dambacha in British spelling) on 8 March 1941, and was joined on 10 March by the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion. They held a special parade on 11 March and in the afternoon of that day Gideon Force marched out in pursuit of Colonel Natale.
- "Boyle's orders had been to cut the road leading south from Burie towards Debra Markos near the little fort of Dembecha. This -- he had proceeded to do. Then the 2nd Ethiopians, in Wingate's words, 'sat down in the line of the enemy's retreat ... in what must have been one of the worst tactical positions for defence in history.' -- Natale's retreating columns -- suddenly ran into the 500-odd men of the 2nd Ethiopians, with their seven white officers, in open country on the banks of a dried-out river. The Italian forces, some 8,000 strong including 500 white troops, were -- so surprised to find the enemy in such an exposed position that they simply could not believe their eyes - until, from very close range, Boyle's men opened up. -- Corporal Wandafresh Falaka with eight rounds of his anti-tank gun scored direct hits on two of the armoured cars at a hundred yards' range. But the the milling mob of Italian troops burst over and through the pitiful opposition. *Banda* spread out to attack and loot Boyle's camel camp, while three columns of infantry charged straight down the road and on both sides of it, overrunning his totally-outnumbered little force. By midday it was all over. A quarter of the battalion lay dead or wounded, the rest were capture or had disappeared. But though the 2nd Ethiopians were barely to function again -- this, its one battle, had much impressed the Italians. For Natale's column left 250 dead behind them, plus their two disabled armoured cars. They had even lost a bomber, shot down from the ground."
- "That night the enemy rearguard still held the Fort at Dembecha. As *Bimbashi* Harris, with his men, machine-gunned it from 2,000 yards, he was wounded. -- He was evacuated with the other wounded, by lorry, to be welcomed by 'the genial countenance of Colonel Sandford' at Burie Fort."
- "It was a fierce little engagement at Dembecha. Wingate went forward, with Gabre Maskal his preferred radio operator at his side, just in time to face a series of bayonet charges by the enemy. 'Retire!', shouted Wingate. Gabre Maskal took no notice. -- /Wingate/ looked after the followers he judged efficient - in the thick of the fighting he remembered to send a horseman to guide Gabre Maskal and the others back to the safety of Boustead's base. It was not till forty-eight hours later that its 500-strong garrison evacuated Dembecha, burning down the *tukuls* around the Fort. They pulled back to -- Debra Markos."
- "Wingate -- having addressed a 'Victory Parade' of the 2nd Ethiopians at Dembecha Fort, had gone back to Burie, to find an Emperor angry at being kept so little informed and a brigadier angrier for more weighty reasons. Sandford complained that Gideon Force appeared to be driving the Italians out of Gojjam instead of harassing them inside Gojjam as had been agreed."
- [Mockler 1984 p 347-349]
- "As for the hoped for reinforcements from Dembecha, they were in an even worse state. -- 'It was becoming noticeable at Dembecha that the battalion was beginning to be affected by excessive drinking.' Boyle and the adjutant, Captain Smith, were 'in a nervy condition'. Physically minor wounds and cuts were turning septic. Mentally the officers were under a strain. Drunkenness among the men led to clashes and a state of near mutiny. -- Indeed three of the five Australians (whose enthusiasm for Ethiopia had originally inspired Wingate), Sergeants Howell, Body, and Wood, had to be sent ignominiously back to Khartoum."
- [Mockler p 353]
- In guerilla fashion, the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion moved through a short cut to establish a road block in a dry river bed just west of Dembecha. Here they were nearly overrun by the retreating Italian horde and the small force was not able to stop the retreat. Finally, they hid by the roadside to watch the retreat move by. Colonel Natale abandoned Dembecha on 8 March and Fort Emmanuel two days later. This left the entire Gojam

army of Italians concentrated in Debre Markos, numbering more than 12,000 men.

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 152]

1960 In Dembecha junior secondary school 19 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960.

1960s Population as counted in 1967 was 2,634.

The primary school in 1968 had 320 boys and 138 girls, with 12 teachers.

The Mikael church primary school had 175 boys and 3 girls in grades 1-3, with three teachers.

The junior secondary school had 62 male and 13 female students in grade 7-8

(with no regularly employed teacher that year?).

"In February /1968/ in Dega Damot a leadership was elected by the rebels - consisting of their own district governor, sub-district governors and replacements for the *atbia danyas*.

"The main qualification for office seems to have been the possession of a gun and the will to oppose the tax'. /A Hoben/ This leadership was to remain in control of the area until

December." [Gilkes 1975 p 184]

picts Bianchi 1896 p 553 landscape, 557 church, 601 road;

C Sykes, Orde Wingate, London 1959 at p 257 Wingate inspecting a soldier of the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion in April 1941

### **Dembecha: Tamcha**

A right tributary of the Abay, with junction at about 10°18'37°00'.

"On the /12th of March 1927/ we spent the whole of seven hours of travel in crossing the Tamcha ravine. -- The Tamcha has already been crossed by a masonry structure built some thirty years ago -- on a wide loop of the main caravan track downstream of the dry-weather road and ford. -- The first river we crossed in the Tamcha ravine was the Tatma -- The Tamcha water combined with that of the Gadab was 50 yards across, but part of this was shallows. -- The contributions of the Bir and Tamcha are particularly important to the Abbai in the dry months, as their flow does not diminish to the extent seen in some of the others."

[Cheesman 1936]

HDS60 **Dembecha sub-district** (-1997-) 10/37 [n]

In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dembecha constituency had 72 polling stations and 58,964 registered voters of whom 80% cast their votes.

Leading party was CUD with 20,813 votes and candidate Ato Aimro Aweke Denekew.

Second was EPRDF with 10,501 votes and candidate Ato Gete Mulat Jembere. The remaining 16,018 (!) votes are not explained.

[www.electiosnethiopia.org]

HFD06 **Dembegwina** (Dembeguina, Dambaguina) 13/38 [n WO Gu Pa]  
(with church) 1269/1850 m, cf Indabaguna

early "The reigns of Emperor Minas (1559-1563) and Särsä Dengel (1563-1597) witnessed the emergence of a powerful and ambitious Bahr Nägash called Yeshaq. -- /He/ launched a palace conspiracy, and attempted to place the new emperor's nephew Täckäro on the throne. Minas, on learning of the plot, made his way to the Lalibala area to investigate the situation, whereupon Yeshaq retreated northwards to Dambaguina. There a battle was fought, in which the Bahr Nägash was defeated. He fled to the coast --"

[Pankhurst 1997 p 236]

1935 Mid-December 1935: "But, even reduced to its just proportion, it is certain that, after the fighting at Dembeguinà in which we first came into contact with the enemy, we had momentarily lost that contact just when his rapid advance to the north of the Tacazzè must lead us to fear that he intended putting into action a plan of his own."

[Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 37]

General Maravigna sent reinforcement of white soldiers to the Dembegwina Pass.

A group of armoured cars under Captain Crippa found themselves unexpectedly attacked on their flank by some 2,000 Ethiopians and the cars never reached the pass. Their commander was killed. The forces under General Cubedda retired from the pass.

[R von Xylander, Berlin 1937 p 25]

Dejazmach Ayalew had heard through his spies that the Italians at Dembegwina under Major Criniti intended to leave from there. Ayalew became very eager to advance. Later, after the battle at Dembegwina had obtained a victory for his force, Ayalew started from Debre Abay and a little after midnight reached the hill where the abandoned fortress was. It was a hill on the plain where the caravan route to Aksum passed. Traces of Italians were seen in the form of many emptied tins and pictures of film stars in three small huts standing there. Ayalew made his camp in a valley to the east. The Ethiopians were eager to see damaged tanks and other things, and Dr Nyström who accompanied the force took the opportunity to replenish his supply of tobacco from what was found on the ground. Italian planes bombed now and then. In one case a herd of 86 oxen were reduced to 14. Ayalew sent a telegram about the victory to the Emperor. The answer congratulated him but ordered Ayalew not to make any new attack but to await what events there would be. Italian prisoners (only a few) should be sent to Dabat to be flown from there to the capital. Information told afterwards said that the major at Dembegwina had been advised to withdraw and that he was ready for this when a caravan of 30 camels with supplies arrived from Aksum. The major then decided to stay a few days more and even put up the radio masts again, but the decision proved to be fatal.

The Ethiopians under Fitawrari Shiferra advanced from the Tekeze. They knew that at the fortress there were 1,500 *banda*, 150 white soldiers, various guns, 4 trucks, one motorcar, 100 load mules, and 30 camels. When advancing at dawn they passed the church Mikael 4 km east of the fortress. They saw an Italian plane land for a moment and talk to someone. It was learnt that those on the ground wanted to know if any enemy could be seen from the air, but the pilot calmed them by saying that he had seen nothing.

When the Ethiopians, unwisely, attacked on 15 December and burnt a tank in the plain, the Italians understood that there would be a showdown. They moved down from the hill with nine tanks and four companies of soldiers. There was a large battle with various incidents. Fitawrari Shiferra was killed and his troops lost much of their courage, but by then reinforcements arrived on the Ethiopian side. An Italian aeroplane was overhead but had no great influence on the outcome.

Afterwards the Ethiopian casualties were counted to be 382 dead and 256 wounded. The Italians have stated their losses to have been 7 white officers, 23 white soldiers, 48 Eritrean officers, 127 *banda* and (as stated) only some 30 wounded. Dr Nyström, however, says that 51 dead bodies of white men were found in the battlefield.

The only motorcar, also damaged, was an old Ford model T originally brought to Adwa by a Swedish missionary Andersson and acquired by the Italian consul.

Marshal De Bono made an untrue propaganda statement that the enemy had fled after two days of hard fighting with the Italians.

[H Nyström, *Med S:t Giorghis ...*, Sthlm 1937 p 58, 70-71, 75-85, 101]

Army command in Aksum sent forward to reconnoitre 250 Eritrean infantry, supported by a squadron of ten two-man Fiat Ansaldo tanks. These were commanded by Captain Ettore Crippa. At the pass of Dembegwina, the tanks encountered Ras Imru's vanguard, which fled when the Italians opened up with their machine-guns. Taking advantage of their flight, Crippa's unit then drew to a halt in a clearing amid acacia trees and attempted to refuel. Unaccountably separated from their infantry support, it was a further misfortune that the reserve supplies were stored on the roofs of the vehicles.

All of a sudden, the Italians were ambushed by hundreds of screaming warriors, who charged forward firing their rifles and hacking down the crewmen with swords and spears. Within seconds the clearing was a scene of carnage. According to colourful accounts, Balambaras Uvene Tashemma sneaked up behind a machine and began hammering on the turret. The stupefied crew opened the hatch, and with sweeping sword Tashemma beheaded them both.

Some kilometres away, the Eritreans were also surrounded and outnumbered by Ras Imru's advance guard. Cunningly, they drove out their baggage train of mules, in the hope that the Ethiopians would be distracted by loot. But when this ruse failed they broke out

of their encirclement, charging with the bayonet. Having lost a fifth of their force, the Eritreans were chased back to Enda Selassie.

Two days after the disaster appeared Sergeant Bruno of the tank squadron, the only survivor of Crippa's unit to make it back to Italian lines. He cursed the Fiat Ansaldo tanks. When they did not cast off their tracks, they deafened their occupants and the twin machine guns had only a 15-degree traverse. In the confusion, the sergeant had fled down a crevice and he had wandered the countryside, followed by a family of baboons. Two weeks passed before the Italians could return to the scene of the massacre. They buried the dead at Dembegwina and looked for survivors, but there were none. The burnt-out hulks of the tanks were neatly parked side by side, caught completely by surprise by Ras Imru's warriors. The hatches had been flung wide open and beside the hulks were the stripped corpses of the crews, partially eaten by hyenas. The corpse of Crippa could be recognised by the strands of his grey hair.

[S O'Kelly, Amedeo, London 2002 p 57-59]

1936 By 1 April 1936 the Italian Intendenza had formed an advanced base at Dembegina, with 20 days' rations and stocks of ammunition and materials for all troops of the IInd Corps. [Badoglio p 131]

HFD56 **Dembegwina** (Dembeguina) (area) 14/38 [n WO]  
The hunters Maydon and Blaine passed there in early 1923 on their way to Simen. "-- we finally halted -- at the foot of a conspicuous sugar loaf hill, near some scattered villages called Dembegwina -- This was a pleasant camp, with a perfect stream cascading down into a huge wooded gorge -- where we saw partridge /etc/ -- but no four-footed game. The local people, though very poor, were courteous and obliging." [H C Maydon, Simen, London 1925 p 62]

HCT82 Dembel, see Ziway (lake)

HD... Dembel (Dämbäl) 08/39? [+ n]  
In December 1879 Menilek and Ras Mikael made a campaign to Dembel, near lake Ziway, and captured many cattle. [Gäbrä Selassie 1959 E.C.]

HDL71 Dembel 09°42'38"33' 2611 m (with church Silase) 09/38 [Gz]

JEA62 Dembel (mountain) 11°29'40"00' 1390 m 11/40 [Gz]

?? Dembel sub-district (-1997-) ../. [Gz]

HFE26 Dembela (Denbela) 13°46'39"01' 1867 m 13/39 [Gz]

HFE27 Dembela 13°47'39"06' 1598 m 13/39 [Gz]

(with church Mikael at some distance to the south-west)

HBM73 Dembeldora (Dembeldoro), see Dembal Doro  
*dember* (dämbär), *dinber* (A) border, boundary

HFE16 Dember Amba (mountain), cf Debre Amba 13/39 [Gu x]

HFE68 Demberbara 14°13'39"15' 2063 m 14/39 [Gz]

(with church Maryam)

HFF44 Demberona, see Debaina

HEU51 Dembessa (recorded in 1868) cf Dembasa 13/39 [18]

H... **Dembeta** 10/37 [18]

Cardinal Guglielmo Massaia with escort arrived in this region in the mid-1800s, after travelling for four days eastward from lake Tana.

Dembeta was regarded "almost as the capital of Damot" but there were almost no villages on the plateau around it. Dembeta looked like a fortress and was also a place of refuge. There was a large church Mikael.

At some distance from Massaia's party walked a group of women carrying heavy burdens. It was said that one of these women gave birth to a child on the road, and that after a little rest she continued walking, carrying the baby in a basket.

Massaia's escort of soldiers was commanded by one Gebru Wende. Contrary to what was usual the soldiers were in this case received with some pleasure by the local people, because there was a leopard with the habit of attacking humans. This leopard was soon

shot and killed.

When leaving Dembecha on good roads, they heard plenty of hyenas at night.

[G Massaja, *Mes trente-cinq années ...*, Paris, vol.I (orig. Italian ed. 1885) p 214-217]

- HEL44 Dembeta Maryam (D. Mariam) (with mission) 12/38 [+ WO Gu Gz]  
12°09'/38°51'
- dembi* (O) kinds of large tree, *Ficus vasta*, *F. ovata*,  
*F. thonningii*, *Mimusops kummel*; it is an old Oromo custom  
to plant *dembi* trees on tombs of important men;  
*dembi* (Som) crime, sin, error, blame;  
*Dembi*, name of an Ittu tribe of eastern Oromo
- HCP98 **Dembi** (Dimbi, Denbi), cf Dambi 08/36 [MS Po WO Ad]  
08°05'/36°28' 1822/1929/1943 m  
(with church & sub P.O.), cf Dambi  
Centre in 1964 of Gumai Denbi wereda.  
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km  
9SE Tobba (with church) 1895 m  
10NW Guma (village)  
In the upper basin of the Didessa valley.
- 1930s Italian *Residenza del Gúma*, post, telegraph, infirmary. [Guida 1938]  
1960s Is this the Dembie listed in the 1967 telephone directory? - with five numbers for Abdul  
Kaleb Abdulla, Belaineh W. Tsadik, Daniel Akalu, Mohammed Salah, Yayeh Limerih.  
2005 /this Dembi?:/  
In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dembi constituency, in the Illubabor zone,  
had 71 polling stations and 52,660 registered voters of whom 88% cast their votes.  
Leading party was EPRDF with 25,520 votes and candidate Weyzero Gifiti Abasiya  
Ababuligu. Second was CUD with 14,089 votes and candidate Captain Dereje Gebeyehu  
Teketel. The remaining 6,815 votes are not explained.  
[www.electionsethiopia.org]
- HDD24 Dembi 08°21'/37°56' 1919 m 08/37 [Gz]  
HDD94 Dembi 09°00'/37°54' 2156 m, see under Ambo 09/37 [AA Gz]  
HDE61 Dembi 08°42'/38°33' 1963 m 08/38 [Gz]  
HDE74 Dembi 08°49'/38°49' 2138 m 08/38 [Gz]  
HDF82 Dembi 08°52'/39°31' 1680 m 08/39 [Gz]  
HDK56 Dembi 09°34'/38°04' 2313 m 09/38 [AA Gz]  
HDL75 Dembi 09°46'/38°55' 2519 m, see u. Debre Libanos 09/38 [AA Gz]  
HDS07 Dembi 09°58'/38°12' 2470 m 09/38 [AA Gz]  
JDB29 Dembi (mountain) 1411 m 08/41 [WO]  
JDH33 Dembi (Gebel Dambi) (mountain) 09/41 [Gz WO]  
09°21'/41°03' 1864 m
- HCK08c Dembi Kaku (Dambikaku) 06/38 [x]  
A little south of Dilla. At the time when a German ethnographic expedition passed there  
in December 1934 there was a huge sacred tree with visible hanging roots, and this was a  
border point between the land of the Guji extending to lake Abyata and land of the  
Darassa extending to the Uraga mountain.  
[Ad E Jensen, *Im Lande des Gada*, Stuttgart 1936 p 91-92, 99]  
*dembi kersa*, fig tree rock? *karsa* (qarsa) (O) flat rock
- HDE52 Dembi Kersa (Dembi Carsa), cf Kersa 08/38 [+ WO]  
HEJ77 Dembia (Dambiya) (area), cf Dembea, Dembiya 12/37 [WO x Gz]  
12°27'/37°20', coordinates would give map code HEJ78  
historical area, see Dembea; modern localities cf Dembiya
- HEJ78 Dembia wereda (Dembiya ..) 12°27'/37°20' 12/37 [Ad Gz]  
(centre in 1964 = Kola Diba)



- Dembidolo*, this Oromo people has been studied by Lambert Bartels (before 1982).
- GDF45 **Dembidolo** (D. Dolo, Dembi Dollo, Dembidollo) 08/34 [LM Gz Ca WO]  
(Dambidolo, Dambidollo)  
(Saio said to be incorrect but Ca has **Sayo** in 1995)  
08°32'/34°48' 1701/1827 m; Sayo district, see Sayo.  
Distance 662 km from Addis Abeba.  
Centre at least 1964-1980 of Kelem awraja &  
in 1964 of Shenena Deko sub-district.  
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km  
6S Ochir (Tulu Ocir) (hill)  
9S Karo (Burca Badessa) (village) 1638 m  
5SW Humbi (Umbi) (village)  
6NW Tabor (village) 1828 m  
9NW Chamo (Sciama) (village) 1814 m  
5N Mau (Tulu Mao) (hill) 1694 m  
8NE Dembidolo (mountain) 1575 m  
The country of the Mecha (Matcha) Oromo is considered to extend from Gimbi to  
Dembidolo. [Mohammed 1994]
- geol The Baro river valley from Dembidolo to Gambela was prospected by the Italian L. Usoni (published in 1952). Geologists speak of a Dembidolo basalt shield and a Dembidolo granite boss consisting of fine-grained pink-grey biotite granite. [Mineral 1966]
- meteo Average rainfall 1342 mm per year was recorded in 1914-1936, and 1132 mm per year in 1954-1959.
- 1897 The expedition of Vittorio Bottego, after more than a year of exploratory travel from Somaliland, in March 1897 were so near Sayo that a letter was sent to Menilek's governor there.  
The Italians were well received in Sayo and were told that a letter from the governor had been sent to Dejazmach Jote, who ruled in the area through which Bottego planned to pass. Gifts were exchanged and everything appeared to be in order.  
The caravan continued, and next they camped on a little hill at Jellem, and there they were about 400 km west of Addis Abeba. The caravan member Citerni went to the head of the area (= Jote of Leka?) with a rifle as present.  
The Shewans acted more well-wishing than was usual with them, so the Europeans wondered what their real intentions were. A Moslem taylor succeeded to bring word to the caravan that the dejazmach in reality intended to rob all their goods and make the Europeans prisoners, so that they could teach how to manufacture firearms. Of Bottego's 160 men when he left Lugh in Somaliland now remained 86 men.  
The Shewans attacked on 17 March 1897 (on the very day when peace between Ethiopia and Italy was signed after the battle of Adwa). Bottego was killed, aged 36. Vanutelli and Citerni were made prisoners but later brought to Italy within the scheme for exchange of prisoners of war.  
[R De Benedetti, Vittorio Bòttego .., Torino 1932 p 183-193]
- 1900s Habte Maryam, educated at the Swedish Evangelical Mission in Eritrea, was sent to Sayo around year 1900.  
[Onesimus in a letter]  
When he worked there around 1907, Sayo was one of seven places in western and south-western Ethiopia having such evangelical work at that time.  
[Arén 1978 p 431]
- 1910s Lij Iyasu travelled from Jimma and Gimira to Dembidolo in 1905 Eth.Cal. (1912-13 Greg.Cal.) and was received by Dejazmach Jote and was given much coffee land by Jote. Iyasu in return rewarded Jote's sons Merdasa and Solomon.  
[Studien zur Kulturkunde 104, Köln 1994 p 335-336]  
Around 1914 the chieftain Yadessa Goma of Sayo sent a message to his old friend Fitawrari Dibaba of Boji and asked him to send a teacher. Habte Mariam was selected to

go. Onesimus wrote in 1915 that Habte Mariam had been allotted 30-40 children to teach reading, and even Dibaba's wife. A year later Evangelist Ayale and his wife, 'Bible woman' Febe, went to Sayo, and later also Bushan Siba.

The American Mission arrived later. Habte Maryam's disciple Kenyazmach Churamo Jadesa went to Mendi as chief of customs. Ato Honde Gutamma was another man who had intense activity in the area.

[Bortom bergen vol II, 1954 p 143-144]

Dr and Mrs Lambie of the United Presbyterian Mission were called from Sudan to Ethiopia in 1918 during the time of the Spanish flue epidemic.

"The mules were small, but strong and sure-footed as they followed the trail that led /from Gambela/ to Sayo on the plateau -- On hearing of their arrival, Dejzasmach Biru sent messengers to convey his respects, and then came in person to greet them. A black cloak hung from his shoulders, almost concealing the white jodhpurs beneath. -- There was a profound politeness in his manner and he moved with the unhurried dignity of a king. And, indeed, that is what he was in that area of Galla tribesmen."

"It was decided to build a clinic and a doctor's residence near Sayo on the plateau as quickly as possible. The hilltop site near the cluster of huts that was Sayo town became 'home' to the Lambies and their two children for the next three years."

"At first, when the Galla women saw them coming they would snatch up the children playing out in the open and run with them inside their huts. Likewise, the men, in those beginning days of friendship, were content to lean on their spears and watch the white strangers from a distance. But in time their curiosity proved stronger than their fears, and they drew near as friends."

"Among the many friends made in Sayo was one Daniel Alexander, an American negro. He was a blacksmith -- Mr. Alexander became a frequent visitor to the Mission compound -- Arriving in Addis Abeba in 1907, he had opened a smithy and was much in demand, for the Ethiopians soon discovered the value of shoeing their horses. -- One who had borrowed heavily from him, being unable to repay the money, offered some land in settlement of the debt, and Mr. Alexander thus found himself the possessor of a large estate near Sayo and the owner of several sturdy slaves! --"

[H M Willmott, The doors were opened, London (S.I.M.) ... 1950s p 17-20]

Visits by the American missionary a little before 1920: "The town of Sayo was reached the next day and it seemed lovely beyond our imagination. The town itself was not much, but it was redeemed by the trees and flowers growing everywhere, while thousands of Gallas clothed in ragged garments crowded its streets and gave evidence of the need of mission work. They were nearly all pagan, tree worshippers, although a few of them were Mohammedans."

"The Abyssinian officials sent gifts of food -- which we vainly tried to induce them to take back."

"The Greeks were very kind. It was decided that I /Thomas Lambie/ should ride back alone to Gambeila to tell the family the goods news of a beautiful land -- while Dr. Giffen and Dr. McGill stayed on a few days and then returned to Khartoum and Egypt."

"-- a healthful environment, and, not least of all, the red roses blooming in the utmost profusion over sordid Sayo. Roses over the fences, roses over the verandahs, roses blooming and smelling in such wanton riot that everywhere one looked one seemed to see roses."

"We detoured /riding/ through the weeds, then clattered through the little town of Sayo, or Dembi Dollow, past the merchants' houses, with their gardens fenced with tall bamboos overhung with fragrant red roses, down across the brook and up the incline on the other side, and then a long bit of almost open road --"

"Then down the long slope to the farm of the Greek coffee grower, Pandelli Nittis, whose Abyssinian wife was sick. Pandelli Nittis was one of those curious characters that one finds in Eastern lands. If he were a dweller on the sea coast he would be called a beach comber, but in Africa's sunny mountains he would hardly be called a mountain comber, although that is what he was. He had had a long, varied career, starting as a mechanic, a

kind of superblacksmith, in the Sudan under the British government. But tiring of hard work, he had drifted to Addis Ababa, where he fell in with a beautiful adventuress, with whom he made a business alliance by which, through some arrangement best known to themselves, they jointly became possessed of some hundreds of acres of fertile ground an hour from Sayo on the Gambeila Road. It was land suitable for coffee or fruit growing. The lady remained in Addis Ababa, and afterwards returned to her own land, while Pandelli went to the plantation. He was a contradictory sort of person. -- He would plant a few thousand coffee trees and then say, 'What's the use? Better have a few games of cards to make up for this hard life,' and he would go in to Sayo where the games and the days would lengthen into weeks and months whilst his Galla overseer neglected to cultivate the orchard and stole his coffee, or brought him in a mere few small sacks of coffee and some bunches of delicious bananas. --

After a month or two with empty pockets, Pandelli would return to his plantation, cuff the overseer and thieving workers, and plunge once more into grandiose schemes of wealth and greatness in which millions of trees would support his opulence. But the dreams never came through."

[T A Lambie, *Boot and saddle .., USA 1943 p 26-28,33-35*]

"Through the town of Sayo I went, with its crooked streets crowded with pack mules bearing sacks of coffee -- Then we rode down the long hill where Michele the brickmaker lived all alone, amidst his brick-drying sheds.

Poor Michele, a simple soul, not afraid of work, but very much afraid that the rain would come and spoil his sun-dried bricks. He used to go out from his house to look with anxious face at threatening clouds. --

'Ah,' the peasants thought, 'he is raising his hand to make an incantation to the sky. He has stopped the rain that would water our fields.' Some one had hung a snake skin in a tree. Michele tried with his old musket to see if he could hit it so that he might perfect his marksmanship and at the same time let the Gallas know that he had a gun. -- 'Ah,' they thought, 'shooting at dead snakes in trees and holding up hands to heaven against the clouds; this is undoubtedly a malignant rain maker and rain withholder --' Up to Aussa they journeyed, to the provincial capital. The government heard, and poor Michele was put in prison for some weeks, in spite of all his protests that he knew nothing about rain making but cared only for bricks. Had he been his rich compatriot, the Greek coffee merchant, they would not have dared to do it, or, having done it, would have accepted a small bribe and let him go. But Michele was only a poor weak man whom nobody cared for."

[T A Lambie, *Boot and saddle .., USA 1943 p 39-40*]

"When my wife saw the beautiful hill on which our Sayo Mission Station was located and desired me to try to get it for the mission, as it was almost uninhabited, the native people, and even some of the Greek merchants sought to dissuade us from going there to locate, for it undoubtedly was a *buda* place. We laughingly said that we were not afraid of *buda*. Christ has conquered the world of evil spirits and we share in His glorious victory."

[Lambie 1943 p 49]

"When it became known that Dr. Lambie and his family were preparing to leave on furlough via Addis Ababa, Mr. Alexander thought it a fitting time to revisit the capital and take /the 10-year-old adopted boy Mengesha/ with him. The Lambies' modest caravan of a few mules was greatly increased -- An Italian trader also decided that this was a good opportunity to make the journey, and he added fifteen armed men to the caravan --."

Dr. Lambie had a white horse Biru which was a gift from the Dejazmach of that name. They had to pass Gore first and pay respects to the newly appointed Governor, Dejazmach Igazoo. Dejazmach Biru had been deposed, though no one seemed to know the reason why.

[Willmott as above]

1920s

Dr Erik Söderström of the Swedish Evangelical Mission arrived in Sayo early in 1921 when reconnoitring for mission among the Oromo. He worked for a while as physician at the hospital established by the American Presbyterians. He left from there for Nekemte in

February 1922.

[Tafvelin & Lundmark, *Ut i all världen*, 1974 p 129]

1930s In the 1930s it was the administrative centre of Wellega-Sayo (as different from Wellega-Nekemte) and Dembidolo was regarded as the old name, but later (from the 1940s?) it was used as the official name again. Governor of Wellega-Sayo was Dejazmach Mangasha Wubie, of an important Shewa family (in 1929 he was a principal official for suppressing slavery). There was a Greek consular agency in the 1930s, operated by G.A. Zervos. [Zervos 1936]

Taddesse Liben, who in his main working life was in banking but who also wrote interesting short stories, was born in Dembidolo in 1930. His father Liben Taffete had fought on the side of King Mikael and Lij Iyasu, so when Ras Teferi took power, Liben was 'exiled' to Dembidolo. The name of his mother was Jemanesh Welde-Maryam. The family moved to Addis Abeba when Taddesse was only two years old.

[R K Molvaer 1997 p 304]

In the early 1930s it was an important coffee centre where the local people could exchange coffee for salt imported via Gambela. Annually were exported perhaps 500 metric tons of coffee beans and also large quantities of wax and skins to the Sudan.

The foreigners there usually had masonry buildings. Trade had gone down during a dozen of years and the connections with Khartoum were not as lively as before.

Population was estimated by Adrien Zervos to be 8,000-10,000 and mostly Oromo, with 35 foreigners and over 20 foreign firms, mainly Greek or Cypriot. Travel to Gambela was 2 days by caravan and 11 hours by mule. There was also a telephone office.

[Zervos 1936 + *Journal of Eth. Studies* III 1965 no 2 p 73]

Director of customs was Nagadras Berhane Sellassie. There were seven Americans working at their mission. Some distance from town was an Italian Consolata mission.

Main trading companies were:

G.A. Zervos (founded 1911) exporting coffee and wax, importing cotton cloth and salt. Resident director St. Dellaportas.

H. Kyriakou (1924) based in Cyprus, similar products as the previous company and like most of the following.

C. Papaconstante (1913), director of the same name.

G. Helmis (1922) with a soap factory. Directors P. and D. Helmis.

D. Valentis (1923) with a grain mill at Meti.

P. Cramvis (1921) and S. Michailidis (1920) and A. Makridis (1923) and N. Manolis (1921), these four companies registered in Cyprus.

P. Nittis (1913) with a mining concession.

Theo. Davis (1915) with a factory for alcohol.

M. Megaloyennis (1931) and Z. Mikelis (1933) with mainly coffee trade.

Seferian & Co. (1928) with head office in Khartoum and an agency in Dembidolo.

Other foreigners were I. Alexandrou (with a bakery), M. Christodoulou, M. Sasson, S. Carageorgiades, P Scourialis, N. Raptis.

[Zervos 1936 p 400-402]

The blind evangelical priest Gidada Solon came from Dembidolo and became a legendary pioneer. His son Negasso Gidada was president in the 1990s.

1936 The Swedish missionaries who fled from Nekemte and Nejo arrived at Sayo (Dembidolo) after having left Aira on 18 August 1936. The American Presbyterians had by then already left Sayo, except one male lay missionary who had remained at his own risk. The Swedes and Germans stayed at Sayo for a few days. Sunday service was disturbed by much rain, so a Christian service was held on a weekday with Holy Communion for 130 participants. The Europeans continued towards Gambela. The lone American had to flee from Sayo after about a week.

[M Nordfeldt *in Jag minns den gången*, 1957 p 68-69]

1937 Post office of the Italians was opened 2 September 1937. Its cancellations first read SAIO \* GALLA E SIDAMA and in January this was changed to DEMBIDOLLO \* (GALLA E SIDAMA).

- Population about 8000. Italian *Commissariato dell'Ovest*, telephone, clinic, *spacci*, shops, airport. The Commissariato was located 2 km to the north-west at Tabor, Missione della Consolata was about 2 km to the south-west at Humbi. The American mission with hospital and pharmacy is also mentioned by the Italians. [Guida 1938]
- 1940s In June/??/ 1941 remnants of the Italian forces surrendered to a Belgian force from the Sudan. [Greenfield]  
After the liberation the Ethiopian post office was to be opened in 1944.  
The hospital had one doctor and 75 beds in 1949.
- 1950s There was an Ethiopian post office at least by 1954.  
The American Mission had a hospital there (-1955-).  
There was service four times a week by either cargo or passenger airplane (-1955-).  
Seferian & Co., importers of Volkswagen etc. and exporters of coffee etc. had a branch in Dembidolo, and coffee cleaning plants were operated (-1955-) by A. Besse & Co., Vasilo Vlahopoulos, Dimitry Valendis, and Salim Tabit.  
By 1958 one of 27 places in Ethiopia ranked as First Class Township.  
A branch of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia was opened in 1958.  
A new radio station for telephone communication was opened in 1959.  
Sub-province Governor of Kelem awraja in 1959 was Lt.Col. Teshome Ergetou.
- 1960s By 1964 the administrative and the commercial parts of the town tended to start merging because of their growth.  
Grain was sold in the market, but the main coffee trade was at Muger, 40 km to the west.  
In 1965 the American teacher Margaret Franke started her work at the Betel Evangelical Secondary School and stayed for three years. In 1971 she returned for another year.  
In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Dembidolo. At the site where Nils-Olov Hylander as Provincial Medical Officer wanted to place a health station in the late 1960s, it was claimed to be one of eleven parking lots according to the master plan of the town. The health centre was not built for quite some time.  
Population as counted in 1967 was 6,278.  
There was no telephone in 1954 but by 1967 there were 37 numbers of which 29 for personal names: Abainesh Gemeda (Woiz.), Abdulkadir Adem (Hadji), Ahmed Beshir, Ahmed Mohammed, Birknesh Jembere (Woiz.), Derresa Bamo, Gabre Hiwot Debesay, Gemeda Ashudo, Habib Mohammed, John Issaris, Mahatuz Abdurahman, Mohammed Abdulla (two), Mohammed Getta Omer, Nebiyu Arega, Negash Abshiro, Negemdin Awad, Osman Mohammed, Sebhatlab Tesemma, Sedik Abdul Kasim, Tadesse Abera, Teklie Berkesa, Teklie Wakjira, Terefe Lubo, Teresa Betelie, Tesemma Kassa, Tilahun Bedessa, Wondimu Birru. Among these Ethiopian and Arab-type names only one gives the impression of being Greek.  
Atse Seyfe Arad primary school in 1968 had 668 boys and 269 girls, with 16 teachers.  
Berhane Yesus mission school had 123 boys and 24 girls in grades 4-6, with 5 teachers.  
Catholic Mission primary school (in Dembidolo? at least in Kelem awraja) had 278 boys and 23 girls, with 7 teachers of which one foreign.  
Betel private school had 263 boys and 89 girls in grades 1-5, with 5 male teachers and one female.  
Medhane Alem church school had 83 boys and 33 girls in grades 1-3, with three teachers.  
Tabor primary school (6 km outside Dembidolo?) in 1968 had 119 boys and 19 girls in grades 1-4, with one (!) teacher.  
Greek Community school had 8 boys and 6 girls in grades 1-2,4-6 with two male teachers of which one foreign.  
Atse Seyfe Arad secondary school had 286 male and 53 female students in grades 7-12 with 15 teachers of which 12 foreign.  
Atse Zera Yakob Secondary School had 12 students (out of 84) in grade 12

- who sat for school leaving certificate in 1968, but none of them passed.  
 A health centre was built in 1968 by ESIBT ("Building College")  
 with Kahsay Negassi as project leader.  
 According to Urban Survey, Second Round 1969-1970 of the CSO, Dembidolo  
 inhabitants were 19.5% 'Abyssinians', 78.6% indigenous population and 1.9% others.
- 1970s Spelling used by the post office was DEMBIDOLLO (-1971-).  
 In 1974 there were Larry with wife Linda at the US Presbyterian Mission. They had  
 buildings of very high standard, including a girls' hostel. Dr Solomon was headmaster of  
 the school.  
 At the Dutch Catholic Lazarist Mission there was Bishop Herman Traube.  
 There were petrol filling stations of Shell and Total (-1978-).  
 Around 1978 the Western Wellega Bethel Synode had its headquarters at Dembidolo,  
 with about 32,000 members and several schools. The synode was related to the Bethel  
 Church (Presbyterian). Its president in 1982-90- was Kes Ula Fituma. The synode in 1985  
 had 126 congregations, 23 priests and 9 evangelists.  
 [Mission sources]
- 1980s Population about 14,200 in 1984.
- 1990s The last military action of the Oromo Liberation Front before the demise of the Mengistu  
 regime in 1991 occurred at Dembidolo, when some of its units reportedly killed more than  
 700 government soldiers. [Area handbook, USA 1993]  
 Population 25,739 in 1993, a growth of about 10,000 in ten years.
- 1990s "Dembidolo is a beautiful town that sprang up as a commercial centre in the nineteenth  
 century. Since then it has become a sizeable place, with several small local hotels, deep  
 wells, and a goldsmith's shop -- the main road through the town continues west and then  
 bends south and then west again into Gambella." [Camerapix 1995]  
 Around 1997 there were EAL domestic flights to Addis Abeba, Asosa, Begi (Beica),  
 Gambela, Gore, Jimma, Mendi. Unpaved runway, length about 1125 m.  
 In early 1996 the prison in Dembidolo was filled with political prisoners.
- 2000 The American teacher Margaret Franke returned for a third period at about this time (her  
 first started in 1965) at the Bethel Evangelical Secondary School. Glimmer of Hope was  
 then reviving the hospital which the American missionaries had left in 1974 when the  
 Emperor was overthrown. "Franke found Dembi Dollo had changed little in almost 30  
 years. If anything, she said life was just as difficult as last time she was there and the level  
 of health care had declined considerably. -- Franke said she also noticed a lack of hope  
 among her students that had not been there before."  
 [A Glimmer of Hope on Internet in 2001]
- 2000s A commercial town known to tourists for its goldsmiths and its *tej*. The new Berhane  
 Hotel is the best. Hoteela Yaadannoo has a central location. One bus leaves daily for  
 Nekemte, but only trucks run to Gambela.  
 [Lonely planet 2000 p 261]  
 Population estimated at 24,100 in 2001 but not certain that this means a real decrease  
 from the somewhat larger figure published for 1993.  
 In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dembi Dolo constituency had 43 polling  
 stations and 49,030 registered voters of whom 89% cast their votes.  
 Dominating result was obtained by the independent candidate Dr. Negaso Gidada Solan  
 with 29,663 votes. Second was the EPRDF party with 6,541 votes and candidate  
 Ambassador Solomone Tessma. Another independent candidate received 893 votes. The  
 remaining 6,690 votes are not explained.  
 [www.electionsethiopia.org]
- text Pasquali Tiziano, Monografia della Residenza di Dembidollo (Saio), 1938.
- picts L'industria in A.O.I., Roma 1939 p 163 living quarters  
 for Italian mine workers;  
 Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1990 no 1 p 10 irrigation channel  
 built within a Mekane Yesus Church project.

- HER24 Dembie 12°53'/36°59' 1223 m 12/36 [WO Gz]  
HCP03 Dembira, see Dimbira
- Dembiya*, ethnic group numbering 6,636 (in the 1980s?)
- HEJ59 **Dembiya** (Dämbia) 12/37 [x]  
1840s In October 1846 Kasa (the future Tewodros II) entered and ravaged Dembiya. Not recognizing the seriousness of the challenge, *Itege* Menen sent an inadequate force to quell the revolt; her army was twice defeated west of lake Tana, and *Ras* Ali could not send reinforcements because his forces were totally committed in Gojjam. [Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 14 + S Rubenson, King of kings .., 1966 p 37]
- 1850s After the rainy season of 1852, Dejazmach Goshu and Dejazmach Kassa manoeuvred against each other in Dembiya, until at the end of November they finally met in battle on the plains of Gur Amba (see at this name). [Abir 1968 p 138]  
Governor of Dembiya during the first years of the reign of Emperor Tewodros from 1855 was his son Meshesha, born about 1840.
- 1860s A Falasha monk from Dembiya, Abba Mehari, around 1860 preached that salvation had arrived and that the road to Jerusalem was open. Together with six priests he went to various villages and many Falasha gathered to go to Jerusalem. The exodus was not organized and they arrived only as far as Aksum, where most of them died. [J Stanghelle, Drømmen om Sion, Oslo 1988 p 84-85]  
Flad arrived back from Europe with messages for Tewodros and had a first meeting with him in Dembiya on 26 April 1867. Flad's reception was cold but not hostile. Tewodros was told that only the immediate release of all the European prisoners could regain British friendship for him. [Rubenson 1976 p 254-255]
- 1880s In January 1885 Mahdist troops invaded Dembiya and killed its governor. [Zewde G. Selassie 1977]
- 1950s In 1953-54 there was an epidemic during which 5,000 died in Dembiya of malaria and other diseases. Entire settlements were abandoned, and the government gave orders to move two settlements to higher locations, including the market town of Kola Diba. [F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia .., Madison/USA 1960 p 59]  
In 1953 there was an estimated 7,000 deaths out of 45,000 people living on the Dembiya. Within the Malaria Eradication project, supported by USAID, dwellings in Dembiya were sprayed with DDT in 1957 and 1958, with plans to do it also in 1959. [Ethiopia Observer, Feb 1959 vol III no 1 p 18]
- 1960s /this Dembiya?:/  
Stories of a bandit priest Kes Yilma circulated in Dembiya in the late 1960s. [7th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1984 p 273]
- HC... Dembiya (Dämbia) (in Kembata & Hadiya awraja) 07/37? [Ad n]  
The primary school in 1968 had 48 boys and 2 girls in grades 1-2, with one teacher.
- HDT79 Dembiya 10°38'/39°18' 2608 m 10/39 [Gz]  
HEJ59 Dembiya 12°17'/37°27' 1784 m 12/37 [Gz]  
?? **Dembiya sub-district** (-1997-) ../. [n]  
Dembiya was occupied by Abyssinian kings in the 1500s. The Dembiya area has since centuries been inhabited, together with Agew, largely by Christian Oromo. Around 1840 the church was the only national institution which really constituted a bond between the Amhara regions Damot, Begemder, Dembiya and Gondar. [J S Trimmingham, Islam in Ethiopia, 1952]  
In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dembiya 1 constituency had 63 polling stations and 43,541 registered voters of whom 93% cast their votes.  
With corrected figures the very dominating party was EPRDF with 38,199 votes and candidate Weyzero Abeba Tegege Yimer. The CUD party got 1,476 votes and had candidate Ato Selemon Tshay Engidaw. The remaining 962 votes are not explained.  
The Dembiya 2 constituency had 45 polling stations and 46,003 registered voters of

whom 76% cast their votes.

Leading party was EPRDF with 16,573 votes and candidate Ato Tinfu Muche Temesgen. Second was CUD with 15,511 votes and candidate *Shehi Yesuf Mohammed Ali*. The remaining 2,760 votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

text	J.G. Esplen & H.A.L. Ferguson, A geographical survey of the Dembea district of Begemidir Province in north-west Ethiopia, Cambridge 1954.		
HBS93	Dembole 05°23'/37°51' 1560 m, see under Burji	05/37	[WO Gz]
HEC83	Dembuala (with church) see under Yismala Giyorgis	11/36	[It]
HEC94	Dembuela (village)	11/36	[WO]
HEC94	Dembuela Maryam 1996 m	11/36	[+ It]
HDS23	Dembukvay Giyorgis (Dembucvai Gh.) (church)	10/37	[+ WO]
HEC94	Dembweta (Dembueta)	11/37	[+ WO Gu]
??	Deme (visiting postman under Jimma)	../..	[Po]
	demeka: <i>damaka</i> (A) herb of the Verbenaceae family, <i>Lippia abyssinica</i> ; <i>demmeke</i> (dämmäqä) (A) 1. be bright /colour/; 2. be very warm; 3. sing in unison		
HEC24	Demeka (Demeca, Demacam) (village) 1826 m 11°49'/37°14' 1826 m	11/37	[Gz WO It]
HED..	Demela Debay Ber, 10 km from Lera Elementary school buildings were completed in 1966 and 1968 Eth.Cal. (1973-1976 Greg.Cal.), with Swedish assistance through ESBU.	11/37	[n]
	<i>demera</i> (dämära) (A) bonfire at the <i>meskel</i> feast		
HDD15	Demeras 08°09'/37°58' 1831 m	08/37	[WO Gz]
JCU37	Demerei (Demeri, Damerei) (seasonal waterhole) 07°37'/44°56' 833 m Coordinates would give map code JCU46	07/44	[Gz WO n]
KCR13c	Demergog	07/46	[MS]
HC...	Demerso (centre in 1964 of Goro sub-district) <i>demet</i> (T) beauty, magnetism; <i>demmet</i> (T) <i>Sysimbrium irio</i> ; <i>gedel</i> (A) cliff, precipice	06/38?	[Ad]
HED24	Demet Gedel (Demet Ghedel) see under Mota	11/37	[+ WO]
HDH75	Demi 09°46'/36°13' 2097 m with the Bereda falls nearby to the south	09/36	[Gz]
HDH85	Demi 09°49'/36°13' 2134 m	09/36	[Gz]
??	Demi Danissa (valley in Sidamo)	../..	[Mi]
geol	Not among among the richest occurrences "as the gold occurs most in paystreaks which are not continuous". [Mineral 1966]		
HDT28	Demka (Demk'a, Demqa) 10°10'/39°10' 2051 m cf Demeka	11/39	[Gz q]
HDL96	Demmato (area), cf Dammata	09/39	[WO]
JCH51	Demolie, see Gura & Demolie wereda		
JEA14	Demoto, see Dameto, cf Damota <i>damsa</i> (O) order, command, class; <i>demsa</i> , <i>deemsa</i> (O) journey, trip		
HEJ89	Demsa Sege (Demsa Seghe), see under Azezo	12/37	[+ WO]
HEM01	Demta (Demt'a) 11°48'/39°30' 2536 m	11/39	[Gz]
JDK20	Demuga 09°20'/42°34' 1517 m	09/42	[Gz]
H CJ04	Demza 06°26'/37°03' 1254 m	06/37	[Gz]

*den* (Som) kinds of tree, *Dodonaea angustifolia*, *D. viscosa*;



*dheen* (Som) kind of large tree with edible fruit;  
*denn* (dänn) (A) copse, forest, woods, jungle;  
*den chaka* (dänn ch'aka) (A) forest  
*Den*, name of a clan of Gafat who fled into Gojjam at the  
beginning of the 17th century

HDS11	Den 10°06'/37°41' 2135 m, cf Din	10/37	[Gz]
HEJ59	Den, cf Din	12/37	[Gu]
??	Den Abbo (monastery)	../..	[n]

Weyzero Bafena, the first wife of Emperor Menilek II, was patron of Den Abbo monastery. She appointed the illiterate Welde-Sillasé to be administrator of this monastery. He got a son Gebre-Meskel (1879-1938) who studied in a church school, but he did not there learn to write, that is to make calligraphy. Using soot for ink the boy practiced all by himself to copy manuscripts. Later in life he became an important man, known by the name Blattengeta Hiruy. He was minister of foreign affairs and also wrote many books in Amharic.

[R K Molvaer 1997 p 2-3]

??	Den Sug Welebo (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
HEC86	Dena Mariam (village with church)	11/37	[It]

HEU41	<b>Denamora</b> 13°01'/39°26' 2449 m (Jan Amora, south of Adi Korkora)	13/39	[Gu Gz x]
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The Portuguese journey described by Alvares passed this area in August 1520.

"The duty of conquering the Moors of Doba belongs to a great Captain named Xuum Janomora, that is Captain of the country. The Captaincy is named Janamora which is a large district -- and all of it mountainous."

"In the lands and mountains where they dwell, the Moors come to burn the houses and churches, and carry off the cows from the enclosures. In this country I saw a priest with poisoned arrows; and I criticized it as being ill done, as he was a priest. He answered me: 'Look that way, and you will see the church burnt by the Moors, and close to it they carried off from me fifty cows, and also they burnt my beehives, which were my livelihood; for that reason I carry thi poison --'."

-- thunder began a long way off, and we said that these are /dry/ thunderstorms such as there are sometimes in India. -- The halt having ended, one of our Portuguese -- went sauntering along the river up stream -- and immediately came back running, and calling out with loud shouts -- We all looked in the direction from which he came shouting, and we saw water coming, of the height of a lance (without any doubt), and quite straight and square: and we could not take care sufficiently to prevent its carrying away part of our goods."

"It pleased God that I had got the silver chalice put in the skin of a kid and hung up at the height of a man on the trunk of a -- tree; and a man of the country ran to it, and saved the chalice, for he climbed up the tree with it, and stayed there until the water went down. -- as this water came suddenly, so also it passed away in a short space of time, for even this day we crossed over it -- We went to sleep at some poor houses, or near them, where they received us throwing stones at us, and we slept without supper, and under heavy rains which fell in the night --"

[Beckingham & Huntingford, The Prester John .., vol.I, Cambridge 1961 p 194-196]

denan: *denana* (A) slanting

JCL11	<b>Denan</b> (Danan, Badu Danan, Danane) (with waterhole) 06°31'/43°30' 405 m	06/43	[Gz WO x]
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1970s In early March 1978 the Somali forces were driven back from Denan.

2000s A photographer took pictures at Denan for Newsweek in early 2000. Touring the drought zone he found that "all-out famine has not yet hit the parched southeast town of Denan."  
[Newsweek 2000 May 1 p 21]

A volunteer from Sweden working for *Médecins sans frontières* at Denan

	in 2001 was nurse Jenny Andersson.		
JCD53	Denan Dere, see Danane Dere		
JCL11	Denan sub-district? (-1997-)	06/43	[n]
JCL11	Denan wereda (centre in 1964 = Denan)	06/43	[Ad]
HE...	Denar Ambassa	11/37	[x]
	Near the south-east shore of lake Tana. "/One/ of those rough masses of rock which look as though they had been dropped accidentally when the mountains -- were raised." Denar Ambassa was one of the largest of these rock masses, with a little village Assenara at its front. [Powell-Cotton 1902 p 273]		
HDL89	Denba, see Deneba		
	denbara ..: <i>denber</i> (dinbär) (A) border, frontier; <i>kella</i> (O) check-point denbara kela, border customs post		
HCK59	Denbara Kela (D. Kella, Dembera Kiela, Dembara) (Denbera Kela, Dambara Kela) 06°57'/38°23' (sub-district & its centre in 1964), cf Dembara The primary school (in Sidama awraja) in 1968 had 23 boys and 2 girls in grades 1-2, with one teacher.	06/38	[MS Ad Gz]
HDM74c	Denbaro Maryam (church of Menilek II) denbecha: <i>dimbicho</i> (Sidamo O) large tree, <i>Ficus</i> spp., <i>Ficus thonningii</i>	09/39	[20]
HDS60	Denbecha, see Dembecha <i>Denbel</i> , an Oromo name for lake Ziway		
JDS00c	Denbel wereda (centre in 1964 = Arabi)	10/42	[Ad]
HFE26	Denbela, see Dembela		
??	Denbela (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
	<i>denbi</i> (dänbi) (A) one who legislates; <i>denb</i> (dänb) (A) rule, statute, regulation		
H...	Denbi sub-district (centre in 1964 = Geridobo) St. George School (in Buno Bedele awraja) in 1968 had 17 boys and 8 girls in grade 1-2, with one teacher.	08/36?	[Ad]
HDT51	Denbi Mekane Selam, see Mekane Selam		
HCP03	Denbira, see Dimbira		
H...	Denboza Giyorgis (centre in 1964 of Sar Midir sub-district)	10/38	[+ Ad]
HEK81	Denches, see Denkez		
HDM65	Denchi (area)	09/39	[WO]
HEC86	Denchu (Dench'u) 11°39'/37°12' 1886 m	11/37	[Gz]
HDU41	Denchute Yohanis (Dench'ute Y.) (church) 10°23'/39°27'	10/39	[Gz]
GDM35	Dendea (Dende'a) 09°23'/34°47' 1551 m	09/34	[Gz]
JDJ52	Dendega (wide area)	09/41	[Gu]
HDL91	Dendego, see Dengego		
HER66	Dendelkaw (Amba Dendelcau) (mountain) 987 m 13°17'/37°13' 987 m	13/37	[+ WO Gz]
JDC88	Dendema (Scek Calif) 08°55'/42°24' 1425 m	08/42	[Gz WO]
JDJ44	Dendema 09°27'/42°02' 2078 m	09/42	[Gz]
JDJ45	Dendema 09°28'/42°04' 2343 m <i>dender</i> (dändär) (A) a thorny bush of highlands, <i>Acanthus polystachius</i> ; <i>dendur</i> (A) large thistle, <i>Echinops gigantea</i>	09/42	[Gz]
HEE43	Dender 11°17'/38°46' 2598 m	11/38	[Gz]
HEU11c	Dender	12/39	[It]

HF...	Dendera (historical? area SW of Adigrat)	14/39	[x]
HFF70	Dendera Mikael (church) 14°14'/39°26'	14/39	[Gz]
HDS66	Dendewaj 10°31'/38°05' 2546 m	10/38	[Gz]
HDD73	Dendi, Gebel (Ker), cf Dandi 08°49'/37°51' 3167/3298 m An extinct volcano south-west of Addis Alem.	08/37	[WO Gz]
HDD75	<b>Dendi</b> (Ch'er) 08°51'/38°01' 3037 m mountain (Gebel Dendi) at 08°49'/38°02' in Chebo district, with Gurage population; also <i>ketema</i> near Awash, MS: 08°50'/38°01' (inhabited by the Chabo of the Mecha Oromo)	08/38	[n Gz]
early	The Frenchman Alphonse Aubry in 1887 described the <i>ketema</i> of Dendi: "It is built upon a hill and surrounded by a tall hedge and by a ditch; entrance is controlled by two gates above which is found a little square house in the form of a pigeon house with an opening on each side; it is there that stands the night-watchman. These Amhara towns are often ... the subject of attacks on the part of the Galla." [3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1969 p 277] There is also a lake at 08°50'/38°01'. Negus Mikael was imprisoned on an island in lake Dendi after he had been defeated at the battle of Segele in October 1916. He was kept at Dendi for 2½ years and then was moved to Genet west of Addis Abeba.		
HDL62	Dendi sub-district? (-1997-)	09/38	[n]
HDL62	<b>Dendi wereda</b> (centre in 1964 = Nono) In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dendi 1 constituency had 57 polling stations and 44,738 registered voters of whom 88% cast their votes. Leading party was UEDF with 16,838 votes and candidate Ato Gutu Mulisa Degefa. Second was EPRDF with 14,270 votes and candidate Ato Abebe Kebede Gonfa. OFDM got 1,668 and GSAP 1,582 votes. The remaining 5,163 votes are not explained. The Dendi 2 constituency had 59 polling stations and 39,663 registered voters of whom 85% cast their votes. Leading party was UEDF with 19,719 votes and candidate Ato Gebiru G/Mariam Utura. Second was EPRDF with 7,563 votes and candidate Ato Dengiya Eitea Rakisa. OFDM got 1,990 and GSAP 1,468 votes. The remaining 3,093 votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]	09/38	[Ad]
??	Deneb Sulfur is known to occur at 14°17'N at a place south-east of Zariga village. [Mineral 1966]  deneba: <i>denebba</i> (dänäbba) (A) divide parts of a work among participants; <i>dennebe</i> (dännäbä) (A) refuse to go, or to speak before a judge; <i>denebe</i> (T) fine	14/..	[Mi]
HCR37	Deneba, 07°35'/37°15' (sub-district & its centre in 1964) The primary school (in Chilalo awraja) in 1968 had 116 boys and 31 girls in grades 1-4, with four teachers.	07/37	[MS Ad]
HCR68	Deneba (Uncuri, Ancurri) (village, stream) 07°50'/37°22' 1800 m Village at a stream of the same name Uncuri, in an area with sparse population. [Guida 1938] /this Deneba?/: An elementary school building was constructed in 1962 Eth.Cal. (1969-70 Greg.Cal.), with Swedsih assistance through ESBU.	07/37	[Gz WO Gu]
HDL78	Deneba 09°46'/39°10' 2610 m	09/39	[Gz]
HDL78	Deneba 09°46'/39°12' 2690 m	09/39	[Gz]

- HDL89 **Deneba** (Denneba, Danaba, Dar Nebba, Denba) 09/39 [Ad WO Gz 20]  
 09°46'/39°10' or 12'=HDL78; 2610, 2690 m  
 Centre in 1964 of Moret wereda.  
 Within a radius of 10 km there are at km  
 5E Sakalla (Sacalla) (village)  
 2S Deneba (area)  
 5S Maligui (village)  
 7SW Selala (Sellala) (village)  
 10SW Daletti (village)  
 5W Rikecha (Richeccia) (village)  
 6W Gellida (Jellida?) (village) 2610 m  
 2N Osambio (village)  
 3N Beyo (Beio) (village)  
 8N Abbo (church)
- 1930s /this Deneba?/: The Danish reporter Sven Tillge-Rasmussen travelled from Addis Abeba to Dessie by truck, but a caravan with supplies was sent ahead and its leader (educated by missionaries) had been asked to keep a diary. The soldiers of the armed caravan intended to rob hay etc. from the farmers as they were used to do when moving in the countryside. On 13 Nov. 1935 there was some fighting for such reason in a village Mute Gallan. The following day the caravan camped at the village of Deneba (Danaba) and it is mentioned that several farmers were badly wounded in new fights. Some farmers showed the caravan leader that they had wounds in front and in the back and said they had been shot through their body, but these wounds they had made themselves with knives, so it was a fake. On 17 November ten soldiers were wounded and one killed. The caravan leader counted twenty shots but knew that most of the fighting was with knives and stones.  
 [S Tillge-Rasmussen, Copenhagen 1936 p 138-139]  
 /this Deneba?/: General Tracchia occupied the locality, which was not guarded, on 16 December 1936.
- 1960s In 1954 there was no telephone but by 1967 there were four numbers for Abebe Mammo, Ajbe Berbre, Aseffa Bedanie, Kenyazmach Redie Wondimagegnehu. The primary school (in Tegulet & Bulga awraja) in 1968 had 240 boys and 109 girls, with 6 teachers.
- 2000s /this Deneba?/:  
 In the national elections of 15 May 2005 what was published as Denba constituency, in the North Shewa zone, had 76 polling stations and 53,560 registered voters of whom 81% cast their votes.  
 Leading party was CUD with 24,362 votes and candidate Ato Alemayehu Dems Meshesha. Second was EPRDF with 10,331 votes and candidate Ato Awoke Tsegaye Woldemaryam. The remaining 8,952 votes are not explained.  
 [www.electionsethiopia.org]
- JDB89 Deneba (Danaba) 08°55'/41°40' 1506 m 08/41 [Gz LM WO]  
 JDC90 Deneba 09°02'/41°40' 1688 m 09/41 [Gz]
- denen dora: *danan dora* (Afar) wild ass stream
- ?? Denen Dora ../. [n]  
 Archaeological site in the Afar depression. Corvinus found Acheulan handaxes there. It is a small wadi on the north bank of the Awash.  
 [J Kalb, Adventures in the bone trade, Copernicus Books, p 160]
- JDJ43 Denengo, see Dengego
- HEE81 Denfel 11°38'/38°35' 2156 m 11/38 [Gz]  
 HCM80 Denfo 07°05'/39°21' 2264 m 07/39 [Gz]  
 HDH18 Dengale Gonke 09°12'/36°26' 1671 m 09/36 [Gz]  
 HDR97 Dengara Mariam, see Dingra Maryam  
 dengego: *dangego* (central O), *dangago* (western O) kind of

	much-branched shrub with winged red fruits, <i>Rumex abyssinicus</i> , <i>Rumex nervosus</i> ; <i>dengege</i> (T) decree, codify		
JDJ43	Dengega, see Dengego		
HDE63	Dengego (village)	08/38	[x]
HDL30	Dengego 09°21'/38°27' 2635 m (with church Gebriel) (Dingago Mariam HDL62?)	09/38	[AA Gz WO]
HDL91	Dengego 09°54'/38°35' 2245 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL91	Dengego (Dendego) 09°57'/38°31' 2240 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDJ43	Dengego (Dangago, Dengega) 09°28'/41°55' 1981 m (Denengo) (with mosque), see under Kersa	09/41	[Te Gz WO]
JDK40	Dengego 09°25'/42°34' 1581 m	09/42	[Gz]
	<i>dengel</i> (A) 1. papyrus reed, <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> ; 2. hub of a wheel; <i>dingil</i> (A,T) virgin /of any sex/		
HEC66	Dengel (Denghel) (village) 11°10'/37°39' 2178 m	11/37	[Gz It]
	<i>dengel ber</i> (A) papyrus pass/gate? gate of the Virgin? papyrus grows abundantly along the lakeshore there		
HEJ24	<b>Dengel Ber</b> (Denghelber, Denghelbar)	11/37	[Gz Br Gu WO]
	(Dengle Ber, Dinglebar, Dingleber, Dungulbar)	11/37	[Po 18 x]
	(with sub post office) 11°57'/37°00' 1828/1882 m (12°01'/36°57' 1790 m) (centre in 1964 of Alefa wereda)		
1770s	James Bruce on one occasion passed a large group of Agäws near "Dinglebar", west of the lake, who were laden with honey, butter and untanned hides, and taking with them 800 head of cattle, all bound for the Gondar market. [Pankhurst (1990)1992 p 77]		
1800s	A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records Dingleber as a place with a church near the west shore of lake Tana.		
1850s	At the beginning of 1852 Dejazmach Kasa (the future Emperor Tewodros) refused to appear when Ras Ali called him. Ali dispatched a large army to Agew Midir to catch his vassal. Kasa moved quickly northwards to a strong fortified position in the neighbourhood of Dengel Ber. Ali's officers found the position too strong to attack, bypassed it and entered Dembiya. [S Rubenson, King of kings ..., 1966 p 41]		
1900	The hunter Powell-Cotton was there in May 1900: "On the rocky ridge -- we passed the ruined stone houses of Dungulbar, once a flourishing place and still the boundary between Gojam and Gondar territory. In the bay just beyond were some fine trees, among which I saw some reedbuck." [Powell-Cotton 1902 p 282]		
HEJ24	<b>Dengel Ber</b> 12°01'/36°57' 1790 m	12/36	[Ad Gz]
	(centre at least 1954-1964 of Alefa wereda)		
1960s	The primary school (in Chilga awraja) in 1968 had 67 boys and 44 girls in grades 1-3, with two teachers.		
	<i>dengel</i> (dingil) Maryam, Virgin Mary		
HE...	Dengel Maryam (centre in 1964 of Jabi sub-district)	11/37	[Ad]
HE...	Dengel sub-district	11/37	[Ad]
	(centre in 1964 = Mender Kidus Mikael)		
HFF61	Dengelat (with collapsed rock church)	14/39	[x]
HEM31	Dengelsa (recorded in 1868)	12/39	[18]
??	Dengelt (Denghelt)	../..	[x]
	On 19 March 1890 Menilek signed with the Italians the Convention of Dengelt. The emperor was pledged to name a Shewan as governor of Tigray and to exile those politicians who were responsible for past unfriendliness towards Italy. Direct Italian assistance was provided to the new governors for suppressing revolts and disarming the Tigreans.		

	[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 120-121]		
GDF81	Dengero (Denghero) denget: <i>dinget</i> (dingät) (A) accident, chance event, surprise	08/34	[+ WO]
HEC67	Denget (Denghet), see Gentyena		
HES13	Dengez Maryam (church) 12°46'/37°48' dengeze: <i>dengetse</i> (T) to pity, sympathize, be afraid; <i>dengatsi</i> (T) merciful	12/37	[Gz]
HDU12	Dengeze (Denghezie) 10°01'/39°28' 2239 m	10/39	[Gz WO]
HDU12	Dengeze sub-district (centre in 1964 = Iriet) within Mama Midir wereda	10/39	[Ad]
H...	Dengi (Denggi), cf Dangi, Dingi (centre in 1964 of Dalocha sub-district)	08/38?	[+ Ad]
HDG86	Dengi (Tulu Dangi, T. Denghi) (hill) 09°52'/35°20' 1559 m	09/35	[Gz WO x]
HDM65	Dengi (Denghi) (area) see under Chano	09/39	[+ WO]
HEJ58	Dengi (Dengie), see Dinge		
HER..	Dengi (village/s/), see under Gorgora	12/37	[Ch]
HE...	<b>Dengiya</b> (Dangia, Dangya, Denguia) (sub-district) To the south is the horseshoe-shaped ragged crater of mount Kurub, with various springs on the inside and at the flank the church of Bahal Sghier. [Guida 1938]	11/36?	[+ Ad Gu]
1960s	The primary school (in Agawmidir awraja) in 1968 had 289 boys and 31 girls in grades 1-4, with three teachers. <i>dengiya bet</i> (A) stone house		
HEC49	Dengiya Bet (Denghiabiet /Abbo/) (area) <i>dengiya bota</i> (A) stony place, rocky locality	11/37	[+ WO]
HEC99	Dengiya Bota (Dengia Bota), cf Dingay ..	11/37	[+ Ch]
HED60	Dengiya Debal (Denghiadeval) (mountain area)	11/37	[+ It]
??	Dengiya Kidane Mihret (centre in 1964 of Dengiya sub-district)	11/36?	[+ Ad]
HEC87	Dengiya Nech (Dengianec) (hill)	11/37	[+ It]
HFF61c	Dengiyat (Dengheiat)	14/39	[+ x]
HEL..	Dengobat sub-district (centre in 1964 = Sorba)	12/38	[Ad]
HEF91	Dengola 11°41'/39°30' 2433 m	11/39	[Gz]
HEM21	Dengolsa 12°02'/39°29' 2130 m, see under Muja	12/39	[Gu Gz]
HES33	Dengor Diba Giyorgis (church) 12°58'/37°49' east of Dabat <i>dengora</i> (Gurage?) spade stick for breaking up ground	12/37	[Gz]
HDS25	Dengora 10°13'/37°57' 2244 m	10/37	[Gz]
HDJ63	Dengoro 09°36'/36°55' (with church Abo, sub P.O. under Gimbi) Spelling used by the post has been DENGORO.	09/39	[Gz Po]
HD...	Dengoro sub-district (centre in 1964 = Tulu Wayu)	09/37	[Ad]
HEA37	Denguei, see Tangui		
HEC67	Denguel, see Gentyena denguge lafto: <i>lafto</i> (O) acacia		
??	Denguge Lafto (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
HDR94c	Denguiya (Denguia) 2745 m	10/36	[Gu]
HEC06	Denguiya, see Satima dengwa: <i>dingwaye</i> (T) delay, tardiness		
HEC67c	Dengwa (Dengua, Denguel)	11/37	[+ Gu]
HDF56	Denhu, see Dino		
HDT48	Denij 10°20'/39°10' 1820 m	10/39	[Gz]

HDR75	Denjin 10°38'/37°05' 1897 m	10/37	[Gz]
HDL51	Denjo 09°36'/38°34' 2471 m	09/38	[Gz]
HDL52	Denjo 09°35'/38°36' 2525 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL61	Denjo	09/38	[AA]
HE...	Denka (centre in 1964 of Ambasel wereda)	11/39	[Ad]
HDE56	Denkaka (Dancace) 08°41'/39°03' 1926 m	08/39	[Gz]
HD...	Denkaka (visiting postman under A.Abeba) (centre in 1964 of Gerbicha sub-district)	09/38?	[Ad Po]
HEF94	Denkaka 11°43'/39°47' 1862 m	11/39	[Gz]
JD...	Denkaka (Dankaka)	09/40	[+ Ad]
JDA26	Denkaka 08°19'/40°23' 1522 m	08/40	[Gz]
JDC95	Denkaka 09°01'/42°09' 1675 m	09/42	[Gz]
JDG59c	<b>Denkaka</b> (Dankaka, Dancaga) circa 09°30'/40°35' As shown on a map of 1901 this locality was on an old caravan route from Djibouti to Addis Abeba, at the crossing of a stream with the same name. It was described by Cecchi as a caravan stop at a small right-hand tributary of the Awash river. A small group of trees indicated the camping site. The locality was of secondary importance as a stop, because there was potable water only in the rainy season. The caravan of Cecchi and others stayed there on 4-7 September 1877 while they sorted out some trouble with the camel men. Chiarini when travelling from the coast in the 1870s found the first baobab tree ( <i>Adansonia digitata</i> ) at Denkaka. He also found zebras there and was told that there were ostriches. [A Cecchi, vol I, 1886 p 125, 147]	09/40	[+ x WO]
HEE78	Denkela Dima Mikael (Denk'ela ..) (church) 11°32'/39°12'	11/39	[Gz]
HEL18	Denkena Yohanis (church) 11°51'/39°13' denkera: <i>denkara</i> (dänqara) 1. obstacle; 2. to transfer illness to someone else by magic; <i>denkoro</i> (dänqoro) (A) deaf	11/39	[Gz]
HDK19	Denkera (Denk'era, Denqera) 09°08'/38°21' 2616 m, cf Dankara	09/38	[AA Gz q]
HE...	<i>denkez</i> (dänqäz) (A) round, backless stool <b>Denkez</b> (Danqaz, Dancaz, Gomnagé, Gomenghe) former capital some 32 km south-east of Gondar	12/37	[Pa 20]
1600s	In year 1604 Pero Paez, attended by only two of his young disciples, presented himself at court, which was then held at Denkez. He was received by His Majesty with great honours. Paez thought it enough to produce the two boys as his only advocates for the Catholic faith, and as fully qualified to silence all the theologians in Abyssinia. The result corresponded to his expectation, and did not fail to establish his influence to a greater extent than ever in the eyes of the royal family. [M Russell, Nubia and Abyssinia, Edinburgh 1833 p 273] After having taken part in the inauguration of a new church at Gorgora, Emperor Susneyos spent the rainy season at Denkez. "The King of Kings started out from Danqaz -- He left Abetohun Fasiladas /his son the future emperor/ to guard his town of Danqaz. -- He also left behind Gabre Krestos and ordered him to build a house with lime, with many skilled men of Egypt -- The chief mason and maker of lime was a Banyan /Indian/ called Abdul Kerim. The chief carpenter was a person called Sadaqa from Egypt and there were also many other Egyptians." [Pankhurst, .. Chronicles, 1967 p 96-97] Danqaz north-east of Lake Tana became the capital of Emperor Susneyos (who reigned 1606-1632) around 1618. The settlement was situated on a hill. The Jesuit Manoel de Almeida who arrived in 1622 suggested that its population probably exceeded 50,000. He		

wrote about the emperor's camp: "The Emperor now retires to one called Dancâz and it is nearly ten years since he chose it. Yet before, the same Emperor in thirteen or fourteen years had five or six other places -- When the Emperor changes these places you will usually see nothing in those he has left but meadows."

The Emperor's palace was a fine stone structure erected with mortar. Susneyos's chronicle says that it was designed by an Indian Abdal Kerim, and that there was an Egyptian head-workman Sädäqä Nesrani, who was assisted by artisans who may have been from Egypt and Constantinople.

[Pankhurst, *Travellers in Ethiopia*, 1965 p 43 *and* *Social history ...*,(1990)1992 p 105 *and* *The Ethiopians*, 1998 p 104]

"The sites chosen were always selected for their abundance of wood, but as a result of the absence of any scientific method in cutting down the forests they were usually denuded within a few years, the camp being then obliged to move --"

[Pankhurst 1961 p 138-139]

Almeida says that he saw ensete and coffee plants at Azazo in Dancaz. "Foreigners of /nationalities other than Portuguese were also active in the reign of Emperor Susneyos (1607-1632)/ and may indeed have been no less important -- According to the Emperor's chronicle an Indian 'Banian' called Abd el Kerim received orders from the Empress to build a palace -- The Banians, it may be added, were Hindu merchants mainly centred on Gujarat, Diu, Cambay and Surat, who traded widely in the Red Sea area."

[Pankhurst 1961 p 298]

Manoel de Almeida mentions that Emperor Susneyos had selected Danqz as his camping place for ten consecutive years. He fixed his residence there in 1619. De Almeida saw the Danqaz camp in 1624. It was situated on a hill, and consisted of 'as many as eight or nine thousand hearths, but as the houses are all of wood, or stone and mud, and thatched, and as they are nearly all round, it seemed more like a mountain of ricks than a city".

The Danqaz palace must have been built a little later than the Gorgora palace; the chronicle of Susneyos does indeed confirm that 'the Franks built two palaces for him'. The confusion between Indians and Franks might derive from the fact that Indians from Portuguese India, Goa, were employed as masons, or even, perhaps, Portuguese from India.

Combes and Tamisier visited Danqaz in the 1830s, describing an edifice preceded by an immense court, formerly surrounded by a wall with a gate, then ruined. In the palace building itself they saw, at the height of a man, large cut stones where, in a rather rough way, elephants and horses with horsemen armed with a lance at the end of which floated a standard had been represented. Below the ground floor, an immense cistern had been dug, supported by twelve arches. Near the door was a very large trough, supposedly for watering the royal horses. There was a first floor dominated by a terrace; the four angles were surmounted by conical turrets.

Danqaz is today very difficult of access. The palace survives in ruins, still impressive but without the corner turrets and carved elephants. The undergrowth, or rather overgrowth, has begun to invade the masonry itself. A plan illustrated by Francis Anfray (1988, p 34-35) shows an oblong nine-roomed structure; there were arched windows, and one room contains a chimney. The large cistern is still in almost perfect condition, accessible by an internal staircase.

The cruciform church at Danqaz survives, too, in a ruined, or rather unfinished and then ruined, state, its arches still intact at the crossing. It is an alien structure, a memory of Portugal planted in a distant land.

[S Munro-Hay 2002 p 173-175]

Susenyos, seriously ill and depressed, returned to Dankaz and issued a proclamation, over Mendes's objections, which ended Jesuit ambitions in Ethiopia.

Susenyos died on 7 September 1632, having abdicated in favour of his son Fasilidas, who refused to allow the Jesuits to remain at Dankaz.

[P B Henze, *Layers of time*, London 2000 p 99]

1800s A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records this place, with the spelling Dancaz.



- text R.K.P. Pankhurst, *Danqaz: an early seventeenth century Ethiopian capital ...*, in 5th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Art, Lisbon 28-31 October 1999.
- HEK71 Denkez (Dunkaz) 12°28'/37°37' or 38' 2569+2820 m 12/37 [Ad Gz Ch]  
(sub-district, centre in 1964 = Denkez Iyesus)  
Place of origin for red rock quarried for important buildings in the Gondar and Lake Tana area in the 1600s. Yakob Malak Sagad II (1597-1603) had his capital at Dunkaz.  
[Cheesman 1936, citing E. Wallis Budge]
- HEK81 Denkez (Dankaz, Dancaz, Dangaz, Denches) 12/37 [Gz Wa x Gu]  
Denkez 12°30' or 34'/37°37' 2427+2808 m  
Doctor Harald Nyström was taken from Debre Tabor to Gondar by the Italians. When they walked into the old decrepit town of Denkez on 31 March 1936 Nyström was surprised to hear that the Italian occupants had entered Gondar on the day before.  
[Nyström 1937 p 157]  
The primary school in 1968 had 29 boys and 5 girls in grades 1-4, with one teacher.
- HEK81 Denkez Iyesus (Dancaz, Danqaz), see under Deguma 12/37 [Ad]
- HED54c Denkwar Iyesus (Denquar Iesus) (church) 11/37 [+ Gu]  
?? Dennab (district in Merhabete) ../.. [n]
- HDL79 Denneba, see under HDL89 Deneba
- HDM64 Dens (area), see under Ankober 09/39 [WO]
- HEE49 Dens 11°13'/39°18' 2334 m 11/39 [Gz]
- HEC36 Densa (area) 11°16'/37°37' or 11°16'/37°22', 2141 m 11/37 [WO Gz]  
cf Danse, Diensa  
Lime has been produced there. [Cheesman 1936]
- HED32 Densa, see Kolela
- HEE02 Densa, see Sayint
- ?? Densao ../.. [20]  
In the Hosaina region, with Evangelical Christians.
- HDU23 Deos (De'os) 10°11'/39°36' 2925 m 10/39 [Gz]
- der* (Arabic,A) monastery
- JDE15 Der (area) 08/43 [WO]
- JDL11 Der (area) 09/43 [WO]
- dera* (dära) (A) grass used for thatching roofs;  
*dera*, *deeraa* (O) long, tall, elevated, slow; cf *derra* (A)
- HCC99 Dera 06°16'/37°25' 2471 m 06/37 [Gz]
- HDC73 Dera (Gara Dera) (mountain), cf Dara 08/36 [WO]
- HDE19 Dera (Daia) 08°20'/39°19' 1586 m 08/39 [Gz Gu]
- HDE24 Dera (Era) 08°24'/38°51' 1681 m 08/38 [Gz WO]
- HDE63 Dera (village near radio station) 08°24'/38°51' 1681 m 08/38 [x Gz]
- HDF00 **Dera** (Dhera, Derra) 08°10'/39°20' (with sub P.O.) 08/39 [Gz Po x]  
(centre in the 1960s of Dodota wereda) about 50 km north of Asela
- 1960s In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Dera.  
Population as counted in 1965 was 1,848.  
Dera had electricity from a small hydroelectric plant at the Awash river.  
The Emperor visited the school on 17 June 1968.  
In October 1969 the Emperor inaugurated a water supply system for Dera built at a cost of Eth\$ 170,000. It pumped water from the Awash II dam over a distance of 10 km, and Dera was the first of 28 towns in Ethiopia with serious water shortage which received such a supply. The project was built with a long-term loan from the Ministry of Interior and some contribution from the local people.  
[Addis Reporter, Oct.31, 1969]

- 1970s On 17 May 1974 an official at the municipality had a dispute with local farmers regarding land 7 km from Dhera. He fetched some city men and two police. There was a fight in which two of the farmers and one of the police were killed. Henock Kifle, director of CADU /see Asela/, wrote to the Prime Minister on 22 May and asked for corrective action from the Government.  
The local police at Asela wanted to occupy the site of the fight and place the inhabitants under military rule. The Governor General refused to sanction this but was himself soon arrested and removed.  
The mayor of Dhera at this time is said to have owned 3,000 hectares of land.  
[Bondestam 1975 p 137-139, 154]
- 1980s A six inch plastic water pipe line from Huruta, length 21 km, was inaugurated in May 1984. See Dodota wereda about the project as a whole.
- 2000s /this Dera?:/  
In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dera constituency, in the Arsi zone, had 112 (!) polling stations and 74,746 registered voters of whom 89% cast their votes.  
Leading party was CUD with 19,823 votes and candidate Ato Beredad Zewdineh Tilahun. Close behind was EPRDF with 19,256 votes and candidate Ato Ali Abido Sule Ymen. Third was UEDF with 15,137 votes and Ato Alemu Maru Lidetu. OLNP got 658 and OFDM 324 votes. The remaining 11,065 (!) votes are not explained.  
[www.electionsethiopia.org]
- HDF52 Dera 08°38'/39°33' 1470 m 08/39 [Gz]  
HDK39 Dera 09°22'/38°24' 2672 m 09/38 [AA Gz]  
HDL58 Dera 09°31'/39°12' 2675 m 09/39 [Gz]  
HDT23 Dera 10°10'/38°44', cf Addis Derra 10/38 [Gz Ad WO]  
The primary school (in Merhabete awraja) in 1968 had 260 boys and 92 girls in grades 1-4, with three teachers.
- HDT33 **Dera** (Derra, Deraa) (area) 10/38 [Ha WO n]  
Colonel Maraventano, when retreating across there at the end of April 1941 described Dera as a vast plateau with steep sides, 300 to 400 metres high, dominating the surrounding region. The plateau, lightly undulating, was well watered and dotted with small acacia woods.  
Maraventano stayed at Dera for two weeks, Major Donald Nott with his small force containing and harassing him.  
[Shirreff 1995 p 173-174]  
"On the evening of 14 May Maraventano confirmed his orders for the /Italian/ column to move on the night of 15/16 May. He had received intelligence that 'an English colonel and armed irregulars commanded by Ras Kassa' were now on Deraa. His intention was to march to Debra Sina /=Ajibar/ -- and go on to relieve Tanta. In the event Tanta surrendered on 19 May, as did Amba Alagi, so his objective was limited to reaching Debra Sina."  
"Wingate's intention was to enforce the surrender of the column, an intention Cunningham's HQ did its best to frustrate by an extraordinary signal, which Wingate received on 15 May. By this Wingate was ordered to proceed to Debra Tabor -- Nott to report to Addis Ababa -- and Johnson to break off the engagement and proceed to Dessie - -"  
"All one can say about this episode is that it shows Cunningham's HQ to have been totally out of touch, and Wingate's response /that he could put Maraventano out of action within ten days/ justified by events. He was never in fact taken to task for his insubordination."  
"Maraventano's column left the plateau as ordered, the advance party leaving at 11.30 p.m. on 15 May and the rearguard leaving Deraa Fort at 11.30 a.m. on 16 May."  
[Shirreff 1995 p 198]
- HEK01 Dera (area) 11/37 [Gu]  
/which Dera?, in the South Gonder zone:/  
In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the **Dera 1** constituency had 54 polling stations and 60,435 registered voters of whom 70% cast their votes.

Leading party was EPRDF with 22,107 votes and candidate Weyzero Etihun Siferaw Mekonne. Second was CUD with 20,452 votes and candidate Ato Tadesse Gizatu Workineh. The sum of these figures fits exactly with the reported total of all votes. The **Dera 2** constituency had 43 polling stations and 53,712 registered voters of whom 67% cast their votes.

Leading party was CUD with 16,903 votes and candidate *Aleka* H/Eyesus Ejigu Ayalew (unusual to see the title of a priest in this context). Very closely following was EPRDF with 16,058 votes and candidate Ato Alemante Esikeziyaw Adimasu. The UEDF party received 121 votes. The remaining 3,110 votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

HEL79	Dera 12°28'/39°16' 2291 m	12/39	[Gz]
HFF44	Dera (Dara) (two rock-hewn churches), see under Atsbi	13/39	[x]
HFF45	Dera (Derra) 13°58'/39°47' 1980 m	13/39	[WO Wa Gz]
JDJ47	Dera (Sarerta, Sererta, Gara Serirta) (mountain) 09°36'/42°12' 1930/2850 m	09/42	[Gz WO Gu]
JDJ53	Dera (mountain) 09°34'/41°52' 1304 m	09/41	[Gz]
JDJ56	Dera (mountain) 09°36'/42°12' 1930 m	09/42	[Gz]
J....	Dera Ela, see Deraela		
??	Dera Malo (Deramalo) (visiting postman under Arba Minch district)	../..	[+ Po]
??	Dera Malo sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
HEL98	Dera Maryam (Dera Mariam) (church) 12°28'/39°16' 2291 m	12/39	[+ WO Gu Gz]
HFF45	Dera sub-district (Derra ..) (centre in 1964 = Hiya) (-1964-1997-)	13/39	[Ad]
H....	Dera wereda (centre in 1964 = Yaya) cf Derra wereda	10/38	[Ad n]
HCR..	Deraba c2440 m	07/37	[Mi]
JDG75	Derabale (Dabita Ale) (mountain) 09°44'/40°17' 883 m	09/40	[Gz]
JDH42c	Derabella between Afdem mountain and the future Afdem railway station. The American diplomatic mission passed there on 4 December 1903. They marched over beautiful meadows and found a well at some distance from the route. There was plenty of game. Chickens and eggs could be bought, but grass was hard to find. [R P Skinner 1906 p 219-220]	09/40	[x]
HED55	Derabo (area)	11/38	[WO]
J....	Deraela On the route from the coast to Shewa, near the stream Baridala. "La stazione di Deraela è povera cosa." The caravan of Cecchi and others arrived there on 3 August 1877. There were a few tamarisks and acacias and huts of Afar nomads. The surroundings seemed deserted. Cecchi refound Padre Alexis at about a kilometre from their camp. Alexis had travelled with the main caravan, but because of illness he had tried to reach Shewa in advance of the others. His illness had got worse, so he was accepted into the main caravan again. With Padre Alexis were two Africans educated by a mission in France, but they were so useless and villaneous that they were punished later in Shewa. The caravan had only 24 camels left of the 120 with which they had started from the coast, but with their amount of baggage they would need about 70 camels. After difficulties for many days they could hire a number of animals so that they could begin to depart from Deraela on 20 August. There were thefts of several kinds. Cecchi himself fell and was bruised when he tried to catch a couple of thieves. He did not depart until 27 August. [A Cecchi, vol I, 1886 p 113-120]	09/41	[18]

HFE53	Deraga (Daraga) 14°05'/38°48' 2064 m, cf Dereka	14/38	[WO Gz]
HED90	Deragon 11°44'/37°35' 1936 m	11/37	[Gz]
HEL19	Deragush Bado 11°52'/39°15' 3321 m	11/39	[Gz]
HDK94	Derai (Derait) 09°52'/37°59' 966 m	09/37	[Ch Gz]
HCN79	Deraimo, see Darimo <i>deraka</i> (däraqa) (A) lean, meagre; <i>derreke</i> (därräqä) (A) 1. dry out, wither; 2. be brave		
HDL70	Deraka 09°41'/38°27' 2190	09/38	[AA Gz]
??	Derakwa (Derakua) (visiting postman u. D.Markos)	../..	[+ Po]
HEL42	Deranze Abbo 12°11'/38°36' 1842 m	12/38	[Gz]
HCS12c	Derara (south-west of Hosaina)	07/37	[20]
HCK19c	Derasa, see Derassa		
HES37	Derasge (Derasghie), see Deresge		
??	Derashe /same as Derassa?/ In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Derashe ( <i>liyu</i> = with adapted borders) constituency, in the Gamo Gofa zone, had 28 polling stations. Totals of voters and votes is not given in the www-page. Leading party was CUD with 4,842 votes and candidate Ato H/Iyesus Kitmo Tenkuto. Close behind was EPRDF with 4,367 votes and candidate Ato Mulugeta Tafesse Walesa. Third was UEDF with 1,472 votes and Ato Yonas Roba Barro. There is thus a sum of 10,681 listed votes. [www.electionsethiopia.org] <i>Derassa</i> , <i>Derasa</i> , name of a group of Sidamo people and of their language; as an ethnic name in later time considered to be better replaced by name Gedeo. This people have been studied by Tsehai Berhane Sellassie (before 1982). <i>derrese</i> (A) reach a place, be ready, reach maturity; compose poetry Derassa, cf Darassa	06/38?	[20]
HCK19c	Derassa (Darassa, Derasa) An S.I.M. mission station had been established by the end of 1933. On 13 July 1936 the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance on their retreat southwards left Yirga Alem with the intention to meet the Norwegian Ambulance at Derasa.	06/38	[+ 18 Wa]
HCK08	Derassa awraja (Deressa ..., Derasa ...) 06°00'/38°10' (centre at least 1959-1964 = Dilla; later Gedeo awraja)	06/38	[x Ad Gz]
JEA73	Derawayu (Derauaiu) (area) 1103 m	11/40	[+ WO]
JDJ14	Derayo 09°09'/42°01' 1575 m	09/42	[Gz]
	<i>derb</i> (därb) (A) terrace, upper storey <i>derba</i> : <i>dereba</i> (O) double; <i>durba</i> (O) virgin; <i>derbu</i> (O) to hurt, to offend		
HCD44	Derba 05°50'/37°54' 1617 m, cf Dereba	05/37	[Gz]
HCD54	Derba (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	05/37	[MS Ad WO]
HDH69	Derba (area)	09/36	[WO]
HDL42	<b>Derba</b> (Durba) 09°26'/38°39' Derba lies about 20 km off the main road northwards from Addis Abeba and the turn-off is immediately south of Chancho. It is near waterfalls, storage and cable.	09/38	[AA Br Ca Gz]
1990s	"Access to Muga /Muger/ Gorge is from the village of Durba, where there is a waterfall which, although it carries a low volume of water, makes a dramatic plunge of around 100 m into a side gorge. Just past the village, the Durba Cement Factory stands on a rock promontary with wonderful views in three directions. -- An incentive for visiting the region at any time of year is the presence of gelada baboons - I saw a troop of about 40 just outside the village. There is also good birdwatching: several varieties of raptor breed on the cliffs, and I'm told reliably that lammergeyers are often seen. Durba is a peaceful, leafy village -- There is at least one dollar-a-night hotel. It only takes a glance at the		

surrounding area to see it has enormous potential for walking and hiking -- Take some food along as there's not much in Durba." [Bradt 1995(1998)]

JDA24	Derba 08°20'/40°14' 1765 m	08/40	[Gz 18]
HEM21	Derba Maryam 12°02'/39°30' 2733 m	12/39	[Gz]
HDJ24	Derbas 09°16'/37°01' 2035 m	09/37	[Gz]
JDK51	Derbiga (obsolete name?), see Jeneseney	09/42	[Gu]
JDK50	Derbiga Ale Agemsa 09°33'/42°35' 2132 m	09/42	[Gz]
JDK60	Derbile 09°39'/42°31' 1808 m	09/42	[Gz]
JCD41	Derca Dur, see Terka Reba		
HET55	Derche, see Derke & HET65		
HCB27c	Derdera (Dordora)	05/36	[x]
	One of seven sub-groups of the Shangama, with their own settlement area.		
	<i>dere</i> (A) a kind of acacia; (Afar) far away, long		
HDF41	Dere 08°30'/39°25' 1523 m	08/39	[Gz]
HEJ68	Dere 12°19'/37°21' 1800 m	12/37	[Gz]
JCD61	Dere (mountain), cf Dare, Dire	06/42	[WO]
JDJ64	Dere Meley (mountain chain) 09°40'/42°03' 1261 m	09/42	[Gz]
	<i>dereba</i> (däräba) (A) cover, especially of the <i>gotera</i> type of large containers for grain outdoors		
HCU84	Dereba 08°02'/39°42' 2453 m	08/39	[Gz]
HDC83	Dereba 08°53'/36°52' 1684 m	08/36	[Gz]
	William Avenstrup when searching for gold around 1930 passed the Dabus river and then a place Laga Maratu and the following day made his camp at Dereba at an altitude of some 2300 m. He could see a plain in Sudan from there.		
HDU90	Dereba 10°51'/39°22' 3226 m	10/39	[Gz]
??	Dereba Bet (locality in Lower Wegda)	../..	[n]
??	Derebe (district in Gojjam)	../..	[n]
HER..	Derebo (locality in Gondar region), near Angereb	13/37	[n]
??	Deredegen Sisa (visiting postman under A.A.)	../..	[Po]
HDM54	Derefo (mountain in Gola, Shewa) 09°33'/39°42'	09/39	[Gz]
	(place south-west of Ankober, with church Maryam)		
	Derefo primary school (in Tegulet & Bulga awraja) in 1968 had 22 boys and 10 girls in grades 1-3, with one teacher.		
HEJ78	Dereigse 12°28'/37°22' or 23', 1974 m	12/37	[Gz]
	<i>derek amba</i> (däräq ..) (A) arid mountain		
HDT79c	<b>Derek Amba</b> (Dereq Amba) 10°42'/39°16' 2708 m	10/39	[Gz Ad n]
	(centre in 1964 of Lege Hida wereda)		
	The primary school (in Were Ilu awraja) in 1968 had 188 boys and 39 girls, with five teachers.		
GD...	Derek Chebel (in Kelem awraja)	08/34?	[Ad]
	A private school in 1968 had 44 boys and 4 girls in grades 1-3, with one teacher.		
	<i>derek wenz</i> (A) dry river, intermittent stream		
HDU04	Derek Wenz (Dereq Wenz, Derac Uonzi)	09/39	[+ q WO]
	see under Sela Dingay		
HEK53	Derek Wenz (Derecuons)	12/37	[+ WO]
	It was possibly this Derek Wenz, written Darack-Uns by Prutky, which the Catholic missionaries Prutky and Lang passed on 12 February 1753 when they were expelled from Ethiopia.		
	[Prutky's travels ..., 1991 p 332]		
	<i>derek weyra</i> (A) dry olive tree		
HEF16	Derek Weyra (D. Uoira) 10°59'/39°56' 2232 m	10/39	[+ Gz]
HD...	Derek Wiha (in Kola Dega Damot awraja)	10/37?	[Ad]

The primary school in 1968 had 258 boys and 14 girls, with 6 teachers.

HFE53	Dereka (with rock chapel), cf Deraga	14/38	[x]
HDL85	Dereku, two at 5 km distance Dereku 09°48'/38°57' 2100 m (with church Maryam)	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDA58	Dereku 08°37'/40°34' 1510 m	08/40	[Gz]
JDA77	Dereku 08°47'/40°29' 1818 m	08/40	[Gz]
H...	Derekwa Maryam (Derekua Mariam) (centre in 1964 of Agza sub-district)	10/37	[+ Ad]
JDH53	Derela 09°30'/40°57' 1047 m	09/40	[Gz]
HE...	Derem Wedia sub-district (centre in 1964 = Kelebas)	11/38	[Ad]
HE...	Derem Wedih sub-district (centre in 1964 = Taja)	11/38	[Ad]
HEK37	Derenko (Lanco) 12°07'/38°12' 2567 m	12/38	[Gz]
HDU57	Derensa 10°28'/39°58' 1675 m <i>deresa</i> (däräsa) (A) writing, composing	10/39	[Gz]
HER18	Deresä Amba (area)	12/37	[WO]
??	<b>Deresge</b> (Däräsgé, Dereski) known at least from the 1700s	../..	[20 x]
1850s	"Negus Kassa marched his excellent little army north into Simen, where, before Wube's capital at Deresge, on 9 February 1855, the least important dejazmach of the Zamana Masafent was defeated. On 11 February, in Wube's own church, Deresge Mariam /Doresgo Maryam in another source/, Abuna Salama crowned Kassa as Tewodros II, king of kings of Ethiopia." [Marcus 1994 p 64] "In January the peace efforts were given up and Kassa marched through Wogera into Semien. Wube came hurriedly from Tigre at the head of the united armies of Tigre and Semien and the two armies met on 9th February in Deresge in Semien. The great number of firearms on Wube's side were poorly employed -- Moreover, the Tigreans did not exert themselves for a master they disliked, and although Wube's sons fought bravely, the battle was won by Kassa, and Wube was taken prisoner and put in chains." [Abir 1968 p 142] In a letter of 21 August 1869 to Tewodros's son Alemayyehu in England is written: "Weyzero Laqiyaye, the mother of your mother, <i>Itege</i> Tiru Werq, is well and lives at Deresge." The remains of Wibe (Wube), father of Emperor Tewodros, were removed from Debre Tabor to Deresge. [Acta aethiopica III p 21]		
1960s	If one wants to visit the Simen mountains, one may start from Debarq, going first about 50 km to Deresge. Ras Wube constructed here an impressive church after the plans of the German painter and scientist Dr. Schimper in the mid-1800s. The church possesses crowns and remarkable silver crosses. [Jäger 1965 p 79]		
HEJ89	Deresge 12°31'/37°26' 2028 m	12/37	[Gz]
HES37	Deresge (Darasge, Derasghie) 13°02'/38°11' or 12°31'/37°26' For recent time, see Mekane Birhan.	13/38	[Ad Gz WO]
1850s	When Plowden had failed to recruit the desired craftsmen, the botanist Schimper was engaged to build Wibe's new church at Deresge, and in 1852-53 he and a German painter, C.E. Zander, were living there close to the Tigrean prince. Wibe was visited /there?/ in February-March 1853 by K. Reitz, Austrian consul in Khartoum, with his secretary Theodore von Heuglin, and also Coffin and Lefebvre turned up /at Deresge?/ to see Wibe. [Rubenson 1976 p 138]		
HES37	<b>Deresge</b> (sub-district & its centre in 1964) 3035 m		
1850s	By January 1855 both Kasa and Wibe were ready for the final show down. Kasa invaded Simen and Wibe arrived from Tigray. On 9 February the battle took place near Deresge.		

Wibe was defeated and captured, two of his sons fell in the battle and another son Gwangwil was forced to hand over Wibe's mountain fortress with all his stored wealth. Two days after the battle, Kasa was anointed King of Kings by Abune Selama in Deresge Maryam church. He chose as his throne named Tewodros.

[S Rubenson, King of kings .., 1966 p 44-45]

In four major battles, the last of them being at Deresge on 9 February 1855, Dejazmach Kasa of Qwara (the future Tewodros II) eliminated the top leaders in central and northern Ethiopia for a quarter of a century.

[Rubenson 1976 p 136]

1950s Near Deresge, emmer wheat is often grown as the second crop, and in December the field of young, green emmer wheat are conspicuous there among the stubble of the first planting. Oats growing among barley mature at about the same time as the barley, and they are harvested and threshed along with it. In the final basket-winnowing process, the oat seeds are separated from the barley seeds. Later, the oats are mixed with the barley again and used in making beer or flat bread. Oats are never used alone for food, however, and are never sown separately.

[F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia .., Madison/USA 1960 p 71, 108]

?? Dereski, see Deresge

Deressa: see under Derassa above

HCK08 Deressa awraja, see Derassa awraja

*deret* (T) border, boundary; (därät') (A) destroyed district, watercourse going dry; (därät) (A) human chest, bosom, breast

HCR89	Dereta 08°01'/37°30' 2081 m	08/37	[n]
JEN94	Deretakna (Daratacna)	13/40	[LM WO]
HEL26	Derewa 12°01'/39°00' 2233 m	12/29	[n]
JCL79	Derewo (Dereo)	06/44	[+ WO]
JDK67	Derey 09°38'/43°11' 1593 m	09/43	[Gz]
JEB86	Derfage	11/41	[WO]
HED09	Derg, see Deri		
HE...	Derga (Dergga) (centre in 1964 of Abet sub-district)	11/39	[+ Ad]
HEU94	Dergajen (Dergeajen) (in Inderta awraja) cf Didiba & Dergajen	13/39	[Ad x n]
	The primary school in 1968 had 57 boys and 19 girls in grades 1-4, with one teacher.		
HEU74	Dergam 13°22'/39°47' 1433 m	13/39	[Gz]
	derge: <i>dergi</i> , <i>dergo</i> (O) kind of very tall forest tree, <i>Fagaropsis angolensis</i>		
HDD00	Derge sub-district (Dergie ..) (centre in 1964 = Ali)	08/37	[+ Ad]
HDK51	Derge 09°31'/37°41' 1549 m, cf Dargye, Derga	09/37	[AA Gz]
JEH10	Degera (Derghera) (area)	11/40	[+ WO]
	dergh: <i>derg</i> (därg) (A) committee		
HDD80	Dergh (area)	08/37	[WO]
JDG14	Derguru (area)	09/40	[WO]

?? **Derha** (Därha) (historically recorded area) ..../.. [Pa]

"Därha was even smaller than Shärkha and, perhaps for that reason, the least well documented of Ethiopia's Muslim provinces. Its exact location is also far from certain, for a territory of this name was variously described as being in the neighbourhood of Däwaro, on the borders of Bali, and between Bägémder and Gojjam, south-east of Lake Tana. The first account of the province was given by al-'Umäri, who states that it measured only three days' journey by three, i.e. perhaps 60 kilometres square, and had a smaller population than any of the territories in the region. Commerce was based only on barter. The local ruler, the weakest in the region, had no more than two thousand cavalry, and about as many infantry.

The province, because of its weakness, was probably later absorbed by one or more of its neighbours, and disappears from view for the next two centuries." [Pankhurst 1997 p 73-74]

"The small Muslim province of Dārha -- still existed /in the 1530s/. Now extending from Bägémder to Gojjam, it is mentioned in the *Futuh*, which states that the Imam appointed Färāshāham 'Ali as its governor in 1535. After the Imam's death the province was probably merged in a neighbouring territory, for it disappears from view. Vestiges of a Muslim presence in the area may, however, possibly be seen in the notable Islamic emporium of Emfraz." [Pankhurst 1997 p 202-203]

JD...	Derhu	09/41	[18]
	<i>deri</i> (O) necklace collar made of pieces of iron;		
	<i>deri</i> (Som) curve of the back; <i>dheri</i> (Som) clay vessel;		
	<i>derri</i> (A) animal or person who refuses to move even when hit		
HDJ57	Deri 09°36'/37°15' 2225 m	09/37	[Gz]
HED09	Deri (Deri, Derj, Derg') (mountain), cf Dari 10°55'/28°21' 2649/2861 m	10/38	[WO Gz]
JDJ49	Deri 09°27'/42°25' 2175 m	09/42	[Gz]
HDD81	Deriko (Derico) 08°55'/37°36' 2773 m	08/37	[+ Gz]
JCL58	Derio (waterhole) 06°51'/44°13', cf Deryo	06/44	[WO Gz]
HEK..	<b>Derita</b> (Dārīta)	12/37	[+ Pa n]
	Perhaps the largest of the markets south of Gondar - much nearer to Debre Tabor - in the early 1800s was Derita, site of a well frequented Monday market. Its merchants are said to have rivalled those of the capital in sending caravans to Sudan and to Massawa.		
	There was even wine for sale in this market. Traders whose identity has been preserved include 'Ali Muz, Muhammed Ibrahim and one Isma'el. Derita was particularly renowned for its leatherwork.		
	[Pankhurst (1990)1992 p 214, 236]		
1830s	E. Combes and M. Tamisier passed Derita in August 1835 on their way southwards. They got the impression that the adult male population there was composed almost entirely of <i>Hajis</i> , Muslims who had made the pilgrimage to Mecca.		
	[3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies, 1969 p 183]		
1850s	Plowden stated in 1854 that the <i>Nāgadrās</i> (chief of trade) of Derita was one of only six officials with that title in northern Ethiopia.		
1860s	According to Massaia rich Muslim merchants at Derita on one occasion provided 15,000 M.T.thaler to the monarch in the time of Tewodros II.		
	[Tsegaye Tegenu, The evolution of Ethiopian absolutism, Uppsala/Sweden 1996 p 139]		
1890s	A market-town between Yifag and Debre Tabor. It was important enough to have the special official called <i>negadrās</i> (chief of merchants) who levied customs dues.		
	In April 1897 there rested a caravan accompanied by certain Ethiopians who within the Swedish Evangelical Mission became known as "The Fifth Oromo Expedition".		
	[Arén 1978 p 390]		
HEK43c	Derita Maryam (D. Mariam)	12/37	[+ Gu]
HBS27	Deritu (Derittu) 04°47'/38°12' 1666 m south of Yabelo, with important well	04/38	[Gz x]
HFF02	Deriva, see Dirba		
HED09	Derj, see Deri		
HEF00	Derka (Derk'a, Derqa) 10°54'/39°24' 3169 m derka dur: <i>dur</i> (A,T) forest, wood	10/39	[Gz q]
JCD41	Derka Dur, see Terka Reba		
HEJ17	Derke, see Dega, and also Dek		
HET55	Derke (Derche) 13°10'/39°00' 1657 m Coordinates would give map code HET56	13/38	[Wa Gz It]



HET65	Derke (Derche)	13/38	[+ Gu]
KCR84	Derkengeyo	08/46	[n]
	On the border of Somalia where the straight border line makes a little turn at the beginning of the last easternmost triangle.		
HEU20	Derki Gebriel (Derk'i G.) (church) 12°51'/39°25'	12/39	[Gz]
	<i>derma</i> (därma) (Harari) young man		
JEA63	Dermadu 11°25'/40°03' 1054/1103 m	11/40	[WO Gz]
HDJ85	Derme 09°52'/37°05' 2487 m	09/37	[Gz]
JDJ21	Derme Shek 09°17'/41°46' 2444 m	09/41	[Gz]
	<i>dero</i> (O) serval cat, <i>Felis serval</i>		
JDC53	Dero 08°41'/41°53' 1211 m	08/41	[Gz]
HFE84	Dero Tekle, see Dearo Tekle		
HCR28c	Deroba (in Kefa)	07/37	[Mi]
geol	A steep slope was investigated for iron ore in the 1950s. There is strongly weathered yellow rock cemented near the surface with veinlets of limonite. [Mineral 1966]		
HF...	Derokavia	13/38?	[n]
	The Prutky party with three Catholic missionaries on their way to Gondar in mid-March 1752 halted below mountains by a well in an unidentified place written Derokavia by Prutky, somewhere north of lake Tana. There they were surrounded by a band of robbers but not attacked when they said that they had no merchant goods with them. [Prutky's travels .., 1991 p 86]		
JDF04	Deror, cf Daror	08/44	[MS]
KCR44	Derouda Ler, see Las Dolop		
KCR44	Derouda Uen, see Las Dolop		
	<i>derra</i> (därä) (A) be bustling, be in full swing; be successful /marriage/ <i>Derra, Darre</i> , name of a Tulama Oromo tribe		
HDF00	Derra, see Dera		
HDT22	Derra, see Dire		
HDT33	Derra (Muslim area) 10°10'/38°50'	10/38	[n WO]
HDT33	Derra sub-district (centre in 1964 = Korie)	10/38	[Ad]
H....	<b>Derra wereda</b> , in Merhabete awraja	10/38?	[Ad n]
	(centre in 1964 = Ambasemi) cf Lai Derra, Tach Derra In Menilek's time (-1870s-) a district in Merhabete province, governed by a Dejzasmach. Odd E. Arnesen made field studies there in 1988. "Few identified this wereda as an Oromo area." Derra in its current location is known since the time of Amde Tsiyon (1314-1344) After the 1974 revolution the local land reform was not organized by the <i>zemecha</i> until 1976.		
text	O E Arnesen, The becoming of place; a Tulama-Oromo region in northern Shoa, <i>in</i> Being and becoming Oromo, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala 1996, p 210-238		
??	Derraule, see Buya		
HDL63	Derre 2660 m	09/38	[Ad WO]
	see also Dire at HDL64 and Muke Dera The primary school (in Menagesha awraja) in 1968 had 125 boys and 31 girls in grades 1-4, with three teachers.		
J....	Derre	09/41	[x]
	A caravan with among others Dr Kurt Herzbruch on their way to the capital left Dire		

- Dawa on 16 February 1907. They halted at Derre, a village with a few huts and a watering place for herds of cattle.  
[K Herzbruch, Abessinien, München 1925 p 58-61 with 4 photos at the water]
- JDJ53 Derredawa, see Dire Dawa
- HBT48 Derredima (Gebel D.) (mountain) 04/39 [WO Gz]  
04°53'/39°11' 893/1018 m
- HBS27 Derritu 04/38 [x]  
*dero* (O) kind of very tall forest tree,  
Fagaropsis angolensis; *dero* (A,O) serval cat, Felis serval;  
*deero* (Som) Speke's gazelle; *derho* (H) hen, chicken
- HDK76 Derro (area) 09/38 [WO]
- HDK87 Derro 09/38 [WO]
- HDL77 Derro, see Idoro
- JDH28 Derru, see Deder
- HEM24 Dersa Dibe 11°57'/39°45' 1563 m 11/39 [Gz]
- HCL77 Derto (area) 07/39 [WO]  
*dertu, dheertuu* (O) tall /female/
- HDE93c Dertu (mountain) 08/38 [x]
- JDF54 Deruksi (Durukhsi, Druksi) 08°41'/44°47' 1050 m 08/44 [Gz]  
near the border of Somalia
- KDA38 Deruksi (Durukhsi, Duruksi, Druksi) 08/45 [MS WO n]
- KDA47 Deruksi (Duruksi) 08°31'/45°28' 830 m 08/45 [+ n]  
on the border of Somalia
- JDK85 Derwernache 09°50'/43°02' 1402 m 09/43 [Gz]
- JCM82 Derye (Derie) 07/44 [+ WO]
- JDE33 Deryo (Derio) (area) 08/43 [+ WO]
- JED01 Deryo (area) 898 m 10/42 [WO]
- HEJ84 Derza 12°31'/37°03' 2154 m 12/37 [Gz]
- HDD26 Desa 08°24'/38°09' 2268 m 08/38 [Gz]
- HEJ47 Desait Giyorgis (D. Georgis), cf Deset, Desiet 12/37 [Ch WO]  
In 1933: "Island a quarter of a mile from the coast. It is uninhabited but contains a small church in very poor condition. It was once a fortress of the Emperor Bakaffa /1721-1730/ and is surrounded by a wall 15 feet high made of rock and lime mortar with perpendicular loop-holes for rifles every ten feet." [Cheesman 1936]
- HDD56 Dese 08°38'/38°09' 2384 m, cf Dessie 08/38 [Gz]  
/this locality?:/  
In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dese constituency, in the Sidama zone, had 83 polling stations and 61,137 registered voters of whom 83% cast their votes. Dominating party was EPRDF with 35,713 votes and candidate Ato Hagos Adisu Borago. Second was SLM with 4,425 votes and candidate Ato Abera Dubale Aresa. Third was CUD with 3,342 votes and Ato Geletu Jejersa Kera. The SHPDO party obtained 662 votes. The remaining 6,374 votes are not explained.  
[www.electionsethiopia.org]  
*Dese zuriya* (A) Dessie environs
- HEF33 **Dese Zuriya awraja** & wereda 11°15'/39°35' 11/39 [Gz]  
(centre at least 1964-1987 = Dessie)
- 1980s Enrollment in the Sweden-supported Wello Environmental Education Project at the Dessie Teachers Training Institute was 550 in 1985/86 and 450 the next year, while at Yekatit 66 secondary school it was 3382 in 1985/86 and none(?) the following year, at Hotie secondary school 1880 in 1985/86 and 2035 next year, at Gerado junior secondary school 649 in 1985/86 and 751 next year, and at Segeno Gebeya 986 in the later year 1986/87.
- 2000s In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dese Zuriya 2 constituency (no. 1 refers to the town, see Dessie) had 35 polling stations and 38,192 registered voters of whom 86%

cast their votes. They were said to be 33,000 - is this very even figure true?

Dominating party was CUD with 20,603 votes and candidate Ato Seid Muhammed Husen. Far behind was EPRDF with 5,668 votes and candidate Weyzero Abeba Demse Mhired. The UEDF party received 1,060 votes. The remaining 5,669 votes are not explained.

The Dese Zuriya 3 constituency had 50 polling stations and 62,528 registered voters of whom 81% cast their votes.

Leading party was EPRDF with 23,078 votes and candidate Ato Meles Tilahun Dejen. Second was CUD with 17,198 votes and candidate Ato Yimer Muhammed Ali. The UEDF party received 1,755 votes. The remaining 8,864 votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

HEF33	Dese Zuriya sub-district? (-1997-)	11/39	[n]
	<i>deset, desiet</i> (däset) (A) island, also: hummock, land-tied island		
HEJ45	Deset (Desiet) (island)	12/37	[+ WO]
HFD88	Deset 14°23'/38°17' 1752 m	14/38	[Gz]
??	Deseta (town in the Leka region)	../..	[18]
	"The residence of Dejazmach Demissew is in Leka in the town of Deseta, which was recently built. It used to be in the nearby town of Roga. Both the one and the other are located on the heights of the mountain ridge that stretches along the right bank of the Didessa. This mountain ridge is partly covered with forest. In Deseta, there are about 4,000 inhabitants, mainly soldiers of the Dejazmach, with their wives and children." The town of Deseta consists "of a group of homes of military leaders dispersed here and there, around which huddle little shacks or, rather, huts of their soldiers. All the buildings are of wood, covered with thatch."		
	[A Bulatovich 1897]		
H CJ74	Deshe 07°00'/37°00' 1848 m	07/37	[Gz]
HFF04	Desia (Dessa, Desa, Des'a, Deza) 13°36'/39°49' 1619/2800 m, cf Dassa	13/39	[Gz WO Gu LM]
HFF04	Desia sub-district (centre in 1964 = Kalesha Imini) deso: <i>desu, dheessuu</i> (O) escape, run away, take shelter from rain	13/39	[Ad]
HDD91	Deso 09°00'/37°40' 2273 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
H DJ06	Deso 09°07'/37°12' 1938 m (with church Giyorgis)	09/37	[Gz]
HDK52	Deso 09°33'/37°44' 2334 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
HDK99	Deso 09°57'/38°21' 2510 m, see under Tulu Milki	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDT23	Deso 10°11'/38°44' 1839 m	10/38	[Gz]
HDM.?	Deso Amba (with church Gebri'el) in Bulga/Kasim wereda	09/39?	[x]
JFB13	Dess (Desso) 13°44'/41°00' 94/213 m, cf Gulit	13/40	[WO Gz]
HFF04	Dessa (Desa), see Desia		
HDD56	Desse, see Dese		

*dessie, desse* (A) my pleasure, my joy

According to lexicographer Desta Tekle-Weld, the correct pronunciation is Desé, not Dessé, and it does not mean 'My happiness' as commonly assumed.

HEF33	<b>Dessie</b> (Dese, Dessye, Dessi) (Dasse, Dase) 11°08'/39°38' 2470/2550 m or 11°11'/39°45' (1940s source: 11°01'/39°45')	11/39	[WO Gz Wa]
	Within a radius of 10 km there are at km	11/39	[WO x]
	3E Azo Agadel (mountain) 2621 m		
	8E Toledere Meda (area)		
	9E Jergora (Gergora) (village)		
	7SW Grado (plain)		
	2W Tossa (mountain range)		

- 5N Tetu ("town")
- 5N Kedijo (Chedigio) (village) 2643 m
- 5N Jenjera (Gengera) (village)
- 8N Kurkur (Curcur) (area)
- 8N Seywo (Seiuo) (village)
- 10N Borumieda (Barumieda) (village) peak 2570 m near
- 10N Gobeda Najer (G. Nager) (village)
- 10N Sostegedel (Sosteghedel) (village)
- 8NE Tita (T'ita, Tita Mieda) 2178 m  
(village & army camp)
- 9NE Amanu Ager (A. Agher) (village)
- 9NE Gallo
- 10NE Itacha (Itacia) (pass)
- 10NE Luarke (Luarche) (village)
- HEF33 Dessie awraja, see Dese Zuriya awraja
- geol Lacustrine coal-containing sediments north of Dessie are young. This results in a low degree of carbonization, low caloric value, and high ash and moisture content.  
[Mineral 1966]
- meteo Pink granophyre from near Kombolcha has been used for building in Dessie.  
Average rainfall 1235 mm per year was recorded in 1908-1915 and was 1166 mm as published in 2004.
- 1880s "A year after people in the town had seen the Great Comet of 1882, Emperor Yohannes IV christened the place Dessie." [Camerapix 1995]  
In December 1889, Menilek led an army north to deal with the Tigrayans who had not acknowledged his hegemony. Empress Taytu accompanied him as far as Dessie. There, protected by her own troops, Taytu was commissioned by Menilek to keep certain division of the empire at peace (this according to a chronicler).  
[C Prouty, Empress Taytu .., 1986 p 69]
- 1890 In early 1890 Emperor Menilek was in Tigray and had negotiations with the Italians who had temporarily occupied Adwa. Scarcity of supplies and the high incidence of illness in his army forced Menilek to return home. When he came to Dessie in late April the imperial army was starving, and dysentery had taken the lives of thousands of troops.  
[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 120]  
Dr Leopoldo Traversi, who had escorted a caravan of silver talers to the capital, was called back to Dessie in mid-April 1890 when Menilek's army arrived from the north, and he was asked to treat the sick who had survived starvation. "I was impotent in the face of such misery - it was heartbreaking," Traversi wrote. On 6 June 1890, King Tekle Haymanot came to Dessie to pay homage to Menilek and further strained the royal resources with his large escort for nine days.  
[Prouty as above p 71-72]
- 1899 After a brief skirmish in Tigray in January, Ras Mengesha arrived in Dessie on 18 February 1899 and made his submission to Menilek. He was taken to Addis Abeba and sent to prison at Ankober.  
[Marcus (1975)1995 p 216 + Henze 2000 p 173]
- 1900s Ras Mikael had his residence in Dessie, built a palace and the church Enda Medhane Alem, said to be placed on the site of a church destroyed by Ahmed Grañ. Among its paintings one can see Ras Mikael and his son Lij Iyasu.  
On the hill Jeme Korebta there is a large hall *Ayiteyef Addarash* built by Ras Mikael in the early 1900s. In its immediate neighbourhood there are palace buildings of Ras Imru.  
[Äthiopien 1999 p 309]
- 1904 The Italian telegraph line Asmara-Addis Abeba which was constructed in 1902-1904 had an office in Dessie.  
The Italian Giuseppe Bonaiuti, who was born in 1865 and had taken part in the battle of Adwa 1896, was later called by the Italian representative in Addis Abeba, and in 1904-08 he took part in the construction of a primitive road Dessie-Addis Abeba for Menilek's

- government.  
[G Puglisi, *Chi è? ..*, Asmara 1952]
- 1906 Head of the Italian telegraph station in Dessie 1906-1910 was Arnaldo Piga. In 1906 Ferdinando Martini, governor of Eritrea, made a kind of state visit to Ethiopia. At Dessie, Martini met the grandfather-in-law of Abreha Araya, the famous Ras Mikael, and "found him handsome and intelligent. The reception committee of 30,000 men was splendidly garbed. Mikael and Ras Wele wore crowns, and Mikael had removed his mourning clothes as the emperor had requested his chiefs to do on meeting Governor Martini." It was more than 40 days after the death of Ras Mekonnen but the new mourning period had some connection with it.  
[C Prouty, *Empress Taytu ..*, 1986 p 282]  
An Italian *R. Agenzia Commerciale* was established at Dessie after a treaty of commerce and friendship had been signed between Menilek II and Ferdinando Martini on 21 July 1906. It was managed for many years by Colonel F. Marazzani Visconti. The former king of Kefa was kept prisoner at Dessie.  
[Guida 1938]
- 1909 Dejazmach Abate Bwalu, a Shewan, was appointed governor of Tigray in March 1909. Abate did not leave the capital until mid-July, and even then his forces were not considered strong enough to confront Abreha Araya, governor of Enderta, who had said that he would not submit and would fight if Abate set foot in Tigray. Dr Annaratone, the Italian commercial agent at Dessie, said that Abreha made a conciliatory offer in September when the two armies were scarcely four kilometres apart. Annaratone could read the telegrams and hear the telephone calls passing through the Dessie station. He reported that the emperor stalled for time. However, Abreha made a surprise attack on Abate on 9 October, see under Korem.  
[C Prouty, *Empress Taytu ..*, 1986 p 317-319]
- 1910 The Italian journalist A B Cipolla in 1910 made a journey Asmara-Dessie-Addis Abeba, and the following year he published a travel book "Nell'Impero di Menelic". Director of the Bank of Abyssinia branch office 1910-1915 was the Italian Alberto Risso. Singer sewing machines started to be supplied to Dessie and other major towns around 1910.
- 1911 During the time of Lij Iyasu, Ras Abate was arrested and sent to prison in Dessie. Ras Abate had tried to take power in the Addis Abeba palace with his troops after Ras Tesemma had died on 10 April 1911. Abate was kept as a prisoner of honour by Negus Mikael, and at least once also given a place of honour at a big banquet. He was released after the defeat of Mikael and downfall of Lij Iyasu in 1916.  
[R K Molvaer 1997 p 97, 101]
- 1912 On 13 April 1912 Lij Iyasu with 200 horsemen started on a journey towards Dessie, first passing Sela Dingay. Less than a year later Lij Iyasu spent another two weeks in Dessie.
- 1913 In 1913, when Lij Iyasu travelled in various directions to assert his authority, he left Addis Abeba once more on 8 May, travelling to Dessie to talk to his father Ras Mikael, while government business was again held in abeyance and only three ministers remained in the capital.  
[Marcus p 260]
- 1914 At Dessie on 31 May 1914, Ras Mikael was crowned Negus of Wollo and Tigray (though not Begemder) by Abuna Petros. Even Dejazmach Siyum had decided to follow orders and travel to Dessie to witness the ceremony. About 50,000 people are said to have attended /but Lij Iyasu remained in Addis Abeba during that occasion/..  
[Marcus p 264-265]
- 1916 Lij Iyasu came to Dessie from Harar in 1916. At the time of the battle between the forces of Ras Teferi and Ras Mikael north of Addis Abeba on 22 October 1916, Ras Welde Giyorgis entered and occupied Dessie, after a cautious policy of watching and waiting. On 31 October Teferi announced that Mikael was his prisoner.

[Marcus p 280-281]

Ras Yimer and Fitawrari Sirah Bizu escaped from the battle of Segele on 27 October 1916 and reached Dessie, the Fitawrari by keeping a single servant and feigning to be a poor and sick man. Yimer and Sirah Bizu also met Lij Iyasu who had come up from the lowland via Ankober. They moved to Mekdela and used that mountain fastness.

[Studien zur Kulturkunde 104, Köln 1994 p 373]

Italian commercial agent in Dessie in 1916 was Alberto Pollera, later known for studying and publishing much about Ethiopia and Eritrea.

1921 Ras Teferi in early 1921 decided to make a military expedition to Dessie against Lij Iyasu and his followers. He obtained from Empress Zewditu an order for mobilisation which was announced on 3 April 1921.

Ras Teferi left Addis Abeba around 3 May. He was joined a few days later by the French doctor Paul Mouzels who was to lead health services. Mouzels kept a day-by-day journal and seems to have been the only European observer of events. The first town they passed was Were Ilu on 17 May. They arrived to Dessie at noon on 21 May. Lij Iyasu and his escort had left Dessie the day before. /He was captured soon after?/

Ras Gugsu arrived on 24 May with about 10,000 men so that the whole force in Dessie became about 70,000. Ras Hailu of Gojjam arrived on 3 June with about 25,000 men. Ras Seyum arrived on 17 June with only about 3,000 men. Ras Teferi left Dessie in early July and /some of his force at least/ arrived back to Addis Abeba on 19 July 1921.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 880-898]

On 23 May 1921 troops of the central government reached Dessie on their march northward towards the rebellious Ras Siyum. They were troops of Ras Teferi, Empress Zewditu, Minister of War Habte Giyorgis and of certain governors, all commanded by Ras Teferi. They stayed in Dessie for one month while negotiations with Ras Siyum took place. These ended without bloodshed. Ras Siyum was kept as "guest" in Addis Abeba and Lij Iyasu became prisoner of the central government.

While the soldiers stayed in Dessie they built a masonry church there by starting on a Thursday and completing it on Sunday ten days later.

[E H Schrenzel, Abessinien, Land ohne Hunger p 169]

1920s A post office was opened within the period 1923-1929.

A Catholic Mission was founded by Italian Franciscan fathers in 1925.

In February 1926 all of Wollo, with Dessie as its capital, became a personal fief of Ras Teferi. [Guida 1938]

The Seventh Day Adventists started a mission station at Dessie in 1928.

The initiative had been taken at White Memorial Hospital in California. Dr G.C. Bergman was sent in 1925. It took three years for him to supervise the erection of buildings. Marie Haseneder from Switzerland assisted Bergman in the beginning. Bergman was succeeded by Dr W. Purmal from Lettland.

Then a young Norwegian doctor Carl Thorstein Scott worked for at least two years in Dessie.

Concerning Muslims there is a *zawiya* of the *Qadiriyya* in Dessie. This order is the oldest self-perpetuating in Islam and the first order to be introduced into north-east Africa.

Consequently it is more widespread than the more recent orders.

[J S Trimmingham 1952 p 239, 242]

Ato Gebre Igziabher was postmaster around 1929.

Domenico Brielli (1876-1937) lived for a long time in Dessie as commercial agent for the Italians.

1930 "Ras Gugsu Wolie -- held the governor generalship of Gondar and Begemidir.

Encouraged by continual disturbances amongst the Azebu Galla since the previous year, in March 1930 he raised his standard : his feudal retainers who owed him military service flocked to him."

"Stating that he merely intended to make his submission to the new *negus*, Ras Gugsu edged his 10,000 men -- nearer and nearer to Shewa. Unwilling to leave Addis Ababa, the Negus Tafari sent Dejazmatch Mulugeta north to Dessie, capital of Wollo. Mulugeta --

led a somewhat larger force than Ras Gugsa's and had thirty machine-guns and five field-pieces in support. Also aeroplanes purchased by Tafari only six months previously buzzed to and fro carrying messages between Addis Ababa and Dessie. The two French pilots, M. Maillet and M. Corriger, brought the Minister of War reconnaissance news of the disposition of Ras Gugsa's army and Mulugeta used this to great advantage. He ordered a rapid and successful outflanking march. Bombs were hurled from the planes -- The battle took place at Ankim on March 31, 1930 /see under Debre Tabor : Anchim/."

[Greenfield 1965 p 162]

1931 After a quarrel, the Italian consulate in Dessie was entered in November 1931 by about 60 Ethiopians, some of them armed. The Consul succeeded in calming down the situation.

Ato Telahoun /=*Tilahun*/ was *receveur* at the post office around 1931.

1932 Lij Iyasu, after having been kept at Fiche, was prisoner at Dessie and escaped from there in 1932. Governor in Dessie was first Ras Imru and later Crown Prince Asfa Wossen.

[Guida 1938]

There was an airmail flight AA-Dessie on 26 Nov 1931, with return flight the next day. On 26 April 1932 M. Babitcheff flew to Dessie on a short mission and returned the same day. On 12 May 1932 two Pothez airplanes piloted by P. Corriger and M. Babitcheff flew in the morning from Addis Abeba to Dessie. Corriger returned the following day, but Babitcheff's plane had a slight damage so he returned on 14 May. Air mail letters from A.A. to Dessie with label PAR AVION were stamped 26 Nov. 1931, 25 April 1932, 11 May 1932. In the opposite direction Dessie to A.A. they were stamped 27 Nov, 26 April, 12 May.

[Les nouvelles philateliqes, No.10, Juillet 1932 p 3-5]

Further similar flights were made 29-30 Nov 1932, 2 and 13 Jan 1933 with return on the same day, also on 13 Feb 1934.

[Norman Cape 1982]

Envelopes for the first air mail were marked DESSIE-ADDIS Premier Service.

The post used spelling DESSIE (-1931-1932-).

When the BV missionary Anna-Lena Röstin visited Dessie in early February 1932 she noticed in the centre some European-type buildings owned mostly by Greeks selling alcoholic drinks and Armenians making shoes and sandals. There was a branch of a bank and a cinema with performances on Saturday and Sunday evenings. The young prince Asfa Wossen lived in the former Negus Mikael palace and opposite in a beautiful site was the government school.

The 16-year-old Crown Prince, a grand-grandson of Negus Mikael, had been holding court when Anna-Lena got an audience with him. Anna-Lena brought a letter from his mother for him, and he immediately rose and read it standing. The missionary also visited Ras Gebre Hiwot, a man with relatives on Lij Iyasu's side but permitted to live in freedom and sometimes staying in a very old estate outside Dessie. Anna-Lena gave him a copy of the Psalter printed in Geez and Amharic, and a magnifying glass to make reading more easy for the old man.

[A-L Röstin, Arvet i främlingars hand, Sthlm 1936 p 81-91]

The Crown Prince was Governor of Wello before the Italian occupation, his tutor and the real governor was Dejzmach Wodajo Ali. Director-General was Fitawrari Fikre Mariam. Director of customs was Nagadras Tesfaye. Mayor of Dessie was Blatta Bekele Wolde Mikael, with Ato Desta as his director.

A grandson of Ras Mikael, Dejzmach Amedie, lived in Dessie. Adrien Zervos estimated the population to be about 6,000.

Captain Motte of the Belgian military mission was stationed at Dessie. A couple of the Ethiopian commanders were Fitawrari Sahle Dinga and Fitawrari Farize. The Chief Judge was Blatta Dadi.

Abuna Petros had his seat at Dessie. There was a government school with teachers Mengesha and Kelem Werk. There was a private school where French was taught, a school at the Italian consulate, and a school of the Lazarist Fathers.

Head of public works was Fitawrari Dejene, with engineer Comte F.L. Biétry at his

disposal and Ato Mukrieh Wolde Sellassie as director of roads. The airport at Kombolcha was regarded in good shape since 1930. Head at the post and telgraph/telephone office was Ato Gabre Egziahr, but there was also an Italian telegraph. Italian consul was Comm. Dr. Brielli Dominique, with an assistant Corbyous.

Director of the hospital was Dr. Purmans. A private physician was Dr. Meszaros. Leaders of the Lazarist Mission were Marsey and Bringer.

Bank of Ethiopia had had an agency in Dessie for a long time, headed by P. Tarditi.

In the early 1930s there was an agency of A. Besse, an export-import firm founded in 1898.

Other agents and traders were M. Bazarah, Pagonis Frères, Hrant Pagtikian, Nicolas Zambos, Dimitri Paskos, Athanase Papadjiman, Astig Karabian (widow, with cinema and cafeteria), Takakland Kolidas, Ato Irghou, G. Capellani (baker and joiner), Nicolas Zambos (baker), Christo Cardaloupa, M. Paskos.

The main market was on Mondays, but the Crown Prince had initiated a smaller market on Wednesdays. Fish was brought to Dessie from lake Hayk.

[Zervos 1936 p 407-408]

When the Swedish nurse Marta Johansson worked for a couple of years (in the 1930s or 1940s?) at a clinic in Dessie, it happened that the police brought a 17-year old robber who had been injured by shooting. One of the policemen seemed extra concerned and even read religious prayers at the bed of the young criminal. "Is he a relative of you?" - "No, but one of the three he killed was my brother." It was said that this policeman had attended a mission school for some time.

[A B Svensson, *Det återuppståndna Etiopien*, 1948 p 119-120]

"The city of Dessie -- was the seat of the governorate of the young Crown Prince acting under the advice of Dejazmatch Wodajo Ali. -- There had been a violent quarrel between father and son in Addis Ababa and despite the Empress Menen taking the part of her son, the Emperor had sent him off to Dessie and -- his younger brother had come to prominence in Addis Ababa. The Crown Prince's house was full of spies -- and it was rumoured they even included his priestly confessor. When the mobilisation order arrived, the Crown Prince and Dejazmatch Wodajo found it very difficult to raise troops from amongst the Wello Galla in the face of Italian bribery and a continuing loyalty to Eyasu -- of whose mysterious death the countrymen were unaware."

[R Greenfield, *Ethiopia ...*, London 1965 p 206]

1935 There were 50 Arabs living in Dessie in 1935.

Italian civilians evacuated by train from Addis Abeba on 12 October in the beginning of the war included one Corbeon (Corbyous?) from the consulate in Dessie.

After having been stopped at Debre Birhan for lacking permit, the reporter Evelyn Waugh succeeded two days later to go to Dessie in late November 1935. He wrote a complaining letter to his parents, "We get absolutely no news from outside. The war may be over for all we know."

[W F Deedes 2003 p 99]

Among the journalists who visited Dessie was Robinson MacLean but he has published only irrelevant stories of his servants and other more or less private matters.

[R MacLean, *John Hoy of Ethiopia*, New York 1936 p 235-244, 249-253]

The Swedes Dr Ragnar Stadin and his wife (a nurse) and nurse Märta Hedlund in 1934 arrived to the Tafari Makonnen Hospital of the Seventh Day Adventists in Dessie.

Another member of the staff was Rasmine Hoffstad. There was also a Norwegian nurse Petra Høvig (or Høvik) who broke a leg in December 1935. She was replaced by a Norwegian nurse Margit Halvorsen who was evacuated among the last Europeans from Dessie, probably in late April 1936. The Stadins stayed at Dessie until early April 1936 when they moved to Addis Abeba (intending to get new supplies for Dessie) but Mrs Stadin was killed by a stray bullet in early May.

Frede Nielsen from Denmark was headmaster of the school during a period.

[Swedish sources]

Among the many journalists trying to gather war news at Dessie was the Dane Sven



Tillge-Rasmussen who arrived by truck earlier than many of the others and also before the Emperor, who was to use the former Italian consulate as his headquarters. This was the only place inside the town with garden flowers. The Governor's palace was run down, so the Crown Prince had built a dwelling place for himself outside the town. Tillge-Rasmussen's caravan with supplies had arrived a couple of days earlier.

The Crown Prince had hoped to build a good road with the help of a Belgian engineer, but very little of it was carried out.

The journalists were instructed to have their camp at the Adventist hospital. The Mayor Bekele had once been Consul General in London and was eager to govern, not least the news telegrams to go out from Dessie. Gugsu Ali, a man supposed to become Dejazmach again, was killed by falling down a steep place, a little time before the Emperor arrived. His slaves danced at his funeral, lifting high up his weapons and saddle. The journalist heard the female slaves lament for three weeks.

The secretaries whom the Emperor brought with him to Dessie were Welde Giyorgis and Lorenzo Tazaz, no favourites of the journalists, and also the Minister of PTT. A radio station was established.

Tillge-Rasmussen could observe at close range the bombing of the hospital. The Danish-born American doctor Sørensen arranged for the patients to be carried outside and spread as much as possible to diminish the risk of many deaths. Only the hospital itself was hit among the substantial buildings, with bombs making three holes in the roof. On the next morning the inhabitants fled from Dessie. In the evening, the journalists could listen to Radio Asmara and hear what was reported to Italy of what had been achieved. [S Tillge-Rasmussen, *Abessinien i krig*, København 1936 p 144-163]

"Two days after our return general permission for Dessie was again issued, this time in earnest. In the end it was a scratch caravan which set out for Dessie. The Radical, the *Daily Express* correspondent and I were the only regular English journalists; an American preacher, a free-lance communist, and an unemployed German Jew deputised for more august principals. Only the cinema companies travelled impressively."

"We reported to the mayor, a stocky, bearded figure who had disgraced himself in London and now happily compromised in his costume between the new and old régimes by wearing a beard and cloak of a traditional cut and, below them, shorts and red and white ringed football stockings. He passed us on to the chief of police, who, that afternoon, was tipsy. Eventually we found a camping ground for ourselves."

"-- for any contact we had with the battle-field or information about what was happening, we were worse off than at Addis Ababa. A field wireless had been established -- All messages from Dessie had to be retransmitted from Addis. -- Two days later we were cheerfully informed that none of the messages had been sent, that no more could be accepted until further notice, that when the station reopened there would be a limit of fifty words and a rigid censorship."

"The governing Dedjasmach made a strenuous and partly successful attempt to get some of the soldiers to the front. He organised a parade, and himself at their head, drums beating and bugles playing -- returning by himself after dark to the more agreeable accommodation of his own bedrooms."

"Except for a Finnish misanthrope who maintained a front of unbroken hostility - and later on his return to Addis indulged in litigation at the American consular court against a colleague who punched him - the grimmest characters seemed to grow soft in idleness. On November 28th there was a Thanksgiving Dinner, attended by all except the Finn, and after it a drinking competition won - dishonestly we discovered later - by one of the Irishmen."

"The Emperor came to visit the American hospital. -- there were a few soldiers who had deserted from Eritrea and got badly cut up by a company of Abyssinian troops deserting in the opposite direction; but there were no heroes upon whom the Emperor could suitably manifest his sympathy." The doctors staged an operation, amputation of a gangrened stump of arm, but that gangrene started because the man's hand had been cut off as punishment for stealing some grain.

When no news could be cabled out, several journalists were recalled and the largest cinema company began to pack up. Waugh himself received his dismissal the day after the Emperor's arrival. He succeeded to get an illegal seat in a Red Cross car and returned to Addis Abeba.

[E Waugh, *When the going was good*, London 1946 p 306, 310-313]

Major Gerald Burgoyne, with the help of the Sudan Interior Mission, during 25-28 November 1935 prepared for a caravan from Addis Abeba towards Dessie. They collected 129 mules to be divided into groups of 32 animals with 8 men to each. The head man of the caravan was named Desta Goza. On 29 November they started to saddle mules at 7 a.m. but did not get away until 3 p.m.

[Ethiopia Observer vol XI (1968) no 4 p 254 ff]

Haile Selassie reached his new headquarters at Dessie probably on Saturday, 30 November 1935, while Badoglio at the same time arrived to Mekele. It was tried to keep the Emperor's movements secret.

During the war, the hospital of the Adventist Mission, Tafari Makonnen Hospital or "the American hospital", was bombed by the Italians on Friday 6 December 1935. Some 30 foreign war correspondents were lodged near the hospital. Doctor in charge since 1934 was the Swede Ragnar Stadin with his Swedish wife and the Norwegian Petra Høvik as nurses. The leader of the Adventist Mission in Ethiopia also stayed in Dessie for several months. He was Manuel Sorensen, of Danish origin but with American citizenship. Nurse Høvik broke a leg during the bombing when she jumped down into a trench. She was flown to Addis Abeba in the Emperor's private plane and was replaced by the Norwegian nurse Margit Halvorsen, and she was in 1936 among the last Europeans to be evacuated from Dessie. (Dr. Stadin had by that time gone to Addis Abeba to try to get more supplies. Mrs Stadin was killed in Addis Abeba in May, rather by accident from a stray bullet.)

[Mission sources]

"Dessie was bombed for the first time on 6 December. The Emperor who had installed himself in the only modern building, the Italian Consulate, was photographed personally machine-gunning the raiders, and great indignation was aroused in Europe by the bombs the Italians dropped on the American Hospital where Dr. Dassios's Red Cross units were housed. The Italian bombs could hardly have fallen at a better time or on a better place from the Ethiopian point of view."

(According to von Xylander a total of 7.5 tons of bombs were dropped over Dessie.)

[Mockler 1984 p 74]

According to Adventist records of the bombing in December, the Seventh-Day Adventist hospital, transformed into a Red Cross camp, had a big red cross on the roof. About forty bombs fell on the mission compound, mostly incendiary, and one on the roof with the red cross.

At the time of the bombing, Emperor Hailes Selassie had his quarters at 300 metres from the Red Cross.

The British Military Attaché in Ethiopia reported that 70 percent of the bombs dropped there did not go off.

Dr. Winkel of the Netherlands Red Cross was assigned to Dessie.

[Sbacchi 1997 p 67, 69, 75]

(The bombing on 6 Dec. was described by the journalist G L Steer 1936 p 203-204.)

After the bombing at Dessie, a convoy of six lorries left Addis Abeba. With it were the British Military Attaché, Marcel Junod who was a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and others. Junod in his book writes nine pages about their assistance and inspection trip to Dessie. He also has a page about how Doctor Dassios later was maltreated by the *Questura*, see Leijonhufvud's peace below.

[M Junod, *Warriors without weapons*, London 1951, p 31-19, 73]

Even the school and the chapel became wards of the Adventist hospital in 1936. The Presbyterian missionary Rohrbaugh writes that the Adventists played host to about 30 journalists from abroad. The French mission school about 5 km away also became part of

the hospital. There was a second bombing on 7 December, and on Sunday 8th a thanksgiving service held by the missionaries was attended also by the Emperor. The Burgoyne party arrived at Dessie on Sunday 15 December with all the mules, less only two dead en route. Diary entries /letters by the Major himself/ describe the travel at length and are printed in Ethiopia Observer vol XI (1968) no 4 pages 256-261. He could send his letters with Lady Drummond-Hay who returned to Addis Abeba the next day. He was taken in hand by doctors Loeb (German) and Dassios (Greek, ill at the moment) of the No.2 Ambulance Unit of the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Burgoyne could have lunch with the reporters Emery of the Daily Chronicle and Gallagher of the Daily News and hear details of the damages the Italian bombing had caused. Other journalists were Mills and a former infantry officer Lt.Col. Zetlin (Zeitlin?) who walked around with medals and decorations. Included in a group photo one can see doctors Fred (American of S.I.M.) and Ngjaros (Hungarian). Two Fathers from the French Catholic Mission rode in about 5 km to meet the ambulances.

"The British Ambulance is wonderful - 18 huge lorries - the latest of tents and so forth. The head of it is a Dr. Melly."

"On top of all there's a disagreement between Dr. Loeb and the Greek doctor. The Red Cross are backing Dr. Dassios and Loeb is returning to Addis."

[Ethiopia Observer as above p 254-265]

1936 Major Burgoyne departed from Dessie on Saturday 5 January towards Weldiya with stores for two ambulances.

The young American John Spencer, newly employed as adviser in international law to the Emperor, was called to Dessie so that Haile Selassie could see what kind of adventurer he had accepted. Spencer arrived by a single-engine Potez piloted by Babichef and needing one hour and a half to reach Dessie from the capital.

At the first audience, four 'gigantic' men stood next to the short Emperor. They were Ras Getachew Abate, Fitawrari Biru Wolde Gabre, Dejazmach Haile Selassie Abaineh, and Dejazmach Odefresew Ymadu. The headquarters had no camouflage whatsoever, although there was an air raid alert already in the following morning. The other adviser to the Emperor, Mr Everett Colson, arrived on 19 January. The radio station was found to be staffed solely by a sergeant on a telegraph key and two soldiers turning a hand-driven generator. As soon as Colson had met the Emperor he returned to Addis Abeba, accompanied by Spencer.

[J H Spencer, Ethiopia at bay, USA 1984 p 21-25]

An Ethiopian Red Cross airplane was bombed near Dessie in February 1936 but was not destroyed at that time. The Emperor had then been in Dessie for over two months, together with the Crown Prince and the child Duke of Harar. The telegraph line ran from Imperial headquarters at Dessie to Buie in the Mahera plain, below Amba Aradam.

The Emperor left Dessie in the afternoon of 21 February 1936 and made his way northwards.

March 1936: "The Crown Prince had not been wounded. But there had been if not a revolt at least a serious plot at Dessie. The ringleader appears to have been the sixty-seven-year-old Ras Gabre Hiwot Mikael, Governor of the district where his mother Woizero Zennabish, widow of the Negus Mikael, still lived. Also involved were -- Dejaz Amde Ali of Lagagora; and, curiously, one of the most respected Shoan nobles, Dejaz Auraris, the Governor of Menz. -- These were all leaders of the older generation. In the eyes of many Wollo people Ras Gabre Hiwot was their rightful ruler, and outside Dessie his word carried more weight than that of Wollo's official governor, the Crown Prince. Nothing is known of the details or aims of this plot. It seems unlikely, though, that it was pro-Italian. More probably there were the beginnings of a conspiracy to depose the Crown Prince -- As it turned out Ras Gabre Hiwot, Dejaz Amde Ali, Dejaz Auraris, and another Shoan noble were arrested and sent in chains to Addis Ababa." [Mockler 1984 p 112-113]

"Defeated troops, formerly commanded by the governor, the wounded Dejazmatch Wodajo Ali, had bypassed the main Ethiopian forces when they had fled from the Italian offensive against Amba Aradam. They arrived near Dessie and camped outside the town,

planning sedition. The Crown Prince tricked their leader into coming to a feast. Then he sent instructions to the soldiers that they should join his forces and receive free pardon and an issue of ammunition or else disband and return home to their farms. The ruse -- was successful, for as the first son of the Galla Empress Menen, Asfa Wossen had some following. The leaders were arrested and flown to Addis Ababa."

[R Greenfield, Ethiopia .., London 1965 p 218]

Dessie was occupied by the Italians 15 April 1936.

As cavalry patrols of the advance guard of Pirzio-Biroli's corps entered Dessie, the Crown Prince and his entourage, Wodajo Ali, his tutor and the real governor of Wollo, Fikremariam the commander of the Guard and of the Shoan garrison, left without a fight. The Italian version of April 1936: - During the whole of the march of the Eritrean Corps to Dessie and for the first eight days of its stay in the town, ration supplies were brought almost entirely by air, dropping as much as 25 tons daily.

"On the 14th, while the Crown Prince with a few followers was retreating hastily from Dessiè, our cavalry patrols arrived in sight of the town. On the following morning the commander of the Eritrean Corps took official possession, hoisting the tricolours over the Italian consulate and over the *ghebi* of Ras Micael. --

On great strips of cloth, stretched across the decorated streets of the town, the population had written, in the local language, "The Hawk has flown."

[Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 150-151]

General Pirzio Biroli entered in the motorcar that had been owned by Haile Selassie and had been taken by the Italians at Ashenge. The Red Cross hospital under three French doctors was permitted to continue work, and also the Lazarist mission. Dessie was believed to have 6,000-8,000 which returned rather soon when the town became safe. The Italian troops had brought with them some 9,000 mules which were distributed to graze in the vicinity of the town. The first motorized units arrived on 16 April. On 19 April the first airplanes could land at the airfield of Kombolcha. The Supreme Command was flown to Dessie on the 21st. Marshal Badoglio approached the town sitting in the imperial motorcar mentioned above. Inside the town, however, he changed to riding a horse to the Italian consulate, which three weeks earlier had still been the residence of Haile Selassie. The following day Badoglio received the submission of important Ethiopians, such as Mengesha Wube.

[P Gentizon, La conquista .., Milano 1937 p 141-144]

On 20 April Badoglio and his staff transferred themselves in twelve big bombing planes to Dessie, where headquarters were opened immediately. "The population -- welcomed me in a manner that was truly solemn and festive."

The huge column of about 1,725 vehicles which was the first to use the newly constructed road from Amba Alagi via Korem reassembled at Dessie between April 21st and 25th. New supply bases were established at Korem and Dessie.

On the 23rd Badoglio personally took command of the whole of the troops.

[Badoglio p 155, 160, 161]

General Dall'Ora organized a mechanical column to advance to the capital. During five days 21-25 April there were assembled 1,785 cars and trucks, Fiats, Lancias, Alfa-Romeos, Fords, Chevrolets, Bedfords and Studebakers, a squadron of light tanks and eleven batteries of artillery. 12,500 Italian troops climbed into the trucks and left Dessie. There were even vehicles carrying 193 horses, so that before entering Addis Abeba Marshal Badoglio and his staff could leave their cars and ride in triumph into the capital on horseback. (As events turned out these horses were not used for the ceremony of entrance. It was regarded as important that all the branches of the armed forces should be represented when entering Addis Abeba.)

[A J Barker 1971 p 109]

One column headed for Addis Abeba left Dessie on foot on 24 April and a motorized column on 26 April, the latter planned to overtake the first one before Termaber. The total strength of the column was: 10,000 Italians and 10,000 Eritreans, with 11 batteries, 1 squadron of light tanks, and 1,725 motor vehicles.

Addis Abeba was reached by the evening of 4th May by an advanced guard of the 1st Eritrean Brigade and at 4 p.m. on the 5th by Badoglio and the main force.

[Badoglio p 161, 163]

A. Besse & Co. sent a transport caravan from Addis Abeba to Dessie without knowing that the Italians had already occupied the town. They transported bags with 10,000 MT dollars and an important load of cotton goods, sugar and kerosene in tins. However, contrary to expectations, the caravan could deliver the goods intact.

[Journal of Eth. Studies, vol VIII 1970 no 2 p 175]

Dr. Dassios, head of the second Ethiopian Red Cross ambulance, had been taken prisoner at Weldyia/?/ and was brought to Dessie. He witnessed much Italian brutality during the transfer. Dassios was questioned at Dessie, once by a colonel who said that 'no one doubted that it was the bad character of the Greek which had made him commit the despicable crime to hurry to the aid of the black dogs, these rotten pieces of meat which are the Ethiopians'.

Dassios fell ill, was refused hospital care in Dessie and after ten days placed on an open truck for transport to Asmara. We was unconscious on arrival, but recovered and continued to serve Ethiopia after the liberation.

[E Leijonhufvud, Kejsaren och hans hövdingar, Stockholm 1948 p 68-71]

The spelling DESSIE was used by the post office at least from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Post office of the Italians opened on 9 May 1936. Its cancellations read DESSIE'

AMARA but the town was transferred to *Governo dello Scioa* on 1 October 1940 so then it was modified to DESSIE \* SCIOA. A branch post office existed from 1 Nov 1937 to 15 June 1939. [Philatelic source]

The Italians built a mosque in Dessie. A master plan developed by the Italians divided the industrial and commercial efforts between Dessie and Kombolcha. The military zone was to be on a hill on the other side of Borkenna.

[Guida 1938, map on p 398-399]

1938 About 36,000 inhabitants of which 6,000 Italians. *Commissariato dell'Uóollo*, also seat of the *Prefettura Apostolica* entrusted to the *Padri Cappucini*.

During the Italian occupation, the central square was named *Piazza del Littorio*. Located there were the post office, the *Casa del Fascio*, various shops and cafés.

A road from the square towards the south-east had the local market on its southern side in the plain of Muger. Further on was the *gibbi* of Ras Mikael, used by the *Commissariato*.

To the south of the main *gibbi* was *Gibbi Mariam* and *Gibbi Dejazmach Mengesha*

*Abuye*. North of it was the church of Enda Medhani Alem, among trees. It was believed

that an ancient church on this site had been destroyed by Ahmed Grañ. The existing church was built by Ras Mikael in the first decade after 1900. It is circular, with paintings by Aleqa Hailu of Gojjam. North of the church is a cemetery.

At a stony street between the church and the piazza there was an *Ospedale dermoceltico*.

The street from the piazza towards the south-west passed the municipality offices, out-patients clinic *Ambulatorio per nazionali e indigeni* (the "nationals" were the Italians!), and *Scuole Elementari Imperatrice Elena* with two pavilions.

Further down was the large market held on Mondays. There was also a round church of Kidus Giyorgis built in masonry and woodwork and surrounded by large junipers. The church of Enda Mikael was east of the market on an isolated summit and surrounded by eucalyptus.

Starting once more from the piazza and taking the western one of the two main streets northwards, there was on the left side *Villa Italia* which had been the Italian consulate and which after the occupation was renovated to become the finest building of all Dessie. It was planned to make a garden city for Italians northwards from Villa Italia.

There was also, a little isolated, *Albergo C.I.A.A.O.* with 22 hotel rooms (even in later decades it remained the largest hotel in Dessie, under other names).

Starting again from the piazza and taking the eastern main street northwards, the one towards Asmara, there were first some mixed commercial quarters with some of the Italian buildings being provisional. There was a crossing of *Derek Wenz* (Dry River =

seasonal stream), and in this area most of the Arabs lived, with a mosque.

There was a market for Italians (*Mercato Nazionale*), a fountain, Cinema Impero, sports fields, Albergo Bella Milano, Ufficio d. Lavoro and barracks of the Intendenza, a school (*R. Scuola*) and the church of the Catholic Mission. The plan of this church is a Latin cross. It was built by Franciscan Lazzarists and became opened for service only in the time of the occupation. There was a small cemetery for Italian graves.

[Guida 1938]

"The new up-to-date hotel -- might belong to a fashionable European mountain resort -- This hotel comprises twenty-eight bedrooms and bathrooms, and a restaurant for 100 guests. [Quaranta 1939 p101]

1938 There was an Italian workers' camp with 18 wooden pavilions and a capacity of 2000 persons around 1938.

The road from Dessie towards Gondar was stabilized and gravelled for only 26 km by 1938 (and even this was not maintained after the Italian time). When building the road 20 km from Dessie to the plain of Kombolcha, about 800,000 cubic metres of basaltic rock were excavated.

Outskirts of Dessie town: - To the south-east there was a former area for freed Wellamo slaves, with a "slave office" but also a former prison in the same area, as well as a dilapidated fountain. Further to the east was the small round church of Tekle Haymanot. North of this there was the former prison of Lij Iyasu, which had been a powder store. Further north is the double waterfall in Boorkenna called *Doro Masleya* ("Jump of the Cock").

Still further north was a mill, a group of buildings called Dejaz Sibesik, and to the north-east of the town the camp of the Milizia Forestale and something called *Casa dei Preti*, House of the Preachers.

[Guida 1938]

Services in Dessie around 1938: - Post, telephone, bus line to Asmara, airport at Kombolcha, motorcars with taximeters, Banco di Roma, bath establishment with showers and laundry near Cinema Imperiale.

Apart from the hotels (*alberghi*) serving food there were a number of restaurants with names Aquila, Berenice, Bologna, Faro, Gambrinus, Impero, Neghelli, Primavera, Salvietti, Stella d'Italia, Tringale, Venezia, 9 Maggio.

[Guida 1938]

The Italians built mosques in many towns, among them also Dessie.

1939 When Axel B. Svensson visited Dessie around New Year 1939, he learnt that the Italian occupants felt so safe that they had a garrison of only about 800 men in the town. Some of the local people were permitted to carry weapons. There were said to be 2,500 local inhabitants and 1,500 civilian Italians. There was a power station for electricity and full street lighting at night.

[A B Svensson, *Abessinien under italienarna*, Sthlm 1939 p 172-173]

Giuseppe Bruno was a building contractor, also the firm Dioguardi & Figli. An undertaking registered for road transport was Soc. An. Salvatore dell'Oca.

The motorcar enterprise Isotta-Fraschini by 1939 had a sub-station in Dessie with an area of about 30,000 sq m and five employees and ten workers.

[L'industria in A.O.I., 1939 p 174]

1941 By April 1941 General Frusci was the Italian commander at Dessie. British forces entered the town on 23 April.

Dessie with its Italian garrison of 10,000 surrendered on 26 April 1941 to Brigadier Pienaar's 1st South African Brigade, assisted by 500 Shewan Patriots under Captain Campbell, the Black Watch. These were some of Abebe Aregai's men.

The Frontier Battalion under Maxwell left on 7 May for Dessie to relieve the 1st South African Brigade, which had been ordered to go to Amba Alagi.

[Shirreff 1995 p 174, 188]

After the heavy fighting at Kombolcha Pass on 17-27 April, the Italians at Dessie quickly surrendered. One direct artillery hit on the main Dessie fort resulted in the raising of a

white flag. The Transvaal Scottish accepted the unconditional surrender, arriving in captured Italian lorries on 28 April. They had collected 8,024 prisoners and a fabulous tonnage of stores. The most surprising loot of all was 44 boxes of clothing and personal possessions belonging to the Duke d'Aosta. /They were returned to him after his final surrender in the mountains./

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 160]

Birkby writes that when the South African forces entered Dessie, there were "mobs of natives who had already begun to shoot up the city."

A British mixed prisoner-of-war/civilian internment camp at Dessie in the 1940s later became 'definitive camp no.410', a transit camp for evacuees awaiting repatriation.

C.H. Collier had been governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia before 1936. During the liberation war in 1941 he became leader of the Custodian of Enemy Property. He was able to set this organization up, but was killed in a jeep accident at Dessie.

[R N Thompson 1987 p 206]

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

After the liberation, the Ethiopian post office was opened on 22 June 1942.

1943 Forces under the Minister of War, Ras Abebe Aregai, had been concentrated in Dessie and began advancing northwards in the latter part of 1943 to fight the *woyane* revolt in Tigray. [Gilkes 1975 p 189]

In 1943 Shaykh Sa'id 'Ubayd Ba Hubaysh and Shaykh 'Abduh Sa'id al-Yamani donated money for the construction of mosques in Dessie.

1940s Swedish medical staff worked at the provincial hospital in Dessie about 1946-1952. Some Swedish hospital staff in Dessie resigned in December 1947 after trouble of some kind. Dr Bengt Kumlien seems to have left earlier than the other Swedes, after serving for one year.

Artist Essaye Gebre-Medhin Fikre was born in Dessie in 1949. He gained a B.A. in Addis Abeba and an M.A. in Paris but was self-taught as an artist.

[Eth. Artists p 138-139]

The American William H. Seed was the first headmaster of Woizero Sihin School 1948-1951. After that, in Addis Abeba together with one Tassos Psaropoulos, he tried to run a newspaper "Weekly Progress" but abandoned it after one year and published around 1954 two editions of a very critical booklet "Ethiopia's Iron Curtain" of 44 pages, about censorship and lack of press freedom.

1949 The hospital had two doctors and 100 beds in 1949.

1950c The presence of Arabs in Dessie dates from the early 1900s and they outnumbered the other foreign residents such as the Greeks, Armenians and Indians. At first they lived in a special quarter called Arab *ganda* although they later moved to other parts of the town. Arab masons and carpenters were allotted the *ganda* after they had built Negus Mikael's reception hall. The Arabs of Dessie were mainly engaged as masons, builders of houses, porters at the market, and tailors. The Yemeni ones, however, were mainly shopkeepers, owners of tea-houses, also butchers. They were also the first vendors of *chat* and of water carried around on donkeys. A certain Qasim was known for carrying and selling water. Husayn Wa'il had the first Muslim restaurant. There was a jeweller Salih Salim al-Ammari, a salt trader Brum, general store owners Qayid al-'Udayni and Nasir, yarn distributor Muhammad 'Abdallah Ba Hadi, and makers and sellers of mattresses such as Muhammad Yahya al-'Ansi. The owner of the most modern shop in Dessie in the 1950s was 'Abd al-Karim.

For some 40 years a man Ali - with a tea-house serving pastry and therefore nicknamed Bastini - used to walk around in the night with a drum throughout the Islamic fasting month, waking up Muslim residents so that they could take their predawn meals.

The Yemeni Arabs are also credited with the introduction of certain dishes and fruits consumed during the fasting month: barley/oats soup, *samosa* and dates.

[13th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies I, 1997 p 342]

The Arabs usually married local Ethiopian women, (but marriage between an Ethiopian

- man and the daughter of an Arab was in practice banned).  
 Al-Hajj Ahmad Ali al-Haday was head of the Arab community in Dessie /when?/.
- 1950s A new 50-bed hospital was being erected in the 1950s, financed by a special direct grant by the US government.
- 1953 One of two provincial Desert Locust Control headquarters inside Ethiopia (1953-) was at Dessie.
- 1954 There were 87 telephone numbers in 1954. Of those by individual names there were 28 of Moslem type, 16 of Amharic type and only one Greek a foreigner seemingly not the name of a company.  
 There were branches of two insurance companies in 1954, but a little later none was left.
- 1955 Around 1955 Dessie had service by Ethiopian Air Lines four times a week, with airport at Kombolcha. Sudan Interior Mission still had its hospital.  
 There was a 200 kW thermal power station, reported to be too old for effective operation. A new 280 kW steam turbine plant was to be installed.  
 A public address system was installed in the central square of Dessie (and in ten other towns), used for receiving transmission from Radio Addis Ababa and re-broadcasting it to the public.  
 Ethiopian Seedoil Factory had an enterprise for vegetable oils and wheat flour (-1955-). Grain and oilseeds cleaners were S.N.E.D.A., Hercules Pytharas, and Gabre Hiwot Beyin.
- 1957 In 1957 Woizero Sehine/Sihin School was one of 9 provincial secondary schools in Ethiopia, if Eritrea is excluded. At this school 11 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960. Explanation of the name: Weyzero Sehin was a daughter of Negus Mikael of Wello and a half-sister of Lij Iyasu; she was married to Asfaw of Ambasel and mother of Menen who became married to Emperor Haile Selassie.  
 There were about 170 motor vehicles registered in Dessie in 1957.  
 Hourly surface meteorological observations at the airport were made by ICAO-trained observers.  
 Ato Zerufael Kidane was regional manager of Telecommunications at this time.
- 1958 The Seventh-Day Adventist Mission had its hospital at Dessie also in 1958.
- 1959 Provincial Governor General (in a formal sense representative of the Crown Prince) in 1959 was Dejazmach Demisse W. Amanuel.  
 The post as Provincial Director of Wello Teklay Gizat was vacant in 1959. Its Secretary General was Ato Ambaw Teferi. Mayor of Dessie city was Ato Takola Gabre Medhin. Sub-province Governor of Dessie awraja was Dejazmach Belai Alli.  
 Regional manager of Telecommunications (IBTE) in 1959 was Ato Zerufael Kidane (English and Italian speaking).
- 1960 An agreement signed with the American company RCA on 10 Sep 1960 concerned construction of several 1 kW radio transmitters in the provinces, of which one in Dessie. [News]  
 By 1960 Dessie had one of the ten municipal slaughter houses in Ethiopia.  
 At the end of 1960 nurse Alice Lind (b 1909) worked at the Tafari Makonnen Hospital, also 1962-April 1964. By January 1965 she had moved to Kuyera near Shashemene.  
 "The Selassie Leprosarium is set apart in a wide valley where cattle graze in pastures watered by springs and little streams. The offer of this lovely site near Dessie was made by the Crown Prince, at whose invitation the work was begun."  
 [H M Willmott p 77]
- 1962 The average daily traffic on the Kombolcha side in 1962 was 34 buses, 20 cars, and 46 trucks. Ditto on the Kwiha side was 20 buses, 15 cars, and 50 trucks.  
 An official estimate of 1962 gave the population as 43,145 but the 1965 census gave about 4,000 less. In any case there was no substantial increase. "The growth of Kombolcha has adversely affected the growth of Dessie."
- 1963 A new diesel-powered electric power station, costing Eth\$ 110,000 with a 14 km power line from Dessie to Kombolcha, was completed in 1963. [News]
- 1964 In early July 1964 buildings are said to have collapsed in Dessie because of earth tremor.



- 1965 According to the 1965 census the population was 39,080 of whom about 17,000 males and 22,000 females, including 810 male and 570 female foreigners. There were plenty of young people. Of the town population ten years of age and older, there were 11,550 men of whom 45.9% literate and 16,790 women of whom 11.9% literate. Concerning mother tongue, Amharic was very dominating, and even Tigrinya and Oromo were almost non-existent. There were 63% Orthodox Christians and 36% Muslims. There were found more married women than married men, indicating that men were away working somewhere else. Most of the households, though living in traditional-type houses, lived under corrugated sheet roofs. There were 3,900 owned, 5,850 rented, and 770 unspecified dwellings. Of these 6,270 used piped water, 940 water from wells and 3,240 from streams. 1.0% of the households had flush toilets, 47.3% had pit latrines, and 50.8% had none. 24% of the males and 28% of the females living there were born in the town. Dessie at that time had only two industrial establishments (1 food, 1 beverages). 259 establishments were classified as retail trade. The installed electrical capacity was 635 kVA and annual production a little over 200,000 kWh.
- 1966 In 1966 it was decided that the Ministry of Interior would design a master plan for Dessie, without engaging external consultants. Population as counted in 1967 was 40,619. Of these 72.7% were illiterate. There were about 250 telephone numbers, and of these about 60 were for personal names of Moslem type such as Abdulla, Ali, Ibrahim, Mohammed but which could be trading firms. Clearly foreigners seemed to be only Leonid Capitanalcos, Vicince Defabritis, Girolamo Fontinni, Pascale Greco, Sandro Parini, and Lodovico Valentiani, that is mostly Italians. Swedish Volunteer Service had one telephone. Mentioned in 1968 as one of four towns outside Addis Abeba and Eritrea having an automatic telephone exchange. "-- is the third largest city in Ethiopia -- It is actually hard to call Dessie a city or a town; rather it fits the description of 'overgrown village'. Though -- cramped in the small valley, its important position between the lowlands and the plateau -- has contributed to its growth -- In 1926 Ras Tafari captured Dessie and made it an important military and political centre. The first governor was Ras Imru; the Crown Prince, Asfa Wossen, replaced him and has held the post ever since." "The old Touring Hotel is the only hotel in Dessie -- it is usually empty and has a gloomy atmosphere. -- It is to the left /going northwards/ about two blocks from the main road. There are also a few local hotels on the piazza in the centre -- the buses stop overnight in Dessie -- The bus station is just north of the main piazza --" "Starting at the centre of Dessie, drive north on the main road past the sign for the turnoff to the Touring Hotel. The leprosarium is on the left at about two kms. Just beyond, a road to the left branches toward Magdala, Debra Tabor and Gondar, but this road is presently impassable. After passing the outskirts of Dessie, the road begins a descent over a partially asphalted surface which is fairly rough and requires slow speed. A small valley appears below, with a large military camp in the centre." [Welcome to Ethiopia, A.A. ca 1965 p 63-65]
- 1967 18 March 1967: "Because of the contortions of these mountains one first sees Dessie - hardly two miles away, but far, far below - about three hours before one arrives /from the north when riding/. After a long westward detour over the pass the road swings south-east, crosses a minor mountain and drops abruptly to the provincial capital." "-- we continued towards the Touring Hotel -- This enormous /Italian-built/, clean building is furnished with elaborate tastelessness and, to the extent that only two of its one hundred and four bedrooms are occupied tonight, it does perhaps justify the adjective gloomy. -- But the most valuable feature of the whole extraordinary establishment is its garden - some three acres of uncut grass, on which Jock /the mule/ is now gorging in the company of four bullocks, two sheep and five turkeys. This opulent grazing more than compensates for the fact that none of the taps in the innumerable bathrooms produces water

-- The Manageress is a blonde Italian woman, who was born sixty years ago in Eritrea. Universally known as 'Mamma', she is by far the fattest and one of the kindest people I have ever met."

"Dessie means 'My Joy', yet never have I seen such a depressingly ugly collection of human habitations. -- However, by switching off the current between eyes and brain it is possible eventually to derive some joy from Dessie. The friendly people seem much more outgoing than most highlanders and, despite its monstrous ugliness, I greatly prefer this city to alien Asmara. At least Dessie is genuinely Ethiopian."

[Dervla Murphy 1969 p 241-244 (1994 p 246-248)]

At Woizero Sihin School in 1967 there were Swedish volunteers Laila Ekman and Gunnar Åkerlund. By July 1969 there were four volunteers Sven-Olof Andersson, Bengt Axelsson, Laila Ekman (still), Erik Wiklander.

The official handbook of Ethiopia printed in 1969 says "lacking a good hotel, it has become overshadowed by Kombolcha as a stopping-off place for tourists. The only hotel is the Touring Hotel, which offers accommodation at moderate prices, but is gloomy and unattractive".

1968 According to official statistics published in 1968, population was 40,619. Of these 79% had Amharic as their mother tongue (possibly exaggerated because Oromo stated to be only 0.6%). 63% were Christian and 36% Muslim. In a census 1964-68 of urban centres, 270 Gurage were counted at Dessie.

Negus Mikael primary school in 1968 had 1065 boys and 750 girls, with 24 male and 6 female teachers.

Empress Menen primary school had 781 boys and 864 girls, with 24 male and 9 female teachers (unusual having more girls than boys).

Catholic Mission primary school had 261 boys and 119 girls, with 8 male teachers and one female (all Ethiopians).

Islam Community primary school had 368 boys and 187 girls, with 7 teachers.

Abune Tekle Haymanot church school had 232 boys and 167 girls in grades 1-6, with 12 teachers.

Woizero Sihin School in secondary education in 1958 had 66 male students, in 1960 it had 189 male and 10 female students. In 1968 it had 979 male and 252 female students in grades 7-12, with 69 teachers of which 37 foreign.

Of 81 students in grade 12 who sat for school leaving certificate in 1968 there were 17 who passed.

Among firms with seat in Dessie there was Azienda Agricola del Ciaffa, for red chillies, oil seeds, and general merchandise.

1972 "-- clinging to the sides of several steep hills, the city consist of a jumble of buildings and rocky alleys that would seem to defy any effort to introduce order -- I never passed through it when the streets were not crowded. Donkeys and horse-carts are more numerous than cars. Markets are busy most days of the week. -- in August 1972, Dessie was brightly decked out in bunting for the Crown Prince's annual summer visit and at the southern entrance to the city, where the Prince arrived after the drive from the airport, a red ceremonial arch had been raised over the road with the inscription /in Amharic/, 'Enter and Be Welcome, Light of Ethiopia!'"

[P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (USA 1977)A.A. 2001 p 45]

1973 In February 1973 a crowd of 1,500 peasants marched from Dessie to Addis Abeba to make the authorities notice the famine in Wello. They were stopped by police on the outskirts of the capital and forced to return.

[G Filseth, Jordan Brenner, Oslo 1974 p 92]

"Three senior members of the university in Addis Abeba -- set off for Dessie on 14 April 1973 to investigate about the famine. /They were Mesfin Wolde Mariam, Solomon Inquai and Seyyoum Gabre Egzieber./ They brought back with them pictures and a report of the grim conditions they had witnessed; the only encouraging story they had to tell was of the extent to which the better-off citizens - especially of Dessie, were making sacrifices to

help the pitiful thousands who were crowding into the larger towns."

"Students collected money and food and went to Dessie in May to arrange a meeting with the Governor-General. Troops were called out to stop their activities, and -- several of their number were shot dead. The Governor-General was shortly afterwards replaced."

"Only in May 1973 when the full impact of the disaster had been publicized did the Government set up an Emergency Committee."

[C Legum, Ethiopia ..., London 1975]

When a Children's Rehabilitation Programme in Wello was launched by the Haile Selassie I Foundation in April 1973 during a famine period, temporary shelters were established at Dessie and Kombolcha.

[Jansson, Harris & Penrose 1987 p 99]

Dejazmach Solomon Abraha was dismissed by the Emperor as Governor-General of Wello in June 1973 when details about the cover-up of facts about famine in that province started to be publicly known. 17 students had been killed in May in connection with demonstrations. Dejazmach Legesse Bezou was appointed Governor-General in July 1973. [News]

(Solomon Abraham was executed by the Derg in November 1974, as was also Legesse at the same time.)

Solomon Abraha officially had the title Acting Governor-General, because the Crown Prince was governor-general in a rather formal sense only, especially as he had had a stroke in January 1972 and was flown to London for treatment. Legesse Bezou was "a tough Minister of State".

[David Martin]

August 1973: "A quelques kilomètres de Dessie, il fallut nous frayer un passage à travers une véritables cour des Miracles avant de pouvoir pénétrer dans la ville. Des milliers de paysans, chassés de leurs terres par la famine, entouraient la capitale provinciale où, croyaient-ils, ils pourraient trouver du secours. Stoïquement, ils attendaient en groupes compacts, les uns assis, les plus malades allongés sur le sol. Tous trop faibles pour se révolter, pour protester."

"Dom Filippi, un rescapé de l'occupation mussolinienne, nous affirma dès notre arrivée que nous étions les premiers 'touristes' qu'il accueillait dans son hôtel depuis plusieurs mois. La situation est épouvantable, nous dit-il. Les paysans meurent par milliers. L'aide du gouvernement est insignifiante et Addis-Abeba semble ignorer ce qui se passe ici. Quelques Allemands et une dizaine de Suédois essayent de faire ce qu'ils peuvent, mais la catastrophe a dépassé toute mesure."

"Hailu se souvint qu'il connaissait une femme médecin, la première diplômée en Ethiopie. Elle avait décidé, deux mois auparavant, de quitter le confortable hôpital Hailé-Sélassié d'Addis-Abeba pour venir exercer à Dessié. Elle s'appelait Abebesh.

-- Abebesh nous expliqua qu'elle manquait de tout, et d'abord de plasma et de sang. 'Pour tout arranger, le gouverneur a menacé hier de m'emprisonner si je continuais à tenir des propos hostiles à l'égard du gouvernement. Si je veux poursuivre mon travail, il va falloir que je me tienne tranquille'."

"Elle nous raconta que, quelques semaines auparavant, les étudiants de Dessié avait manifesté dans les rues de la ville pour obtenir une aide de l'Etat. La police avait tiré, faisant huit morts. Depuis, une tension très vive régnait dans la ville. Plusieurs seigneurs locaux avaient été attaqués à leur domicile, leurs réserves de nourriture pillées."

"Abebesh nous demanda de continuer notre route vers le Tigré --"

[J-M Damblain, La tragédie du Négus, Paris 1977 p 17-21]

1974

Doctor Sture Lundgren with wife nurse Stina worked with children in famine camps in Wello. Through their initiative the newspaper Göteborgs-Posten started collecting money for relief and received almost Sw.Crs 2 million within six weeks. From this money was started CIRC, Children's Interim Reception Centre, in Dessie. The first children were brought there in March 1974, and there was place for 375.

Later pediatrician Tamerate Retta, nurse Inez Johansson and matron Erna Trolle (a midwife) worked there. Some children from the CIRC hospital/orphanage could be

brought to families and others were taken over by Terre des Hommes.

An intention had been to rent the empty hospital of the Seventh Day Adventists, but with plans for a permanent children's clinic in Dessie it was thought that ESBU could build premises in June 1975 as there was less school construction work for them during the rainy season.

[Berit Härd *in* Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1975 no 1 p 6-8]

- 1975 Population stated to be 56,849 in 1975. Only 16,6% of those living there in 1978 were born in Dessie, indicating that it was one of the really rapid-growing towns in Ethiopia. Spelling used by the post office was DESSIE around 1975.  
Inez Johansson returned to Dessie for GORF around August 1975.
- 1976 "A measure of the Dergue's desperation was seen in their bizarre attempt to recruit an armed peasant force in May 1976 to march into Eritrea -- In Wollo, scene of the 1973 famine disaster, each peasants' association was called on to supply between 20 and 40 men, and 17,000 were hastily trained in a camp near Dessie."  
[C Ledum, *Conflict in the Horn of Africa*, London 1977 p 55]  
One of the few major encounters between rebels and government forces took place north-west of Dessie in October 1976. Troops of the Derg fired into a large crowd of peasants marching on the provincial capital at the instigation of local landlords. Reports of the death toll vary widely, from several hundred to nearly a thousand.  
[M & D Ottaway 1978 p 83, 202 note 1]
- 1977 There were many incidents of violence in Ethiopia in 1977, and in one of these the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dessie was killed.
- 1978 There were petrol filling stations of Agip, Mobil, Shell, and Total (-1978-).
- 1980s Sheik Kenyazmach Taye Meshesha was leader of the Muslims in Wello.  
[Saeverås 1993]
- 1982 Torsten & Gun Cellander were stationed in Dessie for UNDP around 1982.  
Pastor/engineer John Isaksson (b 1926) & wife/nurse Ingeborg (b 1919) of the Swedish EFS Mission worked at Dessie in 1981-83 (they had previously worked in Bako).  
Responsible within the Mekane Yesus Church for this working area was Yalem-Tesfa Mengistu in 1981-86-, later Abebe Yohannes 1990-.  
The main hotel was called Ambassel around 1982, with 70 beds.  
Manager was Gebre Medhin Asfaw.
- 1985 The American doctor Pamela Sutton visiting on 17 August 1985:  
"The Ghion Hotel was full but we ate dinner there. Hardwood floors and quaint atmosphere suggested a ski resort. It was full of /foreigners/, likely from relief organizations."  
[P M Sutton, *Ethiopian journal*, USA 1986 p 138]
- 1987 Population 79,458 in 1987, almost a doubling in 20 years' time.  
/Late 1980s:/ "One morning, at dawn, I walked out of the valley, up the western ridge above the town. I stood in a grove of young shoulder-high eucalyptus -- The brown roofs of Dessie stained the valley below like a pool of stagnant water. I found it hard to believe that this was the country's fourth largest city."  
[Marsden-Smedley 1990 p 183]  
In October 1989 Dessie was almost taken by the TPLF/EPRDF.
- 1990 The Teacher Training Institute used Amharic as language in the 1990s.  
"Between March 15 and April 7, in Dessie town, soldiers killed 16 civilians, including two children. On at least some of the occasions, the soldiers were off-duty and had been drinking."  
[Evil days, USA (Africa Watch) 1991 p 270]  
In March 1990 the JRP, Joint Relief Partnership, began trucking food from government-controlled Dessie across the frontline to the rebel-held areas of northern Wello and Tigray. The consortium operated more than 100 trucks on the 400-kilometre run to Mekele, with the consent of both the Derg government and the TPLF.  
[Africa Economi Digest, 7 May 1990]
- 1994 Population 97,314 in 1994. According to another source it was 117,268 in October 1994,

- making Dessie the 6th largest provincial town in Ethiopia.
- 1995 Dessie, regional capital of Welo Kifle Hager, is spread over a small valley at the foot of the Tossa mountains.  
"The capital of Wolo is a large and rather charmless town, sprawling along the main road for a good 5 km. -- The town centre, though very old and decrepit, is compact and well-equipped. For most travellers, Dese offers little more than a convenient overnight stop."  
[Bradt 1995(1998)]  
The OAU Observer Group of 81 members were represented at the polling stations of Dessie and eleven other major towns at the elections on 7 May 1995.
- 1996 Spelling used by the post was DESSIE (-1996-).  
On 2 November 1996 it was reported via Berlin that Zekarias Negus, vice chairman of DMLE, Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Eritrea, had been murdered in Dessie by unidentified men using handguns. [News]
- 1997 There are domestic EAL flights between Dessie and Addis Abeba, Mekane Selam.  
See Kombolcha concerning the airport used for Dessie.
- 1998 "In 1998, a museum opened in the curious, Indian-built old governor's palace. It's open daily -- Exhibits include musical instruments, local arts and crafts, and regal and religious regalia. The captions are in Amharic only." [Lonely planet 2000 p 211]  
Wollo Bahil Amba is a run-down cinema from the Italian time, used as cultural centre.  
Ghion Ambassel Hotel is the government hotel; the largest private hotels are Dessie Hotel and Fasika Hotel; all three are at the north of the main street.  
Simpler places for night rest are Kabada Abagasi, National, Wanza, Ethiopia.  
[Äthiopien 1999 p 309]
- 1999 "Dessie is densely populated and crowded. It is squeezed between the attractive hills, and therefore has no room to grow. Dessie was passed over in favour of Bahir Dar as the Capital for Amhara Region. -- There are a few nice sights in Dessie. The church of Bete Maryam is on top of the hill which you pass as you enter Dessie from the south. There is a beautiful stand of juniper trees there preserved in the grounds of the church -- From the hilltop you get views not only over Dessie, but over the deep valley to the south. The valley is gated by unusually shaped rock outcrops.  
The ridge of mountains which borders Dessie on the north end is extremely inviting. -- Looking east you can almost see the Afar lowlands from there. Another walk -- was on the road north of Dessie 5 km to the next town of Tetu. Just outside of Dessie you walk by a number of burned-out tanks which attest to the heavy fighting between the EPRDF and the Derg in 1990 for possession of the city. --  
Downtown Dessie is so densely packed it is a bit of a nightmare. There are plenty of Derg era markings - like the gates over the roads with red stars and the painting on the walls of globes and doves and strong armed people. -- In March and April of 1999 busloads of poor peasants could be seen heading to Addis every day in desperate search for food and work. The streets were literally clogged with beggars. With the start of the rain most of the farmers were bussed back to the countryside by the government -- There are few places where a ferengi hears the tiresome 'you, you' quite so often, or must contend with such persistent and numerous beggars."  
"The nightclubs and Asmari bars of Dessie are quite renowned. Asmari singers, with their one stringed instruments, are incredibly clever at creating lyrics. -- local officials seem to discourage ferengis from going to most nightclubs, especially on the west end of town, because they are considered too rough.  
There are several good hotels in Dessie. The Ambaras is right on the main drag, with a big iron fence and attractive bright white front. The rooms are basic but fine, there is a nice bar with constant entertainment from CNN, an okay ferengi food restaurant and a very nice National Food restaurant around the back. -- Just west of the Ambaras on the opposite side is the older Faseka hotel, which has the faded glory characteristic of most government owned establishments. -- The Qualiber Hotel, which is known locally as the EDU in reference to its elitism, has a nice restaurant and rooms at good prices. It is on the second major road in town -- Also on the second road is the old palace of Ras Mikael --

The palace is run down and not easily accessible, and therefore not being exploited as a tourist spot."

"As you get to the edge of town on the North side there is a big mosque which has recently been completed. I watched it being built over a period of two years, with one long delay after the collapse of a dome which killed two. -- From the mosque, there is an attractive looking walk over some of the hills which skirt the Southern end of Dessie." [John Graham *in* AddisTribune 2000/02/11 and 2001/10/19]

"The road north of Dessie has been gradually deteriorating -- It is currently (Nov. 1999) very rough, with no prospect in sight for improvement. Apart from the great views which start as soon as you get past the burned out tanks to the north of Dessie, the first major site is 40 kms away in Hayk." [J Graham *in* AddisTribune 2000.02.18]

Minibuses run every 15 minutes to Kombolcha and the airport. There are flights daily to Addis Abeba and once a week to Gondar via Bahir Dar.

"The Fasika Hotel is much the best-value hotel in town -- The Royal Pension has adequate rooms -- The Ambaras Hotel has small but adequate singles and doubles -- It's better value than the old Ghion Ambassel Hotel."

There are petrol filling stations of Agip, Shell and Total.

[Lonely planet 2000 p 211, with simple town plan]

2000s Population about 119,600 in 2001, then the fifth largest town in Ethiopia (twenty years earlier it was said to be the fourth largest town). Distance 401 km from Addis Abeba.

Hotels around 2003 had capacity Amba Ras 20 rooms, Ambassel 25 rooms, Ethiopia 24 rooms, Fasika 34 rooms, Kualiber 14 rooms, Lalibela 20 rooms.

There is the headquarters of the North Ethiopia Area Work, a kind of equivalent of a synod.

Ambasel Trading House PLC for cotton export etc. has a branch also at Dessie.

2004 An avenue from the centre of Dessie to Shewa Ber was named after Sheik Mohammed Hussein Ali al-Amoudi. This multi-billionaire investor /disposing of money from the royal family in Saudi Arabia?/ was born in Dessie from an Ethiopian mother and a Saudi Arabian father. He grew up, however, in Weldiya at some distance to the north.

2005 In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the constituency of Dessie town, published as Dese Ketema, had 46 polling stations and 53,315 registered voters of whom 87% cast their votes.

Dominating party was CUD with 32,372 votes and candidate Ato Muhammed Ali Muhammed. Far behind was EPRDF with 6,284 votes and candidate Ato Kedir Muhammed Ahimed. The UEDF party received 480 votes. Two male and one female independent candidates received over 500 votes each. The 5,634 remaining votes are not explained.

[www.electionsethiopia.org]

After the elections there were student protest demonstrations in Dessie and other towns in early June 2005. Human Rights Watch obtained reports of mass arrests of students by police. Many of those detained were subsequently released, but not all. Some locally prominent members of the opposition party CUD were also arrested in Dessie by security forces.

[AddisTribune 2005/06/17]

#### **Dessie: Debre Betie**

Memhir Akale-Weld primary school in 1968 had 679 boys and 385 girls, with 19 male and 4 female teachers.

#### **Dessie: Hotie**

Seventh Day Adventist Mission primary school in 1968 had 66 boys and 55 girls, with 5 male teachers (Ethiopians).

#### **Dessie: Kedijo**

The primary school in 1968 had 227 boys and 44 girls in grades 1-5, with four teachers.

#### **Dessie: Tita**

Tita Meda is a grazing field about 2.5 km long. The Italians during the occupation in the 1930s had a provisional camp there with stores, garages, repair shops, etc. There was a road block in the neighbourhood.

[Guida 1938]

The primary school (in Dessie awraja) in 1968 had 219 boys and 84 girls, with six teachers.

- map Urban map 1:10,000 November 1961.
- texts H & D Hanson, For God and Emperor, USA 1958, p 34-38, 40-42  
wartime events at the Adventist mission station in 1935;  
Report on a survey of Dessie (Central Statistical Office) A.A. 1967;  
Asmarom Legesse & Seleshi Sisay, Famine in Wollo, (HSI University) A.A. 1973, 3 pages, mimeographed;  
Tekeste Melake, The early history of Dasse 1886-1941; B.A. thesis, A.A. University, 1984;  
Seid Kemal, A history of the Shawabar mosque in Dasse 1940-1995; B.A. thesis, A.A. University, 1995;  
Solomon Messele, A history of Dasse Madhane-Alem church 1912-1996; B.A. thesis, A.A. University, 1996.
- picts G Gudmundsen, 14 år bland .., Sthlm 1936 p 112, 120  
mission hospital;  
S Tillge-Rasmussen, Abessinien .., Köbenhavn 1936 p 81 parade of the Imperial Guard near Dessie, 113 camp of foreign war reporters, 128-129 effects of bombing, 145 Emperor visits wounded at hospital;  
Ethiopia Observer vol XI /1967/ no 4 p 263 Gerald Burgoyne with five Red Cross doctors in late 1935;  
J H Spencer, Ethiopia at bay, USA 1984 p 22 Lorenzo Taezaz and John Spencer awaiting Italian air raid in January 1936;  
U Caimpenta, L'Impero Italiano .., Milano 1936 p 81 parade of Badoglio;  
Gli annali .., anno I vol II, Roma Aug 1938 p 446-447[8]  
arrival of General Teruzzi at the airport;  
A B Svensson, Abessinien under italienarna, Sthlm 1939 p 89  
Italian buildings, 176 Casa Littoria;  
L'Industria in A.O.I., Roma 1939 p 36-37[1] Casa del Fascio, 70 part of road down to Kombolcha;  
Gli annali .., anno III vol I, Roma 1940 p 692-693[4-5]  
agricultural training at school for Ethiopian children, school children marching, 732-733[3] provisional court building, 828-829[2] lodging camp, civil hospital, infirmary, military hospital, 916-917[5] Casa del Fascio;  
Gli annali .., anno IV vol 4, Roma 1941 p 1164-1165[9]  
Albergo CIAAO exterior and interiors;  
P Hartlmaier, Amba Ras, Frankfurt am Main 1953 pl 49 crowd of sitting people;  
Liberation Silver Jubilee, A.A. 1966 p 84 headquarters of governorate-general, p 273 hospital;  
R W Solberg, Miracle in Ethiopia, New York 1991 p 112-113[5]  
food relief truck convoy and tent warehouses for storing food;  
Camerapix guide 1995 p 68-69 wide view of town w Tossa mountain;  
Steven Gish, Ethiopia, New York 1996(1999) p 80  
entrance of Beethoven Music Shop

JFB13 Desso, see Dess

JEB76	Det Bahari 11°35'/41°16' 362 m, south of Awash (with plantation at some distance to the south)	11/41	[Gz]
JEC83	Detale (waterhole)	11/41	[WO]
JEP65	Detoli, see Dathale		
HED98	Dettera c3200 m, cf Datara	11/38	[Gu]
JED11	Deualle, see Dewele		
HED21	Deva 11°07'/37°38' 2195 m, cf Dava, Deba	11/37	[Gu Gz]
HEK90	Deva, see under Gondar	12/37	[WO]
JEN67	Deva		
HEC94	Devach Aura, see Debach Awra		
HEC88	Devangi (Devanghi, Debanji) 11°35'/37°24' (area) see under Bahir Dar	11/37	[+ WO n]
HES55	Devark, see Debark		
HEB90c	Devil Mountain 80 km north-east of Guba in Gojjam. Traces of gold have been found in laterites which cover an area of about 100 m in diameter. [Mineral 1966]	11/35	[Mi]
??	Devil's bridge (Pont du Diable) Natural bridge at some distance north of Were Himeno. The missionary Massaia mentions it after having crossed there in the 1840s. <i>devra</i> (A as written by Henry Salt) = <i>debre</i> ; <i>tai</i> = <i>tsehay</i> ?		
HEC73	Devrasina, see Debre Sina		
HEC55	Devratai, see Debre Tsehay		
HEC55	Devrilai .., see Debre Lai ..		
??	Dewa (in the Borana region?) In late 2001 Dewa was off-limits for UN staff because of tribal clashes in the area.	04/39?	[20]
HDK99	Dewa (with church) 09°55'/38°22' 2528 m see under Tulu Milki, cf Dawa ..	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDU23	Dewa 10°09'/39°38' 3028 m	10/39	[Gz]
H...	Dewarach sub-district (centre in 1964 = Dewarach Giyorgis)	10/37	[Ad]
HEK45	<i>Dewaro</i> (Kullo), a sub-division of the Ometo ethnic group <b>Dewaro</b> (Doaro, Däwaro, Dawaro) 09°51'/39°44' 3264 m, cf Suk Dewaro Lowlands between Webi Shebele and the Harar plateau.	09/39	[Gz WO Pa x]
early	Medieval time: Däwaro made use of small pieces of iron called <i>hakuna</i> , which served as primitive money. [Pankhurst 1997]		
1300s	"Of the other Muslim-Sidama kingdoms, Dawaro was situated south of Shoa, bordering on Ifat on the right bank of the Hawash, stretching southwards as far as the river Webi which marked the border with the neighbouring state of Bali. Dawaro therefore corresponded roughly to the present Arusi region. Although not as large as Ifat it is said to have been able to raise an army equal to that of Ifat." [Trimingham, Islam in Ethiopia, 1952 p 67]		
1320s	In 1328 Amde Seyon invaded Ifat and captured its sultan. But Sabr ed Din allied himself with the Dewaro and the Hadiya. Amde Seyon remained victorious, occupied the Dewaro area, and Sabr ed Din was humiliated in 1335. [J Doresse, L'empire .., Paris 1957 vol II p 92] "Däwaro -- had become part of the Christian empire in early medieval times. Saint Täklä Haymanot reputedly had some influence in the area. -- Emperor 'Amdä Seyon /1312- 1342/ -- proceeded to garrison Däwaro. -- 'Amdä Seyon's rule was, however, challenged in the late 1320s, when Haydära, referred to in the royal chronicle as the province's -- governor, rebelled. -- 'Amdä Seyon, incensed by this act of rebellion, at once set out with		



- his troops. On reaching Däwaro, he captured Haydära, and -- 'laid waste the country from one end to the other'. He killed young men, took prisoner women and children, seized livestock, and destroyed the crops --" [Pankhurst 1997 p 69-70]
- 1420s Emperor Yeshaq, in or after 1424, fought with Sultan Jämal ad-Din Muhammäd. The Emperor's force, said to include 7,000 archers and swordsmen, were put to flight. "The Adäl ruler -- subsequently launched a major attack on the Emperor's army. -- The Emperor and the remainder of his men fled to the Blue Nile area -- /Jämal ad-Din/ then sent his brother Ahmäd, with Harb Jaush, on an expedition to Däwaro, before returning home in triumph." [Pankhurst 1997 p 58]
- 1460s On Fra Mauro's Venetian map of 1460, *P.Davaro* is placed to the south-east of Awash river. [Pankhurst 1997 p 118]
- "When Zär'a Ya'qob /1433-1468/ was confronted with insubordination on the part of his troops in Däwaro, he thus despatched them to Adäl."
- "Däwaro, a largely Christian province -- was still under imperial rule -- as evident from the fact that Zär'a Ya'qob appointed a governor for the province. -- Zär'a Ya'qob, angered by Däwaro complicity in the rebellion /in Hadeya/, ordered the people of Adäl to ravage the province. -- Mähiko's army was defeated -- To strengthen his control over Däwaro the Emperor stationed *chäwa* /troops/ in the province. They were, however, later guilty of insubordination, on which account Zär'a Ya'qob placed many additional soldiers in the area."
- "Däwaro remained under imperial rule during the ensuing reign of Bä'edä Maryam /1468-1478/. On acceding to the throne he appointed a governor for the province, and gave him the prestigious title of Ras. During a further revolt he ordered the *chäwa* in both Bali and Däwaro to march into Adäl while he himself made his way to Däwaro."
- 1480s "Däwaro in the late fifteenth century was the scene of considerable religious disputations between adherents of Christianity and Islam. Missionaries of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church were particularly active during the reign of Eskender /1478-1494/. The principal proselytiser was one of Saint Täklä Haymanot's many disciples, a monk called Täsfa Hezan, who became known as Zä-Däwaro." [Pankhurst 1997 p 133-134]
- 1500s "The most important figure in the Muslim territory -- in the first decades of the sixteenth century was Ahmäd Ibrahim al-Ghazi (lived 1506-1543), today better known as Ahmäd Grañ, in Amharic the Left-Handed. -- /In Harar/ they learnt, according to the *Futuh*, that one of Emperor Lebnä Dengel's governors, Fanil or Fanu'él, of Däwaro, had undertaken a pillaging expedition. -- On learning of this Ahmäd and his companions rushed against the infidels --" [Pankhurst 1997 p 165]
- 1520s "The Christian province of Däwaro, because of its location in the east and its relative proximity to Adäl was one of the first to feel the weight of Ahmäd's campaigns. After an initial raid into Fätägär in 1526-7 the Imam carried out several forays into Däwaro. In one of the first his men -- took considerable booty -- The raiders planned to return to their country, but were obliged to fight a further battle, as the 'infidels of Däwaro', i.e. its Christian leaders, assembled a massed army against them. This force was subsequently defeated."
- "In a later expedition -- on their journey home /from Wämbärya/ they were attacked by the Däwaro chiefs and soldiers, but these were later beaten at a place called Zämit. -- Imam Ahmäd -- /after March 1529/ later crossed the Wäbi River once more into Däwaro. Encountering no armed resistance, he seized many prisoners, and extensive loot. -- Its Christian governor, Abél, offered stiff resistance, but was soon captured. The provincial governor, Ras Näbiyat (or Bänyat) -- assembled a large army to block their advance. A truce, the first of several in the campaign, was, however, arranged by Abél. It allowed the invaders to pass through the province unmolested, in return for a promise that they would spare its royal churches. Notwithstanding this agreement Näbiyat and a number of Däwaro chiefs continued the fight against Ahmäd's forces."
- 1530s "-- the Imam decided, in 1530, to embark on the more permanent occupation of Däwaro. Early in the ensuing campaign he again advanced into the area, and reached the province's northern districts. Lebnä Dengel -- ordered Bahr Sägäd, the son of one of the territory's

chiefs, and his commander Wäsän Sägäd -- to dig a defensive trench -- The Imam, however, turned northwards and, leaving Däwaro, proceeded to Antokya in Ifat. There in February 1531 he achieved a decisive victory over Lebnä Dengels's army. -- Most of the Däwaro soldiers were among those who went home."

Ahmäd again attacked the Emperor's men and defeated them decisively on 31 March. "He proceeded to Qanburah, situated above the principal Däwaro market. Its inhabitants were Muslims, subject to the Däwaro governor, to whom they paid tribute. They received the Imam, as their co-religionary, with respect and honour. Ahmäd's men remained at Qanburah for a week -- Around this time the Imam -- arrived at 'Andurah -- they burnt the church to the ground [see under Andurah]. Ahmäd and his men stayed in 'Andurah for six days, during which time they also made a number of expeditions into various parts of Däwaro, on foot and on horseback. They once more seized much booty and captives."

"Lebnä Dengel meanwhile -- called on one of his most trusted followers, Täklä Iyäsus, the ruler of Tegräy -- appointed him to the additional post of governor of Däwaro, and ordered him to rush to his new fiefdom -- Täklä Iyäsus duly set forth for Däwaro -- Despite the size of this army Ahmäd easily outmanoeuvred and defeated it, inflicting heavy casualties. Täklä Iyäsus was among the many killed."

"After this victory the Imam decided to bring Däwaro under permanent occupation. The province's Christian inhabitants, on learning this, were much alarmed --"

"Ahmäd and his men were far from confident about their occupation of Däwaro. They realised that they had not yet brought the territory under effective control. The Imam, who was then at Däbrä Berhan in Shäwa, asked his chiefs in 1532 whether he should despatch a further expedition to Däwaro. One of his principal advisers -- explained that the country between Awash and Wäbi Rivers -- had not yet been converted to Islam. He therefore urged Ahmäd not to send an army to Däwaro, but rather to go to the province in person -- He declared that if the Imam went to Däwaro, even for a day, a thousand horsemen from Bali and Hadeya would rally to his support, but that there was little point at that stage in the Muslims establishing themselves in those provinces. -- The Imam subsequently despatched another commander, Amir Hosayn, and twelve chiefs to Däwaro. They were accompanied by 600 horsemen and numerous foot soldiers who were well equipped, some of them wearing coats of mail. -- they learnt that three Christian nobles, Safu, son of Wäsän Sägäd, Fanu'él, and Amha, had established themselves in Däwaro. Ahmäd's soldiers without further ado rushed forward to confront them, whereupon the terrified Däwaro nobles fled to Sari-bär, and the Imam's men occupied the abandoned Christian camp."

"Faced by Abu Bäkr's advance the Däwaro people, who were governed by fifty Christian nobles, finally agreed to adopt Islam. The Imam, much pleased with their conversion, appointed one of his followers, Gärad Jushu, as governor of the province. -- all the inhabitants had, at least temporally, become Muslims. The province had a revered Qadi, by name Adam ibn Abi Bäkr."

"The Imam subsequently despatched one of his commanders, Amir Hosayn, to Däwaro, whereupon the province's nobles fled. Ahmäd's forces proceeded to Joraji, above the market of Suq-Däwaro, and their general, Amir Abu Bäkr, destroyed a nearby church. The inhabitants agreed to embrace Islam, and the Imam appointed another of his followers, Gärad Jushu, as the province's governor. He was replaced in 1540 by Ahmäd's son Nasradin, who was succeeded in turn by the Imam's nephew Vizier 'Abbas. The latter was, however, soon defeated and killed by Emperor Gälawdéwos, who had by then obtained the support of the Portuguese, after which Muslim power in Däwaro crumbled." [Pankhurst 1997 p 222-223]

Dawaro fell to the Muslims in August 1532. The Christian force was wiped out by Wazir Adole, the Muslim general who became the first governor of Bali.

[Mohammed 1994 p 22]

Oromo invaded parts of Dewaro in 1538-1546 and 'all of Dewaro' including the Harar plateau in 1547-1554, when they also started to take tribute.

[J Hultin 1982]

- 1540s "The victorious Christian Emperor, Galawdewos (1540-1559) ordered his famous regiment, Adal Mabraq, to stop the Oromo advance. Unfortunately for Galawdewos, it was already too late. The Kilole gada defeated and drove Adal Mabraq out of lowland Dawaro in 1545."
- "The importance which the Imam attached to Däwaro is apparent from the fact that he entrusted its government, around 1540, to his son Nasradin. The latter, according to an Ethiopian royal chronicle, had a sizeable army of about a thousand cavalymen and ten thousand infantry."
- "Many men of Däwaro -- fled the province to continue the war. One such was the province's Azmach, or governor -- This chief, and another exiled nobleman who accompanied him, sported two banners, and had a force of a hundred and fifty horsemen and a thousand foot. The two men proudly declared that they were vassals of Gälawdéwos, and that they had come to assist his resistance to the invader."
- "Meanwhile in Däwaro itself the two armies, though unequal in numbers, fought fiercely. The Imam's soldiers were at first victorious, and killed several of Gälawdéwos's chiefs. The young monarch, however, did not lose hope but, particularly after the coming of military assistance from the Portuguese, determined to seek his revenge. He accordingly re-entered Däwaro, spent the rainy season in the area, and constructed a winter, as well as a summer, palace there."
- "Several Muslim chiefs -- were defeated by Gälawdéwos's soldiers. -- Nasradin attacked them, but was defeated. Thousands of his warriors perished, after which his power speedily declined.
- Control of the area later passed to Ahmäd's nephew Vizier 'Abbas, who ruled for a short time over Däwaro -- After the Imam's defeat and death in battle in 1543 he launched a fierce attack on a number of Christian towns, but Gälawdéwos made his way to Wäj to confront him. -- 'Abbas, with all his captains, perished by the sword, and the birds of prey, we are told, feasted on their flesh. Those of his followers who escaped became the prey of the local Däwaro populace, who killed all they could find." [Pankhurst 1997 p 171-182]
- "After the Imam's death in 1543 a rebellion against his government soon erupted on one of /Ifat's/ mountains. The insurgents, who were joined by a group of Gälawdéwos's soldiers, took the field against the Muslim leadership. Ahmäd's son Nasradin, the ruler of Däwaro, attacked them, but they defeated him -- after which Adäl rule rapidly collapsed." [Pankhurst 1997 p 196]
- "After Imam Ahmäd's defeat Emperor Gälawdéwos faced problems with the Portuguese -- At about the same time he exiled the Portuguese adventurer-cum-prelate João Bermudes and a number of his companions to Däwaro. -- The Emperor's banished allies were thus turned in effect into a frontier garrison.
- The Portuguese were accompanied by an Indian, Ayres Dias, or Diz, whom Bermudes refers to as a 'mulatto' from Coimbra. Known in Ethiopia as Marqos he had accompanied the earlier Portuguese diplomatic expedition of the 1520s, and had learnt Amharic. -- he had gained the favour of Gälawdéwos, who had pressed the Portuguese to appoint him as their commander. The Emperor was so favourably disposed to him that he reportedly gave him Deneya Ambära, the widow of a prominent Adäl chief, and later appointed him as governor of Däwaro and Bali.
- The presence of the Portuguese -- displeased the Emperor's provincial governor, Khalid. The latter -- had embraced Islam but -- reverted to his earlier faith. -- He was the ruler not only of Däwaro, but also of Bali, and was allied to the chief of nearby Hadeya. From these three territories he collected a large force -- with whom he attempted to surprise the Portuguese -- As soon as the assault began, they shot and killed Khalid, after which most of his supporters became their vassals. --"
- "Gälawdéwos's chronicle makes no mention of these events. It merely states that after the Muslim defeat the monarch proceeded to Däwaro, where he constructed a palace at a place called Agräro. His stay in the area was not, however, peaceful. Some of the neighbouring Muslims soon rebelled, and advanced into the province's lowlands. The Emperor's governor fought and defeated them, killing a large number of their soldiers. He

captured the king of Adäl's brother, Del Wäraḅa Got, and 'Ali Gärad, the son of Imam Ahmäḁ's widow Bati Del Wänḅärä. They were both taken to the Emperor, together with much booty -- Not long afterwards, around 1547-8, Gälawḁwos named Fanu'él, one of his principal commanders, as governor of Däwaro and the areas dependent on it." [Pankhurst 1997 p 241-242]

1540s "A notable turning-point in the Oromo migration took place, according to Bahrey, during the time of his fourth *luba* Bifolé (1546-1554) -- It was then, he says, that the Oromos, advancing further, devastated all Däwaro --" [Pankhurst 1997 p 282]

1570s On a map published by Ortelius at Antwerp in 1570, as well as on one published at the Hague in 1599 the name of Däwaro is written *Doara*. [Pankhurst 1997 p 248+254]  
 "The Oromos, taking with them vast herds of cattle, later advanced into Wäj. -- Särsä Dengel responded, in 1574, by marching south. His men launched an immediate assault, killing a vast number of Oromo warriors, but sparing the women and children. The soldiers then drove the invaders back into Fätägär and Däwaro, and took little interest in the cattle, until their return journey when each man -- seized as many as five hundred or a thousand head. The peasantry took as many animals as they wished, but still left not a few behind." [Pankhurst 1997 p 326]

"After the rains of 1579 Särsä Dengel planned to repulse the Oromos in Däwaro -- His chronicle explains this delicately, stating that -- it was not God's will that it should be realised. The proposed campaign was thus abandoned. -- The Oromo occupation of Däwaro was thus no longer much contested. Many people from the province fled northwards. [Pankhurst 1997 p 325]

HE... Dewasa (near lake Tana) 11/37 [x]  
 Norden writes /p 178/ that Dewasa was near Jenda and that the local Waito people were dividing among themselves a killed hippo there.

picts H Norden, *Durch Abessinien ..*, Berlin 1935/?/  
 p 176,177,192 village and travellers' camp

JEA04 Dewe, see Dawe  
 dewele: *dewwele* (däwwälä) (A,T) to ring a bell;  
*Duwaale, Dualeh, Ducaale* are Somali names

JED11 **Dewe** (Dawanle, Dauanle/h/, Duanle, Douénle) 11/42 [Gz Po x Gu]  
 (Deualle, Dewelie) 11/42 [Ad WO]

11°00'/42°40' or 11°06'/42°38' 774/1033 m  
 Railway stn, sub P.O. under Dire Dawa.  
 Sub-district & its centre in 1964.

geol First railway station inside Ethiopia, 8 km from the border and 108 km from Djibouti.  
 Gypsum is excavated near the station. It is amorphous, grey to white in colour, and used in the factory in Dire Dawa for the manufacture of cement and plaster of Paris.  
 [Mineral 1966]

1900s Construction of the Djibouti railway reached inside Ethiopia in August 1900 at Dewele.  
 Gare de Daouanlé, 26 décembre 1900: - "Je couche dans la chambre du télégraphe et du téléphone. Dès cinq heures du matin il nous faut mettre en route le train qui descend sur Djibouti; à onze heures ou midi, il en arrive un autre. Entre deux, se sont les borderaux à établir, les marchandises à enregistrer ou à livrer, la police à faire entre les Issas et les Danakils qui commencent à fréquenter la station."  
 [Hugues Le Roux p 92-94]

The Rosen party of Germans arrived by special train from Djibouti on 8 January 1905, and saw that there was a kind of Ethiopian border garrison, although the soldiers were dressed in local-culture clothes and not in uniforms. A meal was served in the place operated by a Greek:

"-- die Kantine, eine kleine Bude aus Brettern und Brettchen, deren Bauart fast an die Somalihütten erinnert. Aber der Zaun und das ganze Häuschen sind von Schlinggewächsen überrankt, und durch einen Wall von Laub und Blüten betritt man das

innere. -- Und was kann man hier nicht alles kaufen! Kleider, Wäsche, Lebensmittel, Waffen, Munition, Werkzeuge. Aber vor allem Schnaps -- Eine ganze Wand bedecken Likörflaschen." The Greek had also cut out pictures and decorated empty surfaces with them.

[F Rosen, Eine deutsche ..., Leipzig 1907 p 15-16]

Friedrich von Kulmer had lunch there on 21 May 1907 at 10.30 a.m. He was told about the many difficulties, one of them being such quantities of grasshoppers that the engine of the train might stop.

[F von Kulmer, Im Reiche ..., p 28]

In 1907, the Englishmen Bentley and Wells drove a Siddeley motorcar from Djibouti/Zeila to Addis Abeba. They feigned to go to Jeldesa first but headed for Dewele on the railway instead, to mislead potential robbers.

"Douanlai had once been the terminus of the railway from Jibouti. Caravans had converged here to trans-ship their goods. An enterprising Greek had set up a store and a palisaded corral for camels. A few huts had been built for a couple of dozen men of the Ethiopian frontier guard. Now Douanlai's main importance was gone; but the nomads still came here to trade."

"The post erupted into life at the same moment as those in the car caught sight of it. -- As he drove up, a ragged line of soldiers executed an evolution which Bentley took to be a present-arms. -- In dress they were almost indistinguishable from civilians. -- Only their modern rifles and bandoliers showed that they were doing duty as soldiers. The sole exceptions were the officers, who carried round, silver-mounted shields. The officer in charge at Douanlai and the Greek trader introduced themselves as Captain Makonnen and Mr. Giorgi, respectively. -- Giorgi had lived in Ethiopia for fifteen years, so had never seen /a motorcar/, though his English was fluent. Captain Makonnen ushered his visitors into the store. *Tedj*, the Ethiopian national drink, was set before them."

[T R Nicholson, A toy for the Lion, London 1965 p 67-68]

A threatening crowd of Isas gathered. They succeeded to bring the motorcar inside the corral and to reach the British consul Michaeledis at Dire Dawa by telephone. They defended themselves until a train with reinforcement of about fifty soldiers arrived and settled the conflict, even killing some Isas.

[Nicholson p 69-76]

1930s Post, telegraph, cafeteria.

In late May 1935 the Italian courier Bazzani bringing mail from Djibouti to the Italian legation in Addis Abeba was told by the chief of customs at Dewele (Daouanle) that he had orders from the Ethiopian consulate in Djiboputi to make Bazzani return. There were also several other incidents about this time at Dewele concerning Italian subjects who wanted to enter Ethiopia.

When war correspondents started to arrive, Ladislas Farago was one of them.

"The green, gold and red national flag flaps from a high staff. Great strapping policemen were waiting for the train. These station police are a ragged lot dressed in miserable uniforms. On their shoulders they carry rifles of the pre-flood period which Menelik got in return for the railway concession. However, they keep wonderful order on the platform." It took three hours to pass the entry control and to bribe for a visa instead of the one in Farago's passport which the official could not understand.

[L Farago, Abyssinia ..., London 1935 p 16-17]

"There was no platform. A small corrugated iron building served as ticket office, waiting-room and Customs shed. There was no inspection of baggage but three formidable-looking Abyssinians in uniform came along to our compartment and inspected our passports. One of them, who looked slightly more formidable than his colleagues, looked hard at the photograph in my passport and paid me the supreme compliment of not recognizing me by it. -- Finally he passed it to his two assistants who stamped another superb design in Amharic lettering alongside the lions and crowns and angels."

[G Harmsworth, Abyssinian adventure, London 1935 p 168]

Anton Zischka saw an old Greek who seemed to have lost all interest in life:

-- Grenzstation, die wie fast alle andern Haltestellen nur aus ein paar zerfallenen Lehmhütten besteht, aus einem Wasserturm und einem Wellblechhangar, kann man noch einen der ersten /Eisenbahnarbeiter/ sehen -- Einen alten Griechen, der hier seit dreissig Jahren lebt, hier tagein tagaus lebt, nie in das nahe Diredaau geht -- Der Grieche von Dauenle spricht nicht. Er blickt immer nur auf den Boden. -- In schmutzigen, zerfetzten Leinenkleidern hockt der Grieche hinter irgendeiner Kiste, im magern Schatten irgendeines Warenstapels. -- Die Einsamkeit hat sein Interesse an der Welt langsam ausgelöscht."  
[A Zischka, Abessinien, Leipzig 1935 p 97-98

1950s Administration on the Djibouti and Ethiopia side along the railway compared in the early 1950s: "Tard dans la nuit, nous atteignons la frontière éthiopienne, marquée par une lanterne somnolente et un petit drapeau accroché à une hutte en pisé. Des graves Ethiopiens bouleversent les bagages et discutent entre eux sérieusement sur chaque passeport. Nous n'avons plus devant nous les employés de Somalie française, polis et souriants, mais des gens qui sont maîtres sur leur propres terres."  
[J Buchholzer, Le pays des visages brûlés, Paris 1955 p 10  
(Danish-language edition Copenhagen 1954 p 8]

1960s When the train enters the border station of Douala there is a quite new view. Not that the landscape is different and not much the primitive stone dwellings, but people look different. Police, which were hardly seen on the Djibouti side, there are plenty of, some with rifles, some with boy-scout hats. The chief of customs, an old man, was dressed in traditional Ethiopian dress and spoke no language except his own. The author's expedition (diplomatically prepared in advance) succeeded to avoid inspection of their luggage at Dewele but it was more difficult at Aysha.  
[J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Stockholm 1966 p 19]

1990s A film about an Ethiopian man going by train from Djibouti to Addis Abeba was made in 1994. The train was very full of people, mostly women trading in Ethiopian markets. They used to go often and almost maintained that they had 'reserved seats' so it was a little tricky for the occasional traveller to sit down among them. There were also many young people on the roofs of the waggons, most of them without ticket and visa, so they had to get off at the Ethiopian border and start walking back on foot. The film shows that the sign at the station is still *Daoenle* and that there remains some French influence such as people playing *boule*. There was no electricity in Dewele. Customs inspection was by hand torches inside the crowded waggons, and a small boy was used to climb up and search near the wagon roof. The film shows rather empty landscape when continuing inside Ethiopia.

[Impressions from the film]

2000 "Ethiopians who once lived in Djibouti and worked in various sectors have sent out an appeal for assistance after being displaced following the attempted coup in Djibouti in December /2000/. After an indiscriminate swoop by the armed forces on Ethiopian men, women, children -- Ethiopian citizens were taken to prison before they managed to collect what they have left outside their houses. -- After two days they were forced to settle in the border town of Dewele after being bundled into every form of land transport available at the time. Neither the federal government nor the Ethiopian embassy in Djibouti are concerned with the plight of their citizens, displaced without any precondition from Djibouti -- Secret agents involved in the swoop were heard saying at the time that the Djibouti government was forced to take such vengeful action against innocent citizens because it had suspected that Ethiopia had a hand in the attempted coup."

[nespaper Tobbya 8 February 2001]

There seems to be a postmark using spelling DWELE (-2002-).

pict A Zischka, Abessinien, Leipzig 1935 p 249 landscape along the railway a little inside from the border

JD...	Dewero sub-district (centre in 1964 = Ali), cf Dawera	09/42	[Ad]
HDU42	Dewes 10°20'/39°31' 2908 m	10/39	[Gz]
HEU23	Deweyto 12°52'/39°42' 1872 m	12/39	[Gz]
GDF54	Dewi (Conchi) (mountain) 08°41'/34°42' 2167 m	08/34	[Gz]
??	Dewi Rahmedo sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
J....	Dewie (centre in 1964 of Wedeyirahmedi wereda)	10/40	[Ad]
HEL76	Dewrela 12°24'/38°58' 2346 m <i>dey</i> (Som) glance, look	12/38	[Gz]
HDM70	Dey (Dei), see under Mendida	09/39	[+ WO]
HDK89?	Dey Giyorgis (Day G., Däy G.) (church) Zena Marqos (also known as Debre Bisrat) monastery is situated on the western slopes of a table-mountain, some 10 km to the south-west of the small town Yinnowari on the road from Debre Birhan to Jyihur. On the flat top of this mountain, some 2.0 x 0.5 km wide, right in the centre, an ancient religious community lives in a small village surrounded by wild olive trees that are centuries old. At the western end of the village there is a small recent church, consecrated in 1968. The church is called Dey Giyorgis. Following the custom of the country the village bears the same name. At a distance of a few metres from the new church there are ruins of a far older construction. These ruins are of interest because there are only a few pre-1500s constructions still found in Shewa. The ruins were discovered accidentally by S. Chojnacki in December 1967. According to villagers some foreigners visited before 1936. The Italians during the occupation did not visit the place, and there has been no later foreign visitor in Dey Giyorgis. The ruins as they are now consist of the base of the northern wall and part of the western wall, both up to one and a half metres high. The northern wall is 22 metres long and its boundary corners can still be seen. There are three steps finely cut, each 24 cm high, with an elaborate frieze on their top. The frieze is decorated with a 'rope' pattern. It does not appear that any kind of mortar was used. According to local tradition the old church was built by Emperor Esbenay (1430-1433) and was destroyed by Ahmed Grañ in the 1500s. In the treasury of the new church some very old pieces of church paraphernalia are kept. The 'rope' pattern and other ornamentation corresponds especially with Enselale in Eastern Shewa and less convincingly with Mertule Maryam. Did new builders with new ideas and new skills appear in the country at a certain time? [Journal of Eth. Studies, vol VII no 2, July 1969 p 43-52 with 8 photos]	09/38?	[x]
HBF90	Deye (Tulu Deye) 03°34'/39°21' 1220 m	03/39	[Gz]
HDK89	Deye 09°47'/38°25' 2524 m (with church Giyorgis) Deye, see under Gebre Guracha, cf Daye, same as the Dey Giyorgis described above?	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL79	Deyi 09°42'/39°20' 2684 m	09/39	[Gz]
HED70	Deyma (Dema) 11°35'/37°32' 1881 m	11/37	[Gz WO Gu]
HDJ67c	Deyo	09/37	[LM]
HDL53	Deyo	09/38	[AA]
HDL98	Deyo sub-district (centre in 1964 = Inewari) 09°05'/39°14' 2510 m	09/39	[Ad Gz]
HDK38	Deyu 09°22'/38°15' 2478 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL42	Deyu 09°25'/38°40' 2471 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL53	Deyu 09°35'/38°45' 2535 m	09/38	[Gz]
HFF04	Deza, see Desia		
HDT59	Dgolo, see Degolo		
??	Dhaama (in the Hana area of the Omo zone) A chief Tugoloni died, and his tomb was made of large stones at a place called Chobur	../..	[n]

JDC25	near Dhaama. [K Fukui] Dhalla (area) <i>dhallaan</i> (Som) baby, infant	08/42	[WO]
JEC40	Dhamali, see Damahale		
JCS40	Dhana, see Dunnan		
JDK13	Dhandi, see Dandi		
HDF00	Dhera, see Dera		