gir (A) trained /animal/

HDD42 Gir (Ghir) 08/37 [+ WO]
gir ali: girr ale (A) fly in flocks /birds/, depart in masses /people/

KBN93 Gir Ali (area) 05/45 [WO]

HFF22 Gir Hader 13°46′39″34′ 1991 m 13/39 [n]
gira, gra (A) left hand, left direction

HDE24 Gira, see Jira

HF... Gira Aras 14/39? [Ad]
(center in 1964 of Tsehaf Werd sub-district)

HES28 Gira Felase 12°52′38″19′ 2211 m 12/38 [MS]

HEM91 Gira Gowa 12°37′39″28′ 2532 m 12/39 [n]

HEU53 Gira Tserhi 13°07′39″42′ 1911 m 13/39 [MS]

HDT93 Girafgotet, see Jirafgotet

?? Girage (visiting postman under Jimma) ../.. [Po]

HE... Giragne Meda [=Grañ Meda?] 11/39 [Ad]
(sub-district, centre in 1964 = Asgedo)

HEM93 Giragoba (Ghiragoba) 12°37′39″38′ 1628 m 12/39 [+ n]

HEU31 Girah Bisuh 13°01′39″30′ 2397 m 13/39 [n]

GDM01 Girai, see Gray

HEU53 Giram Berom 13°07′39″40′ 2429 m 13/39 [n]

HEM61 GiramHora 12°18′39″30′ 2363 m 12/39 [n]

HET77 Girame 13°20′39″06′ 1714 m 13/39 [n]

HEF74 Girana 11°34′39″43′ 1445 m 11/39 [MS]

HDL62 Giranch (Giranch') 09°40′38″37′ 2679 m 09/38 [MS]
girancha: giracha (girach'a) (A) grey mule

HDL90 Girancha 2203 m 09/38 [AA]

HEL15 Girany Amba [=Grañ Amba?] 11°55′38″58′ 2005 m 11/38 [MS]
girar (A) kinds of thorn tree, especially Acacia bussei

HDL63 Girar 2567 m, cf Gerar, Girar 09/38 [AA Ad]
(sub-district, centre in 1964 = Geno)

HDS33 Girar 10°19′37″49′ 2415 m 10/37 [n]

HDU01 Girar 09°58′39″25′ 2049 m 09/39 [n]

HEF26 Girar Amba 11°04′39″55′ 1934 m 11/39 [Ad MS]

HEF26 Girar Amba (centre in 1964 of Kotet sub-district)
?? Girar Jarso sub-district (-1997-) ../..

HEL59 Girara 12°15′39″16′ 2557 m 12/39 [n]

HDU44 Giraray 10°19′39″42′ 3145 m 10/39 [n]
girarge (A) country with thorn trees

HDL75 Girarge (with church) 1678 m 09/38 [AA]

HDL75 Girarge, see under Debre Libanos

HEC42 Girarge 11°16′36″49′ 2128 m 11/36 [MS]

HDL74 Giraro 2518 m, see under Debre Libanos, cf Geraro 09/38 [AA]

JDE06 Giragabo Corca, see Jirgabo Korka

JCT94 Gira (Giraga) 08/43 [n]

GDF63 Girageida (Ghirgeida) 08°46′34″38′ 1838 m 08/34 [n]

HDG85 Girg (with church) 09/38 [AA 20]
In the early 1930s administrative centre of Didu Ale district within Harar province. [Zervos 1936]

District north of Addis Ababa about 50 km east of Selale. In June 1936 when Abebe Aregai was organising a guerrilla force, he was joined in Girru by about 300 soldiers from the Imperial Guard and some policemen, in addition to those who had already joined him. There was a short nightly battle with Italians coming from Debre Birhan but they were not yet accustomed to fights in this terrain and withdrew. Abebe was left in peace for about four months during the rainy season. [E Leijonhufvud, Kejsaren och hans hövdingar, Sthlm 1938 p 173-174]
Jerome Lobo, a Portuguese Jesuit who stayed in Ethiopia from 1624 or 1925 to 1633, was also one of the first foreigners to describe the source of the Abay.

"On the declivity of a mountain -- is that source -- This spring, or rather these two springs, are two holes, each about two feet diameter, a stone's- cast distant from each other. The one is but about five feet and a half in depth, at least we could not get our plummet farther, perhaps because it was stopped by roots, for the whole place is full of trees. Of the other, which is somewhat less /in diameter/, with a line of ten feet we could find no bottom, and were assured by the inhabitants that none had ever been found. -- the ground is always moist, and so soft that the water boils up under foot as one walks upon it -- At a little distance to the south is a village named Guix, through which the way lies to the top of the mountain -- though the mountain rises so imperceptibly, that those who go up or down it are scarce sensible of any declivity."

"On the top of this mountain is a little hill which the idolatrous Agaus have in great veneration. Their priest calls them together at this place once a year; and having sacrificed a cow, throws the head into one of the springs -- after which ceremony, every one sacrifices a cow or more -- The bones of these cows have already formed two mountains of considerable height -- They eat these sacrifices -- Then the priest anoints himself with the grease and tallow of the cows, and sits down on an heap of straw on the top and in the middle of a pile which is prepared. They set fire to it, and the whole heap is consumed without any injury to the priest; who, while the fire continues, harangues the standers by - - When the pile is burnt -- every one makes a large present to the priest."

"-- the waters, after the first rise, run to the eastward for about a musket-shot; then turning to the north, continue hidden in the grass and weeds for about a quarter of a league, and discover themselves for the first time among rocks."

[cited in Pankhurst, Travellers in Ethiopia, Oxford Univ. Press 1965 p 49-50, and also in Ethiopia - the official handbook 1969 p 186]

1700s
James Bruce was there on 4 November 1770 together with Luigi Balugani and Strates, a Greek.
The Emperor even gave the governorship of the village of Gish to Bruce as a gift. Bruce mentions the church of Kidus Mikael.
"Late in the afternoon, when they had climbed to 9,500 feet, they came upon a rustic church, and the guide, pointing beyond it, indicated a little swamp with a hillock rising from the centre; that, he declared, was the source of the Nile. -- There was no actual flow to be seen - the water merely appeared to seep through the swamp from several different springs to a point on its downward side where it combined into a tiny brook."

"Determined to be merry, Bruce picked up a half coconut shell he used as a drinking cup. Filling it from the spring he obliged Strates to dring a toast to His Majesty King George III and a long line of princes, and another to Catherine, Empress of all the Russias - this last was a gesture to Strates's Greek origin, since Catherine just then was attacking the Turks in the Aegean. -- It was a strange scene, full of delusions -- Bruce was utterly mistaken in thinking that he was the first European to reach this spot."


1860s
On 26 January 1866 the British consul Hormuzd Rassam, together with Blanc and Prideaux, found Emperor Tewodros encamped in the neighbourhood, on top of a green hill.

1920s
Consul Cheesman saw the sacred spring for the first time in 1926. By then it was said that the church was dedicated to "St. Michael and Zarabruk". The priests said that Zarabruk was a saint, but seemed to know nothing about him. It has been suggested that the name is a corruption of Bruce /zere means descendant of the one whose name follows?/. "Very little interest has been taken in the part of the Abbai that flows into Lake Tana. I have called it the Small Abbai to distinguish it from the river that flows out of the lake."
Gish Mountain (Wombata) is close to the sacred spring and restricts the view to the westward. It rises 250 m above the spring. The immediate area of the spring is referred to as Giyon, named after one of the four rivers /Gihon/ flowing out of the Garden of Eden.
When Cheesman saw the spring on 24 March 1926, there was a deep hole a few inches in
diameter full of clear water, but with scarcely enough current to flow. It was surrounded
by an artificial fence of dry reeds, and hidden on three sides by a fringe of dense scrub
thicket. The water "seeps through sedges and forms a protective quagmire of mud all
round, so that to reach the spring it is necessary to pass over the swampy ground by a
balancing feat on branches of trees laid on the mud by the priests."

At first the direction of the Small Abay is north-east for about 800 m, after which it
curves round and goes north, and by yet another bend flows to the west, passing the
spring again at a distance of about 1.5 km. Only the priests were allowed to draw the
water of the holy spring. Cheesman was told that the holy water must never be drunk after
a meal.

"On ordinary occasions holy water called tabal is given out at midday, but on Sundays at
dawn. The grass plains round about are scattered with the camps of pilgrims who have
come long distances to be cured. No regular money charge is made by the priests, nor
does the Government levy any tax for water distributed, but people who come with
ailments make promise to themselves that if they are cured they will pay a certain sum to
the church, and they do so."

The pilgrims protested when Cheesman's wife touched the water with the end of a long
stick - because she was a woman.

"The priests agreed that the church was founded in the reign of John I, 1667-1682/ and
the Ark in the Holy of Holies came from Gondar. They were certain that John never came
to the church himself. This is not the version given by Morie and quoted by Budge, which
states that the Emperor Susenyos went to Gish in 1613 with Pedro Paez, the Jesuit Father,
and founded the Church of Mikael to commemorate the event. It was, according to my
informants, built by the money of a woman of Gondar named Bujet, a maiden who was a
relative of the king. She had been brought to Gish by her mother, Iniya, to drink of the
sacred spring -- Bujet recovered and fell in love with a chieftain of Sakala, married him,
and refused to return to Gondar. - I have not been able to find any reference to Bujet or
her mother elsewhere, but there is a small left-bank tributary -- near Gish, which is called
the Bugeta." [Cheesman 1936 p 70-74]

1930s
In 1933 Cheesman was told that the church had been extensively repaired by orders of
Ras Hailu.

Italian description: On a hill about 800 m from the springs there is the church Gisc Abbai
Micael Zarabruc. The priests there have reserved the right to distribute the holy water of
the spring, and this is done at noon, except on Sundays at dawn. After running from the
spring underground for a while, the water forms Little Abay.

[Guida 1938]

1960s
Dejazmach Zeleke Desta primary school in 1968 had 155 boys and 24 girls,
with 5 teachers.

pict
R E Cheesman, Lake Tana., London 1936 p 34 source of Abay

HDD29 Gish Megal (Gesh M.) 08°24'/38°22' 3408 m 08/38 [± n]
HCP31 Gisha (Ghiscia, Ghescia) (area) 2438 m, cf Gesha 07/35 [± WO Gu]
gishe (Gurage) kind of small tree or shrub, Rhamnus prinoides, with simple leaves and small flowers; (O) hair, usually of goat
HDL73 Gishe 09°43'/38°43' 2717 m, see under Fiche 09/38 [AA MS]
HDL82 Gishe 09°48'/38°40' 2995 m, see under Fiche 09/38 [AA MS]
Gishe (which one?)

During his campaign to Shewa Oct. 1855-Feb. 1856 emperor Tewodros fought a battle at
Gishe. [Zänäb 1902]

HDU32 Gishe, cf Menz & Gishe awraja 10/39 [MS]
?? Gishe Gebeta Ber (in Shewa)..

Artist Aleka Wolde Medhin Yitagesu (1894-1982) was born in Gishe G.B. He was self-
taught but made paintings for some important churches and for the old Parliament
building in Addis Abeba. He was also employed in the Ministry of Education and Fine
Arts. [Eth. Artists p 12-13]

HD... Gishe Rabel (in Menz .. awraja) 10/39? [Ad]
The primary school in 1968 had 234 boys and 19 girls, with 3 male teachers of which two foreign.

HDD74? Gishe sub-district? (-1997-) 10/39 [n]
HDU74c Gishe wereda (Gishie ..) (centre in 1964 = Rabel) 10/39 [+ Ad]

HDU74 Gishen (Geshena) (steep highlands) 10°40'/39°45' in Ambasel awraja 10/39 [n]

pict A Dejene, Environment, famine .., USA (Lynne Rienner) 1990 p 20 highland landscape of "severely degraded land"

Gishen, locality 60 km north of Dessie.
In the neighbourhood is a mountaintop shaped as a 'natural cross' and at the tip of it is the Kidus Mikael church. Gishen has a population of 1,089 (estimate in 1993) and there is a hotel but no petrol. [Camerapix 1995]

Circa 1988: "Nowadays a track leaves the main road, and threads up past terraced fields towards the cliff-top monastery. -- For about 16 km/ the track climbed towards it, skirting the bigger spurs, hairpinning, gaining height. -- Beside the track, the bare flaking rock was studded with brighter nodules -- found they were agates encased in copper-green shells. -- The track became a series of steps carved in the rock - 703 according to Thomas Pakenham -- The only access to the monastery is a narrow gap in the cliffs."

"A hundred years after Alvares -- the Muslims went to Gishen and laid siege. -- Months of sieging brought the natural fortress no closer to submission and Ahmed Grañ said, 'There is nothing to be gained by fighting on this mountain.' He withdrew his troops and went campaigning in other regions. Only when he gained an alliance with the Falashas did Amba Gishen fall. It was never again used as a royal prison."

Marsden-Smedley interviewed the abbot: "He remembered coming here for the Maskal festival, and the hundreds of pilgrims who walked up from Wuchale. He remembered too, in the last years before the revolution, a helicopter bringing the Imperial Family to the festival, flying up the valleys and landing on the amba like an outsize insect."

"The strange thing /about the view from the amba/ is that there are no peaks: the horizon is entirely flat."

"We walked through the compound of the extraordinary church of Igziyabher Ab. It is a fat white drum sprouting two stunted transepts. The wooden panels of its doors are painted separately in bright yellows, and orange and green. Below the tin roof, the bargeboard is carved in ornate filigree, and on the whitewashed walls there are arabesques and a huge sneering buda, the evil spirit."

The abbot said that the famous Cross was under there. The festival of Mesqel celebrates the finding of the True Cross by Empress Helena in AD 326, but the piece of the True Cross said to be kept on Gishen is supposed to have been brought there by emperor Zara Yaqob (1433-1468). Later they also entered another church.

"The church of Kiddus /=Kidist?/ Maryam is stone-built, but in plan the same as all the circular wattle churches: two concentric sections around the walls of the square inner sanctum."

"It seems that Gishen is not so prohibitive to women as the island monasteries of Lake Tana - the abbot's maid lived in the next hut." [Marsden-Smedley 1990 p 191-202]

**Gishen Maryam**

"In 1539 -- Grañ breached the defences at the mountain-top monastery of Gishen Mariam. No account survives of the monastery before Grañ's attack but an extraordinary costume of myths surrounds the mountain. It is certain that the Ethiopian emperors used to imprison their sons there, and Grañ killed them. The Ethiopians claimed to have buried half of the True Cross under its cruciform summit (Grañ didn't find it)." [Marsden-Smedley 1990 p 45]
Gishen Maryam, on the Kutaber road north of Dessie - not the main road - is a major religious shrine for the Orthodox Christians. It is a cross shaped amba with five churches. "With a good car and limited common sense Gishen Maryam can be reached in a long morning from Dessie and back (I did it in 7 hours). -- There is a great waterfall along the way, and a river to ford (don't go in the rainy season), and a 17 km climb up a steep turnoff off the main road." [John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/03/10]

HEF72c Gishen (historical monastery in the 1400s) 11/39 [20] north-west of Hayk, cf Amba Geshen

HDT79 Gishenit 10°37'/39°15' 2475 m 10/39 [MS] HEL87 Gishman 12°34'/39°04' 2077 m 12/39 [n] giso (A) kind of communal labour

HBR59 Giso, see Jiso git (A) 1. udder; 2. jerk, pull

HDT26 Gita (Git’a) 10°13'/39°01' 1867 m 10/39 [MS] GDM31c Giten 09/34 [LM] HD... Giten Muchicho 09/35 [Ad] (sub-district, centre in 1964 = Guri)

HDJ54 Gitilo 09°31'/37°02' 2772 m 09/37 [MS] HDJ54 Gitilo 09°33'/37°02' 2857 m 09/37 [MS] HD... Gitirie (centre in 1964 of Biki Haro sub-district) 09/37 [Ad] gito (O) kind of plant that can be used as a broom

HDB66 Gito (Ghito) (mountain) 2080 m 08/36 [ + WO] HDM01 Gito (locality in Bulga) 09°05'/39°30' 1524 m 09/39 [n] HDT00 Gito (Git’o) 1895 m 09/38 [AA MS] GDM31 Gitun 09°22'/34°28' 1751 m 09/34 [MS] HEJ05 Giuascia, see Juasha

JDK20 Giubasse, see Jubasse HDH72 Giubbi, see Jubbi HEA94 Giuda, see Juda HDE10 Giugar Bale Uelde, see Jugar Bale Welde HBM31 Giuldessa, see Juldessa JEP64 Giulietti (lake), see Egogi Bad ?? Giuemea Maruf, see Jumea Maruf HCH20 Giumo, see Juma HDT19 Giur, see Jur HDU00 Giurru, see Jihur HDL08 Giuru, see Juru HEC48 Giv Assra 11/37 [WO] HEJ86 Givansegh 12/37 [WO] HEJ97 Givansegh (mountain) 12/37 [WO] HEU00 Giviyat (Ghiviat) 12/39 [ + WO] HDU74 Giyache (Ghiacie) (area) 10/39 [ + WO] giyo, giyyo (A) kind of tree used for making straight poles

HDC73 Giyo (Ghi) 08°48'/36°52' 1524 m 08/36 [18 n] Giyon, the Biblical river Gihon

HDD45 Giyom, see Weliso HDK55 Giyon (Gion) 08°31'/37°58' 2063 m 08/37 [ + n] JDC42 Giyon, 08°36'/41°50' 08/41 [MS] JDD34 Giyon, see Gion Gion Giyorgis, Amharic form for the name of /Saint/ George

HCT06 Giyorgis 07°16'/39°01' 3007 m 07/39 [MS] HCT08 Giyorgis (Gheorghis) 07/39 [ + WO] HDB89 Giyorgis (Ghiorghis) (church) 08/36 [ + WO] HDE58 Giyorgis (Giorgio,S) (church) see under Mojo 08/39 [ + WO]
HDL31 Giyorgis (Gyorgis, Gheorghis) (church) 09/38 [+ LM WO]
HDL99 Giyorgis (Ghiorghis) (church) 2770 m 09/39 [+ WO]
HDM82 Giyorgis (Ghiorgis, Z., Enda Gh.) (church) 09/39 [+ WO Gu]
HDR85 Giyorgis (Gheorghis) 1910 m, see under Bure 10/37 [+ WO]
HED68 Giyorgis 11°28'/38°16' 2637 m 11/38 [MS]
HEH66 Giyorgis (Georgis) (area) 12/36 [+ WO]
HEJ15 Giyorgis (church) 11/37 [Ch]
HFF11 Giza 13°40'/39°30' 2157 m 13/39 [n]
?? Gizani (river) ../..

The Lalan river at a sheer cliff "hurled itself off the escarpment. The Gizani River went over at the same place and the two rivers joined in mid-air. It was a magnificent waterfall, 800 feet /250 m/ high. I had discovered the Tiski Falls." [Cheesman 1936]

GDU48 Gizen (Guzen) 10°35'/34°45' 681 m 10/34 [MS Ad]
An elementary school built of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]

GDU48? Gizen sub-district (-1997-) 10/34 [n]
JDK36 Gjufta Albasa 09°22'/43°07' 1805 m 09/43 [n]
JCL25 Glamagarar 06°31'/43°52' 500 m 06/43 [WO n]
JCS40 Glebi Hardeni (waterhole) 07/42 [WO]
HCN15 Gltendadura, see Gnadadura
HBSP1 Gnaculamo, see Loree Afone
HC... Gnana (centre in 1964 of Kebeha sub-district) 06/38 [Ad]
HDL67 Gnea (Gne'a, Gnaha) 09/39 [Ad WO]
(sub-district, centre in 1964 = Mute), cf Abichu & Gnea
GCT16 Gneum, see Nyeum
GCT66 Gniuir 335 m 07/33 [WO]
GDE28 Gnomoli, see Nyomoli
HFP53 Goaggiem (Goaggien), see Gwaggyem
H... Goal (centre in 1964 of Gimma sub-district) 10/39 [Ad]
JDJ82 Goleh 10°45'/42°43' 623/729 m 10/42 [Gu n]
near the border of Somalia
HEJ86 Goang, see Gwang
HEJ44 Goardera 12/37 [WO]
gob (Som) 1. kinds of shrub or small tree, Zizyphus mauritiana, Z. spina-Christi, "Christ thorn" with short spines; 2. nobles, aristocracy
HC559 Gob 05°54'/36°34' 1545 m 05/36 [Ad n]
HCB47c Gob (centre in 1964 of Wub Hamer wereda) 05/36 [Ad]
JCD58 Gob Barro 05/43 [WO]
goba (O) 1. palissade, fortification; 2. hump of cattle; 3. palm leaf thorn; (Welega Bega) hyena; gob-a (O) bent or stooping /man/; gooba (O) nape
GDM43 Goba 09/34 [WO]
HBT39 Goba 04°50'/39°17' 786 m, cf Gora 04/39 [n]
HBU82 Goba 05°20'/39°34' 1513 m 05/39 [Wa n]
HCM77 Gobha (Gobha) 06°55'/40°10' 2691/2772 m 06/40 [MS Br WO Gu]
MS coordinates would give map code JCG64 more to the east. 07°01'/39°58' = HCM77.
Centre in 1964 of Fasil awraja & Goba wereda and in 1980 of Mendeyo awraja.
Mineral spring 6 km to the south-west.
1500s "Bali had close contacts with Christians from the north /by the time of Lebnä Dengel 1508-1540/. This doubtless led to the founding of many churches, including a notable
Two reconnoitring caravans of the Swedish BV Mission, headed by Axel B. Svensson and by Dr. Fride Hylander, met as planned in Goba on 7 February 1930. They parted again after a week.

Governor Dejazmach Nassibu had his residence in Goba from 1931. Around 1935 there was a Government pharmacy served by Dr Vassilikiotis, and a primary school. There were five Greeks and Armenians doing trade.

At a military training centre established in 1933 there were the three Belgian officers Captain de Meulenaer, Lieutenant van den Driessche, and Lieutenant Deceunynk. [Zervos 1936 p 331]

"Later in 1933, Ethiopia's first two Saint Cyr-trained officers, three of the Belgians, and fourteen noncoms from the imperial guard left for Goba in Bale to train an internal security force for deployment along the frontier. Rome's military attaché in Addis Abeba complained that the new military centre, 230 miles away from the nearest Italian outpost, threatened Somalia."

[Marcus 1994 p 137-138]

The Swedish Red Cross ambulance, one part of it travelling with a single Chevrolet truck on its way southwards, found the road near Goba to be excellent compared with what they had experienced since Mojo. They were told that the Ethiopian army was 8-10 days' travel south of Ginir and that transport from Goba to Ginir was possible only by caravan.

Knut Johansson therefore returned on 11 December with the Chevrolet towards Addis Abeba for the purpose to transport another load. The Swedes stayed in a house built for the Belgian officers [photo p 50] within a tall fence. The /Vice-?/Governor, Grazmach Kassa [photo p 81], invited them for a dinner prepared by his cook, who had been trained by Europeans. [K Johansson, På äventyr..., Sthlm 1936 p 49-52]

In early January, Johansson arrived a second time in Goba. By the vice-governor Kenyazmach Amara he was given the escort of five mounted police to return to the Lajo mountain, where his Chevrolet had got stuck in the mud. After some adventure they succeeded to bring the truck to Gore, and by 10 January the load had been transported southwards to Goro/Happi.

[Johansson p 69-72]

There was telephone connection from Gore to A.Abeba at this time, also a secret telephone post some distance outside the town.

At the end of February 1936, Carl Gustaf von Rosen flew his aircraft to Goba for the purpose to transport one Beyene, who was an assistant to the Swedish Ambulance and who was seriously ill. The aircraft landed on the open plain Sebro near Goba, and von Rosen was shot at from the ground as the Ethiopians thought he might be an Italian. He was detained for a couple of hours until a messenger arrived from Ginir. [Johansson p 113]

In March 1936 Count von Rosen arrived with his aircraft to fetch Knut Johansson and his Ethiopian servant because they were both seriously ill.

On 17 April Knut Johansson arrived in Goba again with a supply caravan of some 40 animals, 10 men and 10 soldiers as escort. Because of illness Johansson had to stay behind and his former servant Kittela was entrusted to become caravan leader as far as Ginir where a change of animals could be expected. The caravan was about to depart on 21 April when Goba was bombed by the Italians for the first time, but the caravan left in the evening. The people of Goba took it as a habit (at least for a week) to hide outside the town in daytime and return for the nights.

After a second bomb attack at the end of April, the telephone connection was broken. Some robbing and looting along the roads started. Shooting also occurred inside Goba. Once about 4,000 shots were fired when the owner of a building, assisted by police, fought against rebellious and looting Ethiopian soldiers. Knut Johansson tried to do some medical work although we was not well himself. The Swedish Red Cross ambulance retreated through Goba on 30 May and its staff gathered there on 6 June (having seen an Italian statement that A.A. was occupied).
1937
Post office of the Italians was opened 21 December 1937 and closed 3 April 1941. Its cancellations read GOBA*HARAR, then GOBBA*HARAR in 1940. [Philatelic source which seems to imply a Goba located at the railway?]
The Italians built a mosque in Goba. Population about 3,000. Italian Commissariato, post, telegraph, infirmary. Centre of Bale with important market on Thursdays. The former gibbi is on a conical height. [Guida 1938]

1950s
In January 1951 six persons made a tour to Goba. The Canadian teacher Armstrong drove them in his Dodge car. Among the passengers was Johan Lindblom of the Danish mission which had been called by the governor, Colonel Kebede in Goba, to discuss Danish mission schools to be opened in Dodola and Ibano. [J F Lindblom, Blandt Ethiopiens stamme r, Khavn/Copenhagen 1958 p 55]
Population 7,304 as counted in 1956. Around 1955 Goba had service by Ethiopian Air Lines twice a week. The author Birch-Iensen once landed in Goba in tropical heavy rain. He found that there was some regular planning in the eastern part of the town and was told that the governor had forbidden the old type of huts. He describes Goba as being located in a wide basin with mountains on three sides, of which the very high Batu to the south-west. There were large juniperus forests on the slopes of the mountains. On a hill above the airfield there was an almost ruined masonry building from the Italian time. Goba prison had two concentrical square palisades of wood, perhaps four metres high and possible to look through. Birch-Iensen saw about 40 prisoners, men and women mixed, some men fettered with chains. He was let inside by an official speaking some English and calling himself 'criminal investigator'. At the Sudan Interior Mission he met Mr Ediger, and they made riding tours together. On a little plateau above a narrow pass were some huts and there they visited a female pottery maker. She used a smoking pipe with a long shaft of bamboo. [C Birch-Iensen, Ett okänt Mecha, Stlm 1960 p 66-74]
Sub-province Governor of Bale awraja in 1959 was Dejazmach Merid Beyene (a close relative of the Emperor), and his representative was Kenyazmach Mamo Seyoum. Merid Beyene was said to have visited Goba only twice by the time of Birch-Iensen's visit. Chief of police in 1959 was Lt.Col. Gebray Gebre Egzi and deputy chief was Major Alemayehu Mengistu.

1960s
In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Goba. Raids by the Liberation Front for Western Somalia were made up to the outskirts of Goba in 1966. The only all-weather road of Bale linking Goba with Shashamene and onwards was virtually cut. By late 1966 a state of emergency was declared in the province and a brigade of the 4th Division of the Army operated out of Roba near Goba. [Gilkes 1975 p 216]
Population 7,304 in 1967. Sudan Interior Mission primary school in 1968 had 305 boys and 136 girls, with 9 teachers of which one foreign. The official handbook of Ethiopia printed in 1969 says that "it is only a small town of 7,000 people and is not well connected with other parts of the country".

1970s
Goba in 1970 had the only highschool in Bale, and there were 682 students in that year, of whom 86 were Muslims. This was in a province where Islam claimed over 90 per cent of the population. [Markakis 1987 p 292 note 58]
In 1970 the only non-military doctor in Bale province left Goba. A hospital was under construction, to be larger than the previous one which some years before had been taken over by the provincial administration for officers. [Gilkes 1975 p 223-224]
On 1 April 1974 rebel police started shooting. In the evening they captured municipal offices, police headquarters, and the treasury. [News]

Spelling used by the post office was GOBBA around 1975 (the Amharic script corresponded to Goba Bale) and around 1983 it was BALE GOBA.

Population in 1975 was 18,515 - a doubling in about seven years. Only 16.8% of those living there in 1978 were born in Goba, indicating that it was one of the really rapid-growing towns in Ethiopia.

Though the Somali Abo Liberation Front claimed to be in control of most of Bale Province in September 1977, this did not apply to Goba. [Keesing's 28634]

In mid-October 1977 a journalist based in Nairobi published that the Somalis claimed to have killed 124 Ethiopians near Goba. [News]

There were a post office and a petrol filling station of Agip (-1978-).


The airport is 21 km from Goba. There are flights about twice a week, via Dire Dawa. Unpaved runway, length about 2000 m.

The road from Goba south to Dolo Mena passes through the eastern part of the Bale Mountains National Park.

"The capital of Bale region lies at an altitude of around 2,500 m in the cool, breezy foothills below the Saneti Plateau. It's an open, spacious town with no obvious centre - the main residential areas sprawl outwards from a large field, while government buildings and churches are perched discretely on a nearby hill -- a subdued, almost rural atmosphere -- Buses from Shashemene to Bale terminate at Goba, and there is also a steady stream of local transport from nearby Robe. -- There are surprisingly few hotels in Goba, though what hotels there are seem well above average. At the top of the range, the government-owned Goba Ras Hotel lies about 2 km out of town towards Robe. -- Of the private hotels, the Yilma Hotel stands head and shoulders above the competition. -- The Yilma Hotel is signposted in Amharigna only but Nyala Pastry next door is signposted in English. -- There are no buses between Goba and Dola Mena (a source of some relief when you tackle the steep descent of the escarpment) but transport /southwards/ isn't a problem: at least one pick-up truck runs in each direction daily." [Bradt 1995, sketch of town plan p 198]

The top-level hotel is the Goba Wabe Shebele Hotel. Medium-cost hotels are the Hooteeba Goobbaa Roobe and the Yimaa Amossaa (Yilma Hotel).

The spectacular road running from Goba to Dolo Mena crosses the eastern part of the Bale mountains and the Sanetti plateau. This is the highest /motor/ road in the whole of Africa. After leaving Goba the road climbs through juniper, cedar and cypress forests before attaining a truly alpine altitude. There is a ruined old rock church in the Bale mountains not far from the town of Goba. [Aubert 1999]


G Agge, Med Röda Korset..., Sthlm 1936 p 41 former house for Belgian officers;
F Hylander, I detta tecken..., Sthlm 1936 p 263 ambulance tents, 281,283 returning soldiers, 287 landscape in the neighbourhood;
K Johansson, Pä äventyr..., Sthlm 1936 p 50 house of Belgian officers, 144,145 effects of Italian bombing, 149 Mr Johansson, 155,159 soldiers;
G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 47 /fere gugs/ display at the airport
Hill 10 km /or 4 km?/ west of Aksum, with ancient quarry for monoliths. On the way from Gondar and on the left side of the road, is a high, steep mountain of bizarre, naked red rock, its foot strewn with huge granite boulders. Halfway up nestles a small village with only a few houses, hardly visible from the road, called Gobreda. To the left, facing away from the village, stands the monument. On a huge smooth oblong rock, upright and flatfaced, a lifesize walking lioness has been carved in bas-relief. This figure looks slightly upwards to a disc which bears a cross (or spikes like a wheel) engraved on the stone near the lion’s head. [Jäger 1965 p 95]

The following pictures all show the antique lioness engraving:

The following pictures all show the antique lioness engraving:
The river and its tributaries with Pre-Cambrian rocks (medium grained Harar granite) were investigated by Texas African Exploration Co. before 1958. [Mineral 1966]

HDJ17  Goben 09°13'/37°17' 2437 m  09/37  [n]
goheba: gobennya (A) to visit; gubbena (A) lizard

HDG89  Gobena 1488/2012 m  09/35  [WO]

HDM12  Gobensa (with church)  09/39  [WO]

JCN33  Gobensa 2165 m  07/40  [WO]

JDA65  Gobenti, G. (area) 2225 m  08/40  [WO]

HDA56  Gobera 08°39'/35°22' 1523 m, cf Gaborra  08/35  [n]

HCU30  Gobesa 07°35'/38°28' 1641 m or /39°20' 2420 m  07/39  [n]

HCU41  Gobesa (Gobessa) 07°37'/39°30' 2353 m  07/39  [MS WO Po]

MS coordinates would give map code HCU42.

(Visiting postman under Asela)

In the 1930s with a mosque mentioned by the Italians.

Centre in 1964 of Tena wereda and Shirka sub-district.

HDS02  Gobetima (Gobet'ima) 10°00'/37°46' 1864 m  10/37  [AA MS]

HDS03  Gobetime (with church)  09/37  [AA]

JBG88  Gobetto (Gobeto) 769 m  04/40  [MS WO LM]

HDE81  Gobeya 08°54'/38°32' 2157 m, cf Gobaya, Gebeya  08/38  [n]

HDK06  Gobeya 09°05'/38°04' 2440 m  09/38  [AA n]

HDL51  Gobeya 09°34'/38°34' 2488 m  09/38  [n]

HFK16  Gobeya Igzi 14°39'/38°06' 1344 m  14/38  [MS]

??  Gobeye (sub P.O. under Dessie)  ../../  [Po]

Gobeze ( Goraze), name of an ethnic group living in the south-west and numbering 47,118 (in 1984?)

??  Gobgob  ../../  [n]

On the "China Road" between Debre Tabor and Nefas Mewcha, with a road sign giving its name. [John Graham in Addis Tribune 1999/09/10]

GDF53  Gobi (in Kelem awraja) 1493/1523 m  08/34  [WO Ad]

A private school in 1968 had 67 boys and 8 girls in grades 1-3, with 2 teachers.

HCA88  Gobi 1846 m, see under Maji  06/35  [WO]

HCS12  Gobigia, see Bobija

HDT04  Gobil 10°01'/38°49' 1747 m  10/38  [MS]
goby: gobiye (T) tortoise; gobay (T) buffalos, Syncerus caffer aequinoctialis

HEM23  Gobiy (Gobiye, Gobeie, Cobie) 11°52'/39°42' 1396/1680 m  11/39  [MS Po Gu WO]

HEM23  (Gobeie) (pass) 1396/1680 m  11/39  [Gu]

In Raya & K. awraja. On the main road from Weldiya to Kobbo, after having crossed the bridge over the Alehuwa torrent, the road reaches the Gobiye pass from where it descends to the village of Robit.

The primary school in 1968 had 77 boys and 21 girls, with 3 teachers.

??  Gobiye (northern Wello)  ../../  [x]

As a consequence of the famine years 1971-1975 a population of 8,000 with 55,000 heads of livestock were reduced to 2,000 with 7 camels.

[ J Gallais, Une géographie politique .., Paris 1989 p 111-112]

Gobiye was bombed by government forces on 9 September 1989 with one killed, but when the bombing was repeated the next day on 10 September it was market day, and there were 21 killed and about 100 wounded.

[ Africa Watch 1991]

JDK47  Gobiyere 09°28'/43°10' 1699 m  09/43  [MS]

HEM13  Gobiyu (Gobiye) 11°52'/39°42' 1396 m  11/39  [Ad n]

HEM13  Gobiyo (centre in 1964 of Gura Werkie sub-district)

JDK82  Goble (area)  09/42  [WO]
go60 (O) 1. shelter; 2. crooked, humpbacked, leaning; (T) mountain, slope, hillside; gooboo (O) bow
In February 1989 fierce fighting was going on in this direction (among others) between the 4th government army division and the rebel forces. [12th Int Conf 1994]

HF...

Gobo Atarit (Endaba Woyane Tsen'at) One of the strategic hills of Shire, in February 1989 held by government forces. After fierce fighting which reportedly cost the TPLF relatively heavy casualties the rebels managed controlling the hill. It was later renamed Endaba Woyane Tsen'a't. [12th Int Conf 1994]

JDA65 Gobo Kurkura (G. Kurk'ura, G. Qurqura) 08°46'1664 m

HDK67 Gobobley 09°40'/43°10' 1648 m

HEU.. Gobo Zena (Gobozena) (village) 13/39 [+ n]

JEN75 Gobul (Cobul) 379 m 13/40 [WO]

GCM76 Gobus, see Wika

GCU30 Goc Giangior, see Janjor

HCR83 Goca, see Goka

HBR81 Gocche, see Goke

HEC96 Gocha 11/37 [Wa]

HEC79 Gocha (Gocia) 11/37 [Gu]

HBR18 Goche, G. (hill) 04/37 [WO]

GDE15 Goche 08°16'/33°53' 416 m 08/33 [n]

HDJ67 Gocher (Goch'er, Gocior) 09°37'/37°17' 2234 m 09/37 [MS WO]

Gocher, cf Kocher

HDR00 Gobo 2140 m 09/36 [WO]

HD... Gobu (sub-district, centre in 1964 = Kiejo) 09/36 [Ad]

JDC91 Gobenti 09°01'/41°42' 1525 m 09/41 [MS]

gobol (Som) region, province, part

GCM76 Gobus, see Wika

GCU30 Goc Giangior, see Janjor

HCR83 Goca, see Goka

HBR81 Gocche, see Goke

HEC96 Gocha 11/37 [Wa]

HEC79c Gocha (Gocia) 11/37 [Gu]

HBR18 Goche, G. (hill) 04/37 [WO]

GDE15 Goche 08°16'/33°53' 416 m 08/33 [n]

HDJ67 Gocher (Goch'er, Gocior) 09°37'/37°17' 2234 m 09/37 [MS WO]

Gocher, cf Kocher

HDR00 Gobo 2140 m 09/36 [WO]

HD... Gobu (sub-district, centre in 1964 = Kiejo) 09/36 [Ad]

JNC97 Gobul (Cobul) 379 m 13/40 [WO]

GCM76 Gobus, see Wika

GCU30 Goc Giangior, see Janjor

HCR83 Goca, see Goka

HBR81 Gocche, see Goke

HEC96 Gocha 11/37 [Wa]

HEC79 Gocha (Gocia) 11/37 [Gu]

HBR18 Goche, G. (hill) 04/37 [WO]

GDE15 Goche 08°16'/33°53' 416 m 08/33 [n]

HDJ67 Gocher (Goch'er, Gocior) 09°37'/37°17' 2234 m 09/37 [MS WO]

Gocher, cf Kocher

HDR00 Gobo 2140 m 09/36 [WO]

HD... Gobu (sub-district, centre in 1964 = Kiejo) 09/36 [Ad]

JNC97 Gobul (Cobul) 379 m 13/40 [WO]

GCM76 Gobus, see Wika

GCU30 Goc Giangior, see Janjor

HCR83 Goca, see Goka

HBR81 Gocche, see Goke

HEC96 Gocha 11/37 [Wa]

HEC79 Gocha (Gocia) 11/37 [Gu]

HBR18 Goche, G. (hill) 04/37 [WO]

GDE15 Goche 08°16'/33°53' 416 m 08/33 [n]

HDJ67 Gocher (Goch'er, Gocior) 09°37'/37°17' 2234 m 09/37 [MS WO]

Gocher, cf Kocher

HDR00 Gobo 2140 m 09/36 [WO]

HD... Gobu (sub-district, centre in 1964 = Kiejo) 09/36 [Ad]

JNC97 Gobul (Cobul) 379 m 13/40 [WO]

GCM76 Gobus, see Wika

GCU30 Goc Giangior, see Janjor

HCR83 Goca, see Goka

HBR81 Gocche, see Goke

HEC96 Gocha 11/37 [Wa]
### Local History of Ethiopia

**Gir - Goel**

© Bernhard Lindahl (2005)

Published online by the Nordic Africa Institute library | nai.uu.se/library

14 of 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Altitude</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JCR20</td>
<td>Goda 974 m</td>
<td>07/41</td>
<td>[LM WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDJ26</td>
<td>Goda Abamura 09°16'/37°10' 2447 m</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBF82</td>
<td>Goda Banjura 03°30'/39°31' 1202 m</td>
<td>03/39</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD...</td>
<td>Goda Btitilie (centre in 1964 of Mida Kenge sub-district)</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[Ad]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF82</td>
<td>Goda Burk (Goda burka, Godeburka, Godeburqaa)</td>
<td>08/39</td>
<td>[x MS q]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF82</td>
<td>Goda Burk (Godoburka) 08°55'/39°34' 1376 m</td>
<td>08/39</td>
<td>[x n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pict</td>
<td>K Herzbruch, Abessinien, München 1925 p 261 travellers' camp</td>
<td></td>
<td>[18]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH94</td>
<td>Goda Gudu 07°10'/36°04' 2097 m</td>
<td>07/36</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDe07</td>
<td>Goda Goro 09°07'/37°19' 2869 m</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDC30</td>
<td>Goda Watiyo (Gode W., Uatio) 09°24'/37°34' 1846 m</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[AA MS WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDK30</td>
<td>Goda Watiyo, waterfalls 2 km NW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS52</td>
<td>Goda Werke (G.Werk'e, G. Werqe) 1955 m</td>
<td>09/38</td>
<td>[AA MS q]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEL52</td>
<td>Goda Werke (with church)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCS37</td>
<td>Godachanu (Godacianu) 07°31'/38°13' 1885 m</td>
<td>07/38</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBS41</td>
<td>Godaimisse (well)</td>
<td>04/37</td>
<td>[LM WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDJ75</td>
<td>Godajewe 09°41'/37°07' 2438 m</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBL00</td>
<td>Godaloni (area)</td>
<td>03/38</td>
<td>[W0]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS33</td>
<td>Godana Mikael 2433 m</td>
<td>10/37</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JED00</td>
<td>Godane (village)</td>
<td></td>
<td>[W0 Gu]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEL26</td>
<td>Godar (plain)</td>
<td>12/39</td>
<td>[Gu]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFK56</td>
<td>Godare, see Godere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCD58</td>
<td>Godare, see Godere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HED75</td>
<td>Goddar (village)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEH52</td>
<td>Goddira (area)</td>
<td>12/40</td>
<td>[W0]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEU23c</td>
<td>Goddo Varo (pass)</td>
<td>12/39</td>
<td>[Gu]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**godana (O)** downwards or from a lower place; **Godana**, a man's name among the Borana

**godane, godaane (O)** herdsman's life, to temporarily leave a place and take the cattle somewhere else

**godat (A)** harm, injury, suffering

**goddar (A)** cultivated taro, Colocasia antiquorum, Colocasia esculenta

**godat:**

*godat (A)* harm, injury, suffering

**goddo (O)** 1. lone, solitary, /baboon/ that leaves the group; 2. dagger, fork; **varo (O)** wool

**gode (A)** large rectangular tent made of coarse cotton

**Gode (Godi)** 05°56'/43°15' (with post office) 05/43 [MS Po]

1960s Gode in Ogaden expanded much in 1967-1969. A water tower, a church, a mosque, a school, a small palace and an experimental farm were built within a total program of costing about EthS 10 million.

1965 The new military airfield was constructed in 1965, with Swedish contractor Skanska (Skånska Cementgjuteriet) building the runway. This "Project 101" was kept somewhat secret in the beginning so that even other Swedes did not generally know about it, and Skanska got the contract without public bidding procedure. Machines were transported by truck caravans from Dire Dawa, the first one leaving in the beginning of January but roads being so difficult that it did not arrive until the beginning of March. Only about 200 of the 900 km were proper roads. During construction time a total of eleven such caravans of 20-30 cars made the journey from Dire Dawa with a total of about 400 loads on 10-ton trucks, with full military escort. A few shootings occurred. The formal start for works on Gode airport was on 3 March 1965. Skanska had a camp for 120 men.
The workers had a special joke because of the heat at Gode: "Pooh it's 40° hot in the shade today!" - "Who asked you to stay in the shade?"

[Skanska source]

1966 The Emperor inaugurated the airfield on 10 June 1966 and Gode air base became publicly known and to some extent used also for civil purposes. Skanska had only done civil engineering works in Ethiopia so far, but being large building contractors in Europe they were now also given the jobs to build the palace and the mosque, as well as the abutments for a prefabricated bridge. The Emperor visited Gode again on 4 August when buildings were under way. By March 1967 Skanska was still occupied with building work for the new Gode town.

The Emperor visited these works once more on 14-15 November 1968 together with dignitaries and some of his family, going by air from Dire Dawa. He was welcomed by Maj.Gen. Abebe Gemeda, commander of the 3rd Army Division. The Emperor visited the Medhane Alem church, the new mosque and hospital, the irrigation reservoir, the telecommunications office, and the poultry centre. In the afternoon he visited the Gode school and the recently completed bridge over Webi Shebele river.

[Voice of Ethiopia 1968-11-15]

1970s Before mid-1977 well-armed units of the guerrillas in the Ogaden besieged Gode and other main administrative centres. [Markakis 1987 p 228]

It was reported on 10 April 1977 that Dr. Don McClure, a US missionary, had been killed at Gode. [Keesing's p 28421]

There was an attack by Somali guerrillas on 13 July 1977, when Count Carl Gustaf von Rosen happened to be visiting Governor Belete Ergetie at Gode, a friend of his from years in Debre Zeyt. The visitor von Rosen preferred to sleep outdoors on the verandah because of the heat. Two men wounded in the attack had to be transported away by Belete. When returning he discovered that von Rosen had tried to hide under a mattress but had been hit and killed.

[Interview with Belete Ergetie by Dagens Nyheter]

Count von Rosen had been active in 1974-1977 with "food bombing" of famine-stricken areas.

The Somali army, in the guise of WSLF volunteers /Western Somali Liberation Front/, crossed the disputed frontier between Somalia and Ethiopia on 23 July 1977. Within a week, key towns in eastern Ogaden were in Somali hands, including the air base at Gode. [Marcus 1994 p 197]

Around 24 July 1977 a co-ordinated military action was launched by the WSLF against Ethiopian garrisons in Ogaden and in particular against the Air Force base at Gode, where the 5th brigade of the 4th division was stationed in five military camps. The attackers succeeded in practically destroying the Ethiopian forces of the 3rd and parts of the 4th division. [Keesing's p 28633]

1980s There was serious famine in 1981.

1990s There was famine again in 1991. On 21 June 1991 the UN High Commission for Refugees announced from Geneva that a food airlift had begun to 80,000 people stranded near Gode.

According to Amnesty International in February 1994 two women Hajio Dama (65) and Korad Ahmed Salal were detained. Both were officials in Gode of the Ogadenian Women's Democratic Alliance (OWDA). There were allegations of ill-treatment in prison.

Airlift repatriation of Ethiopians from Dadaab in Kenya to Gode continued with a total of 801 arrivals during May 1995 aboard 14 flights. [News]

2000s By April 2000 food was flown in by international aid to alleviate the hunger. 1-2 children died daily, but at some earlier time even 3-4 per day died. [News]

"As we got off the plane in Gode, the heat hit us, like we had just opened the door of a hot oven. Dust and heat combined with the dilapidated little buildings of the airport to give a feeling of utter desolation."

"The main claims to fame of Gode are not inspiring - they are famine and war. Gode lep
from obscurity in March 2000 when a BBC TV crew broadcast a feeding center where children were dying. The resulting storm of media and donor attention generated sufficient support to quell the problem in Somali Region -- Government and NGO people who had been warning about the growing crisis for months were bemused by the fact it took images of starving babies on TV to get a reaction again."

"By September 2000 the feeding centres were winding down. Instead of 600 children under intensive feeding, the number had declined to under 50."

"The landcruisers of the NGO's constitute most of the vehicles in the streets of Gode. Many people crowd the narrow lanes and dusty boulevards of the town. 90% are Somalis, with the women colourfully garbed in flowing robes, and traditional men with simple turbans, skirts and walking sticks. The other 10% are mostly highlanders, the remains of failed resettlement schemes."

"From the air Gode appears as an oasis of green in a sea of tan desolation. The population has swelled to over 100,000 with migrants from the drought, but you'd never guess it from the small size of the town. Up close Gode is not nearly so green. It is brown and desolate. -- /though/ almost every plot did have an acacia. -- In the main squares and lanes the ubiquitous rectangular houses with tin roof predominate, as in other Ethiopian towns. The difference here is the sitting area out front, with thatch on a wooden frame stretching out from the front of the house offering shade and place to perch outside to avoid the furnace temperatures inside. There are also some new buildings - post office and government administration - standing out like spaceships in an alien environment. These are the only signs of progress in the town. -- almost total lack of livestock in the streets due to the drought!"

"- - it was a kilometer drive to the /Wabe Shebelle/ river over a barren field. -- this afforded a ground level view back to the town, where the trees are surmounted by the large new Christian church and the towers of the Mosques. -- in flood times the Wabe Shabelle can rise above the 15 foot canyon wall and flood the plains beyond. This explained the location of Gode town a kilometer away. Large logs washed up on sand banks had come a long way to arrive in this treeless wilderness. -- a crocodile was lurking nearby -- people who washed and gathered water from the river."

"Despite the remoteness, I didn't feel besieged and children generally said a shy 'hello' instead of shouting and running and demanding money. It was nice."

During the Somalia-Ethiopia war of 1976-78, Gode was the first major objective of the Somalians and the main line of defence for Ethiopia. After fierce fighting with jets, tanks, and infantry, Gode fell. Once the Somalians lost, they quickly withdrew. There was no repeat of a major battle at Gode."

"There are still many signs of this military past in Gode. Many broken down military trucks litter the airport area. A fence is made of spent artillery shells, now showing signs of deterioration. This is a great example of swords into plowshares! The airstrip at Gode is paved and modern -- Accommodation /in town/ is basic and there is very little to do. -- the electricity goes off at midnight, along with the fans. The main entertainment is the loud laughing of the hyenas as they contest the streets with the dogs in the middle of the night."

"Flying out of Gode provides a lovely view of the bridge -- and the straight road south. The river is lined with abandoned square farms from the failed irrigation programmes. Beyond the river it is brown, brown, brown."

[Johan Graham in AddisTribune 2000/10/13]

pict Addis Reporter vol II Dec 1969 no 1 p 8 newly built Orthodox church
JCD75 Gode (Godi) 06°05'43"01" 283 m 06/43  [+] n
JDK01 Gode 09°07'42"36" 1674 m 09/42  [MS]
JCD58 Gode awraja 05/43  [MS Ad]

(at least in 1964-1980 centre = Gode)  

1990s In October 1995 Radio Ethiopia published that chemicals had been sprayed in the Gode and Jijiga areas to reduce crop damage and that more than 20 million birds had been killed.
By February 2000 the volunteer agency Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) stated concerning famine in Gode that "it is already too late to set up feeding centres; people have scattered in search of water, food and medicine, and often die as they move." [New York Times Int. 2000.02.24]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDL93</td>
<td>Gode Bokota (G. Bok'ota, G. Boqota)</td>
<td>1953 m</td>
<td>09/38</td>
<td>[AA q]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDK30</td>
<td>Gode Watiyo, see Goda Watiyo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCD58?</td>
<td>Gode werea (in the 1990s)</td>
<td>05/43?</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEP77</td>
<td>Godebe 13°18'/36°19' 882 m near the border of Sudan</td>
<td>13/36</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HER..</td>
<td>Godebe</td>
<td>12/37?</td>
<td>[Ad]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(centre in 1964 of Tach Armachiho sub-district)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBK48</td>
<td>Godebero 04°01'/38°17' 1590 m</td>
<td>04/38</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF82</td>
<td>Godembo (Godambo), cf Gedembo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBF48</td>
<td>Godechicho (Godech'ich'o) 04°01'/38°16' 1660 m</td>
<td>04/38</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>??</td>
<td>Godee (in Ogaden, same as some Gode or Godi?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Since September 1988 the Ethiopian government has seized 2,390 camels, 544 cows, 15,890 goats and sheep, and 70 donkeys from the region of Goddey. Seventeen herd owners have been murdered in the process." [Mohamed Dolal in Beyond conflict in the Horn, 1992 p 186]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEM90</td>
<td>Godefena</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/39</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCS56</td>
<td>Godeli 07°45'/43°04' 985 m</td>
<td>07/43</td>
<td>[MS Gu]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDU52c</td>
<td>Godembo (Godambo), cf Gedembo</td>
<td>10/39</td>
<td>[LM x]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Menz, known from the 1400s.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS33</td>
<td>Godena Mikael (Goduna M.) 10°15'/37°49' 2433 m</td>
<td>10/37</td>
<td>[Ad n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(centre in 1964 of Awabel wereda &amp; of Godena sub-district)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDK50</td>
<td>Godene 09°31'/42°30' 2169 m, near map code JDJ59</td>
<td>09/42</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>godere: god (Som) cave, hole in the ground; dheeree (Som) flow of river, rush, go quickly; goderrehe (Kefa) cultivated taro, Colocasia antiquorum, Colocasia esculenta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBT56</td>
<td>Godere (God Dere, Godder, Goddere, Godare)</td>
<td>05/43</td>
<td>[LM WO Gu Mi]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with ford) 05°04'/43°58' 408/416 m Swedish EFS missionaries, building engineer John Eriksson (b 1933) with wife nurse Gudrun (b 1933) worked there (1990-).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBT77</td>
<td>Godere</td>
<td>05/44</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBT..</td>
<td>Godere sub-district (-1997-)</td>
<td>05/4.</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDD91</td>
<td>Godesa 09°03'/37°40' 1965 m, near map code HDK01</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[AA MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL92</td>
<td>Godesa 09°56'/38°37' 2008 m</td>
<td>09/38</td>
<td>[AA MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS08</td>
<td>Godeso 09°58'/38°16' 2540 m</td>
<td>09/38</td>
<td>[AA MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDE55</td>
<td>Godeti (volcano) 08°37'/38°55' 1831 m</td>
<td>08/38</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDE57</td>
<td>Godeti 08°37'/39°04' 1865 m</td>
<td>08/39</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDE76</td>
<td>Godeti 08°49'/38°58' 2036 m</td>
<td>08/38</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godeti (which one?): From the little village of Godetti, reached immediately after the shaky bridge which crosses the Awash, a narrow road heads west to the prehistoric site of Melka Kunture. [Aubert 1999]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDK25</td>
<td>Godeti (Godetti)</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[+ WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDK74</td>
<td>Godeti 09°46'/37°55' 1627 m</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDK84</td>
<td>Godeti</td>
<td>09/37</td>
<td>[AA]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDT74</td>
<td>Godety 10°35'/38°49' 2437 m</td>
<td>10/38</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Place Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Coordinates</td>
<td>Altitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS60</td>
<td>Godever, see under Dembecha</td>
<td>10/37</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEK00</td>
<td>Godgwadit</td>
<td>11/37</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCM66</td>
<td>Godi (area), cf Gode</td>
<td>06/34</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCD58</td>
<td>Godi, see Gode &amp; JCD75</td>
<td>04/41</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCK90</td>
<td>Godiccio, see Godicho</td>
<td>04/36</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCS20</td>
<td>Godicho (Godiccio) 1315 m</td>
<td>07/37</td>
<td>[+ WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCD00</td>
<td>Godigea</td>
<td>1196 m</td>
<td>05/37</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBP27</td>
<td>Godinna, G. (hill), cf Godena</td>
<td>04/36</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDD57</td>
<td>Godir Aleh</td>
<td>08/43</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFE62</td>
<td>Godira (Godra) 14°10'38°42' 2143 m</td>
<td>14/38</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JKD71</td>
<td>Godire 09°43'42°37' 1533 m</td>
<td>09/42</td>
<td>[MS]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JED03</td>
<td>Godire (area) 870 m</td>
<td>10/42</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDD75</td>
<td>Godirrei (area)</td>
<td>08/43</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDB09</td>
<td>Godissa</td>
<td>08/41</td>
<td>[Wa]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBU85</td>
<td>Godo 05°16'39°46' 1602 m</td>
<td>05/39</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDH87</td>
<td>Godo 2240 m</td>
<td>09/36</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL81</td>
<td>Godo 2705 m</td>
<td>09/38</td>
<td>[AA]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEF20</td>
<td>Godo 11°05'/39°22' 2453 m</td>
<td>11/39</td>
<td>[n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF82</td>
<td>Godoburka, see Goda Burka</td>
<td>11/42</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JED21</td>
<td>Gododlei (area)</td>
<td>08/45</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KDA47</td>
<td>Godorkale (area)</td>
<td>08/45</td>
<td>[WO]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFE62</td>
<td>Godra, see Godira</td>
<td>12°37</td>
<td>[+ n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEJ44</td>
<td>Godsha (Godscia) 12°10'/37°01' 1828 m</td>
<td>12°37</td>
<td>[WO n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBR52</td>
<td>Godubo (Godudo) 383 m</td>
<td>04/41</td>
<td>[WO n]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDS33</td>
<td>Goduna Mikael, see Godena Mikael</td>
<td>12/37</td>
<td>[WO Gu]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>