

- HES72 Masal Dengia, see Mesal Dengiya
- JDH05 Masala, see Mesela
- ?? Masala Maryam (historical), in Menz, cf Mesela 10/39? [x]
Ba'eda Maryam (1468-1478) made his camp for a while at Masala Maryam in Menz.
[Levine, Wax and gold, 1965 p 31]
masalali (O) ladder
masalo (Som) question, problem
- JDN97 Masalu (waterholes) 10/40 [WO]
Masango (ethnic group), see Majangir
- GCU12 Masango, see Tadi
masar (Som) head scarf, handkerchief;
masara, masera, massera (O) 'palace' of a local king
or sultan in earlier times; temple
- KCN24 Masara 07°29'/45°10' 700 m, cf Massera 07/45 [WO Gz]
Masare, unit of the Somali now found (1980s)
in the north-east province of Kenya
- HDM90 Mascal, see Meskel & HEL86
- HEL85 Mascal Cristos, see Meskel Kristos
- HEM30 Mascalanos, see Meskelenas
- HEL85 Mascalo, see Meskelo
- HDE20 Mascan, see Maskan
- HCA98 Masci, see Machi
- HEA37 Mascia (Masci, Mascis), see Masha
- HEA37 Maseis, see Masha
- HDT85 Maseko (Masek'o, Maseqo) 10°45'/38°55' 2794 m 10/38 [Gz q]
north-east of Ajibar
masela (A) sorghum, see *mashilla* below
- JCD67 Masela 06°02'/43°10' 275 m, at Webi Shebele 06/43 [Gz]
- JCD67 Masella Oddun (area) 06/43 [WO]
- HDL49 Maset 09°29'/39°18' 2887 m, north-west of Sheno 09/39 [Gz]
- HER88 Masfinto, see Mesfinto
- HEJ34 Masgala Cristos, see Meskele Kristos
- HEU51c Masgi, see Musgi
- HEE48 Mash (Masc) (area) 11/39 [+ WO]

masha: *meshe* (A) become evening, get dark;
mascha (mas-ch'a) (A) place where something is spread out
to dry
- HCN57 **Masha** 07°44'/35°29' 2223 m, north-east of Gecha 07/35 [Gz Ad Po]
(with sub post office under Gore)
(centre in 1969 of Mocha awraja? & in 1964 of Masha sub-district)
- 1960s The primary school (in Mocha awraja) in 1968 had 405 boys and 67 girls,
with 6 male teachers and one female.
Felege Hiwot church school had 36 boys and 2 girls in grades 1-3,
with one teacher.
- 1990s Around 1995 capital of the Sheykicho Zone of the SNNPRS federal entity.
The Ethiopian Human Rights Council reported in early 1996 that there had been a number
of cases of torture by police in Masha town of Shakiso Zone of the Southern Ethiopia
Peoples National Administrative Region. A form of torture was a kind of handcuffing
making the hands crippled. Some cases were reported with names, among which eight
women: teacher Ametemariam Garefo, housewives (mostly) Elfinesh Tumo, Shashitu
Mekuria, Ayelech Tereda, Tewabech Shebeno, Fellekech Gudeta, Birke Shello,
Asseggedech Gebo. Six names of tortured men were given: tailor Mesfin Megalo, trader
Adraro Angello, farmer Denbel Toqo, unemployed Ambaw Maderasho, tailor Mellese

Megalo, public health officer Tesfaye Negash.

EHRCO did not tell much about the reasons for police interrogations but referred to articles of the Constitution and of the 1956 Penal Code, according to which cruel treatment is forbidden by law in Ethiopia.

[EHRCO January 1996]

- HEA37 Masha (Mascia, Masci, Mascis, Maseis) 11/35 [+ WO Gz]
11°12'/35°24' 693 m, south-east of Gubba
Menilek wrote two preserved letters to foreigners from his camp at Masha in Wello on 31 January 1874.
[Acta aethiopica III p 166-167]
The primary school (in Were Himeno awraja) in 1968 had 108 boys and 15 girls in grades 1-4, with two teachers.
- HEE47 Masha 11°14'/39°04' 2882 m, south-west of Mekdela 11/39 [Gz]
- HDR96 Masha Kuta 10°46'/37°08' 2203 m, north-east of Bure 10/37 [Gz]
- HE... Masha sub-district (-1964-1997-) 11/39 [Ad n]
- mashasha* (A) fold of the groin
- HEA34 Mashasha, see Meshesha
- HFE08 Masheh 13°36'/39°11' 2391 m, east of Abiy Adi 13/39 [Gz]
- HEG47 Mashena, J. (hill) 12/35 [WO]
- ?? Mashengo, see Masogo
- mashi* (southern Eth) kind of 'dead spirit' among the Ari people
- HCA98 Mashî (Masci), see Machi
- mashile: *mashilla* (A,O) greater millet, white sorghum, *Sorghum vulgare*; *yebahir mashilla*, maize
- HCC04c Mashile (Mashille), cf Masile 05/37 [LM Ad]
The primary school (in Gardula awraja) in 1968 had 139 boys and 5 girls in grades 1-2, with three teachers.
- HCC17 Mashile (Nacille) 05°37'/37°16' 1704 m 05/37 [Gz WO]
- HEL85 Mashilo (Mascalò) 12/38 [LM WO Gu]
- HES37 Mashurara Mikael (church) 13°01'/38°14' near Deresge 13/38 [Gz]
- HD... Masiet (centre in 1964 of Chatu sub-district) 09/39 [Ad]
- HCC09 Masile (area of ensete culture) 05/37 [x]
- HCF06c **Masilo**, between Negele and Goba 05/39 [x]
In 1967-68 new roads were made through the heart of the Bale rebel area, from Negele in the south up to Goba, with a large army base set up at Masilo halfway in between. This was made possible by the building of a bridge over the river Ganale, by British Army Engineers.
[Gilkes p 217]
- ?? Masin (with church in the 1520s), near Mojo river ../. [Pa]
Around 1527 when the troops of Imam Ahmäd moved in the area of the rivers Dukem and Mojo, they also halted at a place called Masin, where they burnt one of the Emperor's churches. Later Vizier 'Addolé with his army spent eight days looting Fätägär and nearby Masin.
[Pankhurst 1997]
- HEB21 Masinier (Masiner, Masinger) (mountain) 11/35 [WO Gz]
11°05'/35°48' 1218 m
- JER00 Maska (Masca) (area) 12/41 [+ WO]

- maskala* (masqala) (O) cross, Day of the Cross
/in late September/; age
- HEJ34 Maskala Cristos, see Meskela Kristos
maskan (Som) woman's black headscarf
Masqan, name of a mainly Christian district of the Gurage
- HDD08 Maskan (Mascan, Masqan, Mäsqa) (area) 08/38 [+ WO n]
HDE20 Maskan (Mascan) 08°20'/38°30' 2151 m 08/38 [+ Gz]
HEJ45 Maskelly Exsost, in north-west lake Tana 12/37 [x]
Peninsula with the Desiet ("Desette") islands lying off it. The name is here given with the spelling of Powell-Cotton, who passed there in early May 1900. There is e.g. Meskele Kristos a little to the south.
[Powell-Cotton 1902 p 283]
- HFD83 Maskol Walta (Mascol Ualta) (area) 14/37 [+ WO]
maskulli: *maskali* (masqali) (O) cross, cross-shaped ornament worn at the neck
- HCL31 Maskulli, Gebel (mountain) 06°37'/38°33' 2747 m 06/38 [WO Gz]
east of Wendo, see under Agere Selam
- HDM00 Masno (mountain area) 09°08'/39°24' 2499 m 09/39 [Gu Gz]
south of Sheno, cf Mesno
- HDD58 Masno Gabado, see Tulu Bolo
- masobi, masoobii* (O) basket-type table;
mesobu (A) the table /round-footed, of basketwork upon which food is placed/
- HFF21 Masobu (Mazobu) (mountain) 13/39 [WO Gz Wa]
13°49'/39°28' 2250/2593 m, south of Hawzen
- ?? Masogo (Mashengo) ../.. [Pa]
Small Gimira state around 1690. The Käfa king Tato Gali Ginocho (around 1675-1710) is believed to have incorporated, or reincorporated, the nearby state of Masogo or Mashengo.
[Pankhurst 1997]
- HES72 Massal Dengia, see Mesal Dengia
massalo (O) centre post in a house
massera, masera (O) residence of a local king, traditional type of 'palace'
- JEB49 Massera (area) 326 m, cf Masara 11/41 [WO]
JDE83 Massley (Masslei) (area) 08/43 [+ WO]
masslo: see *massalo* above
- HCM05 Masslo, see Mena
- mat* (mat') (A) mire
mata (A) evening; *mataa* (O) head, skull, cranium; hair
Mata .., cf Meta ..
- HED24 Mata, see Mota
- JDC95 Mata Araw Ajja (Mata Arau Aggia) (area) 09/42 [+ WO]
cf *arawacha* (O) spacious; unguarded
mata arba (O) cranium of elephant?
- HCM31 Mata Arba (area) 06/39 [WO]
JBG63 Mata Arba (area) 04/40 [WO]
JBR56 Mata Arba (hills) 05/42 [WO Gu]
HBF81 Mata Lamani (Gara M.L.) 03°29'/39°24' 954 m 03/39 [Gz]
on the border of Kenya
- HEH87c Matabia, see Metebiya
- JDN08 Mataka (hot spring) 09/40 [MS WO]
matacoma: *matakoma, matokoma* (Alabdu O) kind of tree, *Celtis kraussiana* or similar

- JDA98 Matacoma, see Meta Koma
matagay (Som) vomit, feel nauseated
- HCF54 Matago 05°53'/39°43' 1530 m 05/39 [WO Gz]
- JEN97 **Matahala** (waterhole) 13/40 [Ne WO]
After passing the grassy plain of Her in 1928, Nesbitt's party arrived at the village called Matahala. "These were the first signs of settled and peaceful conditions which we had encountered for three weeks, since leaving the Awash. -- Assen had not been mistaken in supposing that the inhabitants would come forth to greet us. Some thirty people, almost the entire population, watched our arrival. Women and children stood in clusters outside their miserable huts. These last were of the usual Danakil sort, pieces of matting thrown over a few bent sticks."
"Presently they all approached us Europeans, bowed deeply to us, and whispered words of greeting. -- we walked towards the village. Meanwhile, there moved from the opposite side of the group of huts another cluster of people coming to meet us. In the centre of these an elder led the Blind Chief by the hand. Some of his escort carried rifles, others lances. The chief was a small old man, of a kindly and quiet bearing. -- His low voice, and concentrated attention, seemed to exact instant obedience from his followers. -- He proposed to have some huts cleared out for our use, but we tactfully declined this, saying that we preferred to camp near the water-hole, beyond the village."
"The water-hole was a ditch, a long natural furrow in the clayey soil, some ten feet deep, and two or three feet wide at the bottom. It was muddy and disgusting. Both men and cattle walked along the shallower parts, stirring up the mire continually. The people walked, and drank, and wallowed there, just as the cattle did. Men, women, children, goats, and a few camels crowded in the water, standing in it, and sitting in it, while thousands of doves sat cooing around the brink. -- It was good to see our camels and mules not only drinking their fill, but grazing to the top of their bent on the abundant grass."
"We planned to remain one or two whole days at Matahala, so that our animals might regain some of their strength, by grazing their fill. Our men were also in urgent need of rest. The people of the village were perfectly friendly, and there was fresh milk and meat to be had."
"Before long the Blind Chief came to pay us a visit, bringing with him a present of sheep and goats. We were glad to accept these, handing him suitable gifts in return. Unfortunately, the chief's advent gave a greater degree of courage to the crowd. Instead of remaining at some distance from our tent -- they now approached until they stood in a close ring about it and us. -- The spectators stood two and three deep around us, closely packed, and we performed our meal in an atmosphere of the most intense interest."
"Later in the afternoon, when the heat had abated, we ordered that the boxes of gifts should be opened. We then distributed beads and tobacco to the populace, reserving coffee and sugar for the savages of quality."
"In the evening a very great chief arrived, one whose sway extended over the Blind Chief and his followers. He was old and completely bald. He said he was sorry to be late, but he had only received news of our approach that morning. He had immediately set out to meet us, not waiting even to drive with him goats and sheep to present to us. These gifts should reach us on the morrow, he said. Naturally, we had to give him solid presents in exchange for his kind intentions."
"'This tribe,' said the Blind Chief, 'was once seven hundred strong, but during the course of my life I have seen it brought down to fifty souls, and that is our number at present. It is the constant raiding which has reduced us. I myself was blinded in a fight, and I would have been slain had not some of my comrades rescued me in time.' He held open the white sheet and showed the great scars and gatherings of his flesh, where the steel of his enemies had ploughed his body. His tribe, he said, was now too reduced to withstand any but the smallest enemies, and when attacked they fled to caves and crevices in the rocks --"

"As we sat with the elders, we heard that the son of a Danakil chief whom they knew had recently assaulted an Eritrean frontier post, when he and his followers had killed all the garrison, numbering eight soldiers, and looted forty rifles - a priceless haul to such savages."

"A villager squatting in the ring was pointed out to me. I had noticed that he possessed an unusually good rifle. This ruffian had gone to the Plateau to secure his weapon. He had travelled here and there on the Plateau, working a little, and then one day he had murdered an Abyssinian merchant, and stolen the rifle which he now held in his hand. He immediately fled into the desert, where he could not be followed, and returned to Matahala, where he was looked upon as a splendid fellow. -- Then we were told of the exploits of other criminals sitting in the ring: some of them hung their heads modestly when their murders were made known, other accepted the honour more gallantly."

"At evening all the goatskins were filled with the muddy water of the ditch, which at least was not mineralized. -- At dusk we stood ready for departure, surrounded by the entire population of the village. -- The grass continued for some distance beyond the village, but it gradually became more sparse. When darkness fell we were obliged to halt, as we had come to ground which was broken by crevices."

[L M Nesbitt (1934)1955 p 302-307]

- HDF86 Matahara, see Metehara
 JDH57 Mataharba 09/41 [WO]
- JDG99c *mataka*: *matako* (mataqoo) (O) newcomer in an area /animal/
Mataka (mountain) 09/40 [Ne x 20]
 At quite some distance north of Awash station. Mataka is said to mean "warning". There are hot springs and a pass.
 In 1934 Wilfred Thesiger travelled there and referred to the "ill-famed pass of Mataka /where/ the tracks skirt an impossible swamp at the foot of a rugged chain of hills."
 [Kalb 2001 p 26]
 Pass being a narrow strip between swamps on one side and rocky hills on the other and considered the gateway to the Bahadu flood-plain near Gewani, in the middle course of the Awash river.
 [D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 149]
 Near the Dobel plantation (-1975-).
- JEJ11 Mataka (Mataca) (area), cf Meteka 11/41 [+ WO]
 HEC10 Matalal, see Metekel ..
 HBK27 Matalama (area) 03/38 [WO]
 JDH13 Matalincha (Matalincia) 09/40 [+ WO]
 HEP35 Matamma (Matama, Matammeh, Matemma), see Metemma
matana (O) horse for carrying loads only;
mattaneh (O) *Setaria pallida-fusca*;
matanu (O) to unite; *matino* (O) kind of unleavened bread cake
- JCS13 Matano (hills) 07/42 [WO]
- matari* (T) kind of shrub or small tree, *Buddleja polystachya*;
 (O) domestic animal /such as calf/ that eats clothes;
Matari, Mattarri, one of three sub-groups (sub-moieties)
 of the Sabo branch of the Borena people
- HFF31 Matari (with rock-hewn/?/ church)
 see Geralta churches - northern
- HCA52 Mataro (mountain), cf Matero 05/35 [WO]
 JDH62 Matasadi (area) 09/40 [WO]
 ?? Matavia/. [x]
 "The one time I saw a donkey ridden was in the village of Matavia near the Sudan border,

but this was exceptional and apparently in imitation of Sudanese Arabs who have and commonly use riding donkeys."

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

- HEH87c Matebiya, see Metebiya
- HER60 Mategatsa (area) 13/36 [WO]
- HEL53 Matero (Mat'ero) 12°14'/38°47' 2533 m 12/38 [Gz]
north-west of Lalibela
- mati* (O) the children collectively, family;
(A) crowd of small children
- HCD28 Mati 05°41'/38°18' 2083 m 05/38 [WO Gz]
see under Agere Maryam, cf Meti
- HCE85 Mati (area) 06°10'/38°52' 2199 m 06/38 [WO Gz]
- HC... Mati 06/39 [18]
- GDM31 Matimo 09/34 [WO]
- HD... Matin, about 10°30'/36°30' 10/36 [Ch]
A small tributary of the Abay. "At the point where we crossed the Matin River /29 March 1927/ the water was 4 feet wide and 5 inches deep -- It was here a merry little stream and only had to go about seven miles to flow to the Abbai, but our guide said that at this season it dries up before it reaches the river."
[Cheesman 1936]
- matino* (O) kind of unleavened small bread cake
- HDS.. Matsciakal, see Machakel
- HD... Matiya (small river in Gojjam) at about 10°35'/38°20' 10/38 [+ Ch]
"We camped /in February 1927/ beside the Matia River, a small stream which would never be a big river even in flood. -- we were able to buy a few bunches of green onions grown by irrigation from a small spring near a village -- /though vegetables/ are seldom grown by the villagers."
[Cheesman 1936]
- HF... Matlia (historically recorded in Aksum area) 14/38 [Pa]
According to a stone inscription of the Aksumite Empire in the 300s, King Ezana made six tributary kings with 4,400 people settle in a district called Matlia, after a rebellion in the Bega area.
[Pankhurst, .. Chronicles, 1967 p 3]
- HDJ86 Mato 09°48'/37°12' 1979 m, south-east of Alibo 09/37 [Gz]
- HEK41 Matraha .., see Mitraha ..
- HET60 Matta 13/38 [WO Gu]
mattarre (O) kind of medicinal plant; *Mattarri*, see Matari above
- JEA93 Mattarri (area) 11/40 [WO]
matto (O) old and respectable /woman/
Matto, name of a Kefa clan
- HDA18 Mattu (Matu), see Metu
matu, (O) cut back, prune trees
- ?? Matze, in the south-west ../.. [20]
Village inhabited by the Ingota people of which only some 100 are said to remain in the 2000s. They arrange sleeping places in trees to avoid malaria mosquitoes.
[Tenaestelin, Sthlm 2003 no 2 p 8-9]
- mau*: *maw* (Som) water jar;
Mao, a small Nilotic tribe living along the Ethio-Sudan border
- GDF33 Mau 08°30'/34°37' 1694 m, south-west of Dembidolo 08/34 [Gz]
- GDF45 Mau, T.(Tulu Mao) (hill), see under Dembidolo 08/34 [WO]
- HDA22 Mau, T. (hill) 08/35 [WO]
- HEM61 Maugo, see Mahago
- HEK81 Mauri 12/37 [WO]

JDH83	Mauro 09°50'/40°59' 758 m	09/40	[Gz]
JEJ35	Maurthu (waterhole)	12/42	[WO]
HET57	Mawil Mikael (Mawl Mika'el) (church) 13°11'/39°08' west of Samre	13/39	[Gz]
HEL18	Mawire 11°54'/39°10' 2406 m, west of Weldiya	11/39	[Gz]
HFE28	Mawka (Mawk'a, Mawqa) 13°49'/39°14' 2180 m north-east of Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz q]
GDF45	Mawo (mountain) 08°34'/34°48' 1694 m near Dembidolo May .., see also Mai .. (May .. is spelling according to recent practice, but Mai .. is the form very often found in earlier maps)	08/34	[Gz]
HFD..	May Abay, see Mai Abai		
HFD37	May Abeba, see Togo Ber		
HFE71	May Adgi (mountain) 14°13'/38°35' 2047 m north-west of Aksum	14/38	[Gz]
HFE71	May Adi 14°14'/38°33' 1840 m north-west of Aksum	14/38	[Gz]
HEM94	May Alekt (M. Alek't) 12°36'/39°47' 1783 m east of lake Ashenge	12/39	[Gz]
HFE88	May Awli'i Silase (church) 14°19'/39°14' near Inticho	14/39	[Gz]
HFD82	May Barya 14°18'/37°45' 1011 m near the border of Eritrea	14/37	[Gz]
HFE50	May Beraziyo (M. Brazio) 14°06'/38°31' 2335 m (M. Barazyo), between Inda Silase and Aksum	14/38	[Gz n x]
1550s	King Galawdewos in 1554 made a land charter to the convent of May Beraziyo and king Minas made another in 1559 or 1561. This convent was situated about 30 km west-north- west of Aksum (Gz rather gives west-south-west). [Huntingford, The land charters .., A.A. etc 1965 p 55-56]		
1980s	According to government reports TPLF forces deployed in the May Brazio-Akab Saat front in the beginning of February 1989 were estimated to be three divisions, two heavy weapon companies and one division on reserve. On 10 February 1989 the TPLF launched an offensive against the government's 22nd brigade of the 16th division along the May Brazio-Akab Saat front. Three government brigades eventually retreated backwards, but the 135th brigade did not receive the order. It was subsequently enveloped and destroyed by the rebel forces. [12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994]		
HFL07	May Chaa (May Ch'a'a) 14°28'/39°10' 1857 m near the border of Eritrea	14/39	[Gz]
HFL08	May Chaa (May Ch'a'a) 14°28'/39°13' 1770 m on the border of Eritrea	14/39	[Gz]
HES96	May Chanka (M. Ch'ank'a, M. Chanqa) (mountain) 13°29'/38°07' 1348 m	13/38	[Gz]
HFE66	May Chew (M. Ch'ew) 14°08'/39°01' 2214 m (with church Mikael), east of Adwa, cf Maychew	14/39	[Gz]
HEU..	May Chisa (Mai Cisa) As war area in February 1936, see under Amba Aradam.	13/39	[+ It]
HFD..	May Chokomti (Mai Ciocomti) (area) 2175 m	14/39	[+ Gu]
HFD20	May Chogonte (Mai Ciogonte, M. Chiogonite) 13°50'/37°35' 850 m may dairo: <i>daa'iro</i> (Arabic) circle; (Som) luck, fate	13/37	[+ WO Gz]
HFF31	May Dairo (Da'iro) 13°50'/39°28' 2120 m	13/39	[Gz]

	(with church Maryam), south of Hawzen Coordinates would give map code HFF21.		
HFE74	May Dearo (May De'aro, Mai Daro, Mai Uaro) 14°15'/38°49' 1989 m, village near a bridge (with church P'erak'lit'os), north-west of Adwa	14/38	[Gz Gu WO]
HEM81	May Dege 12°30'/39°26' 2868 m, west of Korem	12/39	[Gz]
HFK27	May Degwale 14°40'/38°12' 1142 m on the border of Eritrea	14/38	[Gz]
HEU43	May Dema (Mai Dima) 13°02'/39°41' 2356 m (with church Giyorgis), near Dehub "In the evening /of 1 March 1936/ -- the 'Cosseria' Division halted in the Mai Dimà valley (south-west of Gheza Godefà) in order to take advantage of the few small springs of water there." [Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 116-117]	13/39	[Gz It]
HEU..	May Dolo (Mai D.) As war area in February 1936, see under Amba Alage.	13/39	[+ It]
HFF61	May Falso (mountain chain) 14°11'/39°31' 2557 m south-east of Adigrat	14/39	[Gz]
H...	May Gassa (tree nursery in Tigray in the 1990s)	../..	[20]
HFE46	May Gib Maryam (church) 13°57'/38°59' may gudo: <i>guddo</i> (O) 1. abundant; 2. big /female/; <i>gudo</i> (Som) 1. inside, interior; 2. fulfill one's obligations	13/38	[Gz]
HCR27	May Gudo (Maya Gudo, Maigudo) (mountain) peak 3099/3260 m	07/37	[+ MS LM WO]
HFD12	May Hargets 13°43'/37°46' 936 m north-west of Adi Arkay	13/37	[Gz]
HFF73	May Iderat 14°13'/39°40' 2903 m south-east of Adigrat	14/39	[Gz]
HFE07	May In Silase (church) 13°35'/39°08, east of Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz]
??	May Islami, cf Mai Islami Sabagaudis, "viceroy of Tigray", was captured at May Islami and killed by the followers of Ras Maru (or Maryé) in 1831. [Mathew 1947 p 155]	../..	[x]
??	May Kech (visiting postman under Mekele)	../..	[Po]
HEU90	May Kefi 13°29'/39°23' 2220 m, near Mekele <i>may keyih</i> (qeyih) (T) red water	13/39	[Gz]
HEU72	May Keyih (May K'eyih, Maikeyih, Mai Cayeh) (May Keyah) 13°19'/39°32' 2140 m (with church Tekle Haymanot) (centre in 1964 of Didiba sub-district)	13/39	[Gz Ad WO]
HFE45	May Kinetal (M. K'inet'al, Maikintal, Mai Cheneta) (May Kenetal, Mai Canetta) 13°57'/38°59' 1765 m (with church Medhane Alem), cf Keneta Coordinates would give map code HFE46 Centre in 1964 of Inda Felasi wereda. Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 5SW Nekaha (Necaha) (area) 8N Marafluba (Maraflubai) (village) 1906 m	13/38 13/38	[Gz Ad WO] [Gu]
1930s	Italian <i>Residenza</i> , school for Ethiopian children, a small church of the <i>Madonna di Loreto</i> .		
1960s	"My map proclaims that Mai Cheneta is another town and I'm beginning to get the idea: any village with a police post and a primary school is a 'town'. "My arrival here almost caused a riot. Hundreds of people raced to stare at me, the children trampling on each other in an effort to see the <i>faranj</i> clearly. Then a Muslim tailor invited me into his tiny workshop, ordered tea and sent his son to summon an		

English-speaking teacher. As I gulped the black syrupy tea three men had to stand by the door, beating back the populace with their *dulas* --"

"Soon the teacher arrived - a quiet, kind young man named Haile Mariam, who at once offered me his room for the night. -- The Italians are responsible for most of Mai Cheneta's solid buildings, of which this is one -- When I arrived the only piece of furniture was an iron bedstead with a hair mattress. (All the teacher's possessions hang on the walls.) Then a battered table and chair were imported from the police station, so that I might write in comfort, and a few moments ago Haile Mariam came in with a big, bright oil-lamp."

"-- the three teachers urged me to visit their school-house on the summit of a hill overlooking the town. This house was built as the Italian C.O's residence and is now a semi-ruin. All the windows and doors have been removed, part of the tin roof has collapsed and hundreds of pigeons roost in the rafters and cover the floor with their droppings. There are four fine rooms, completely unfurnished save for small hanging blackboards and rows of stones brought in from the hillside as seats for the pupils. Two years ago, when the school opened, there were thirty on the roll; now there are ninety, despite much opposition from local parents and clergy. As is usual in such communities many parents are anti-school, preferring their children to herd flocks rather than to study; and the highland clergy resent the recent intrusion of the state on a domain that hitherto has been exclusively theirs."

"On returning here I found the Chief of Police, the headman and a character described as 'the Sheriff' sitting in a row on the bed debating how best to deal with the problem of me. A group of privileged children - presumably the offspring of the officials - had been permitted into the room and were squatting motionless along the walls, gazing at me as though hypnotised, while various other locally important personages stood around joining in the argument."

"Had I been willing to 'do in Rome /as Rome does/' I would have accepted an escort for tomorrow's trek; but escorts are so ruinous to my enjoyment that I remained obstinate - and eventually won the battle. I was then asked to write out and sign a statement (in triplicate: one copy for each official) declaring that I had been warned of the dangers and offered an escort, but had insisted on continuing alone. Obviously if I believed in these dangers I wouldn't be such a fool; but the risk of being shot at by *shifita* while walking through Ethiopia is probably no greater than the risk of being strangled by a maniac while hitch-hiking through Britain."

"In the course of our argument Haile Mariam had said reproachfully, 'It is not part of our culture to travel alone'; and I suspect that the unconventionality of my trek upsets these people as much as the possibility of a *faranj* being murdered and local officials getting the blame. They cannot understand why anyone should want to travel alone --"

"While our dispute was in progress a touching number of gifts were being brought to me by the locals - dozens of eggs, gourds of curd, flat slabs of different kinds of *dabo* and four chickens, all squawking frantically in premonition of the pot. (The teachers will benefit greatly from my visit.) Meanwhile the headman's wife was pouring us tea from a kettle -- One of the chickens became *durro-wat* for my supper, which I shared with the teachers."

"Haile Mariam and his two comrades are natives of Aksum -- and all three accused the priests of living in luxury off the peasants - and of being far too numerous anyway."

The author with her mule set off for Adwa early next morning.

[Dervla Murphy 1969 p 50-54 (1994 p 51-55)]

The primary school in 1968 had 46 boys and 20 girls in grades 1-4, with two teachers.

1980s On 24 June 1988 a large number of Derg government infantry came through Abiy Adi and destroyed a lot of property. From Abiy Adi they went on to May Kinetal.
[Africa Watch 1991]

HEU32 May Korar (M. K'orar, M. Qorar)12°59'/3934' 3449m 12/39 [Gz q]

	near Amba Alage		
HFD72	May Kuhili 14°15'/37°45' 1031 m	14/37	[Gz]
	near the border of Eritrea		
HFE67	May Kwak Abune Yohanis (church) 14°07'/39°06'	14/39	[Gz]
	east of Adwa		
HFF62	May Lebay Meda (plain) 14°08'/39°33'	14/39	[Gz]
	(with church Daminas at some distance to the west)		
	south-east of Adigrat		
HFE67	May Libo 14°09'/39°08' 1963 m, east of Adwa	14/39	[Gz]
HES13	May Liko (May Luco) 12°50'/37°47' 2444 m	12/37	[Gz]
	north-east of Gondar		
??	May Mada (visiting postman under Dessie)	../..	[Po]
HEM..	May Mado wereda (Maymado ..) (-1994-)	12/39	[n]
HFF53	May Megelta, see Mai Megelta		
HFE06	May Mekden 13°35'/39°04' 2582 m, near Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz]
HFF02	May Mekden (Macden, Mai Macdem, M. Makdam)	13/39	[MS WO Gu 18]
	(M. Mäqdäm) (with bridge) 2188 m		
1860s	"Went out of the way about a mile to see a ruin which looked like a fortification. Found it the remains of a large stone-built village, with large church on the bank of a dry torrent. Church deserted and full of pigeons. We hear there is a war going on between tribes in this neighbourhood." From Colonel Milward's diary for 15 February 1868 at what he writes Mai Muckdum.		
1930s	December 1935: "-- ordering the formation of a base depot at Mai Macdem - a place to the north of Macallè - which should be provided with a number of hospitals and large reserves of foodstuffs, forage, munitions, fuel, etc. I arranged for the protection of this base, assigning a special guard which was to form part of the organization -- of the line of communication between Adigrat and Macallè." [Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 30] Around February 1936 it was an advance base of materials and supplies for the Ist and IIIrd Corps of the Italians. The supply depot at May Mekden was done away with by mid-March 1936 as then being too far in the rear. [Badoglio]		
1980s	On 6 July 1988 Derg government forces attacked May Mekden. Ten people were killed, three wounded, and 25 houses burnt. [Africa Watch 1991]		
HEM60	May Mihimaz 12°20'/39°24' 2134 m, west of Alamata	12/39	[Gz]
HFE56	May Minyim (M. Minym) 14°03'/39°00' 2256 m	14/39	[Gz]
	south-east of Adwa		
HFE56	May Misham (Zongui) 14°02'/39°02' 2020 m	14/39	[Gz]
	(Mai Mishan), south-east of Adwa		
	Halaka Twolde Medhen, who had worked for the Swedish EFS mission in Eritrea, went to his home village Mai Misham in early 1910. He started teaching and preaching there. An Evangelical school with financial support from the Government was started there around 1930, with grades 1-2. By that time Mai Misham was still the only place in Tigray outside Adwa where the Evangelical Gospel had attained a firm footing. [Bortom bergen /I/ 1953 p 255, 268-269 + other mission source] The Ethio-Swedish Institute of Building Technology had a water drilling project there which started on 24 January 1966. [ESIBT News]		
HEU51	May Nebri 13°08'/39°30' 2037 m	13/39	[Gz]

HET88	(with church Mikael), west of Debub May Omo, 13°23'/39°12' 2069 m south-west of Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz]
??	May Saeda (M. Sa'ada) (historically recorded) in the Gondar region?	../..	[Pa]
HET68	May Senti 13°16'/39°15' 2387 m, near Samre	13/39	[Gz]
HFD58	May Shebenni (Mai Scebenni) 14°03'/38°16' 1873 m near Inda Silase <i>may</i> (T) water, <i>tala</i> (O) kind of tree, <i>bado</i> (A) barren, empty	14/38	[Gz]
HFC36	May Talabado (Mai T.) see under Kafta	13/37	[+ WO]
HEP35	May Tamma (May Temma), see Metemma		
HFE79	May Temar 14°12'/39°17' 2393 m south-west of Adigrat	14/39	[Gz]
HFF21	May Tiwaru 13°47'/39°31' 1892 m (with church Abune Ananyos), south of Hawzen	13/39	[Gz]
HFE68	May Tsaida (M. Ts'a'ida, Tsada, Tzada) 14°09'/39°13' 2251 m (with churches Abune Aregawi and K'irkos)	14/39	[Gz]
HES96	May Tsemre (M.Tsemri, Maitemre, Maitsemri) (Mytsemri, May Tsebri, Medanie Alem, Medane A.) 13°34'/38°08' 1383 m, saddle 1470 m, near map code HFD06 (with sub P.O. under Gondar & church Medhane Alem to the south-east) (centre in 1964 of Adi Arkay sub-district) There was a Telecommunications pay station in 1967. The primary school in 1968 had 161 boys and 44 girls, with 4 teachers.	13/38	[Gz Po WO Gu]
HFD47	May Tsimu (Maytsimu) 14°00'/38°12' 1967 m (Maisemu), south-west of Inda Silase	14/38	[Gz]
HFD..	May Wayn (M. Wayni) (historical monastery) King Zara Yaqob (1433-1468) and king Ba'eda Maryam (1468-1478) made land charters to the convent of May Wayn, which, if it is the same as M. Wayni of d'Abbadie, was situated about 12 km north-east of present day Dembegina. [Huntingford, The land charters .., A.A. etc 1965 p 38-39]	14/38?	[x]
HFE73	May Wellel (Mai Uollel) 14°13'/38°43' 1868 m north of Aksum	14/38	[Gz Gu]
HFE86	May Wiur (M. Wi'ur) 14°18'/39°00' 2512 m (mountain), west of Inticho	14/39	[Gz]
??	May Zulawu, battle site in Tigray In June 1871 the pretender Tekle Giyorgis crossed the Tekkeze river into Tigray. On 21 June, at May Zulawu, he and Dejazmach Kasa (future Yohannes IV) fought a day-long battle, during which Tekle Giyorgis suffered many more casualties. He retreated to the Mereb river the following day and was later killed in a second battle on 11 July. [Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 34-35]	../..	[x]
	maya: Warra Maya (Maya people/family), name of a Babile tribe of the eastern Oromo; in wars around 1580 the Maya warriors were known for using poisoned arrows; <i>maya</i> (A) place for looking; <i>maya</i> (Som) no; <i>maye ayh</i> (A) Noah's flood; <i>mwaya</i> (A) day's pay. <i>Maya</i> , see also under Waj		
HDB28	Maya (Maia)	08/36	[+ WO]
HDL65	Maya 09°36'/38°55' 2589 m, south-east of Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL75	Maya 09°41'/38°54' 2675 m, near Debre Libanos	09/38	[AA Gz]
HEA74	Maya (Maia) 11°32'/35°12' 759 m	11/35	[+ WO]

- HCR27 Maya Gudo (Maigudo), see May Gudo
- JDJ24 Maya Gudo 09°15'/41°59' 1707 m 09/41 [Gz]
north-east of Grawa
- JDJ24 Maya Gudo 09°16'/42°01' 1795 m, west of Harar 09/42 [Gz]
- HFF80c Mayaba Samuel (= Mai Abba Samuel?) 14/39 [Br]
(rock-hewn church)
- JDJ33 Mayakelo (Mayak'elo, Mayaqelo) 09/41 [Gz q]
09°21'/41°56' 2097 m, south of Dire Dawa
- HFF71 Maybaba (with rock-hewn church) 14/39 [x]
see under Adigrat
- may chew* (T) saline water
- HEU12 **Maychew** (Maichew, Maychaw, Mai Ceu, M. Cio) 12/39 [MS Ro WO Gu]
(Mai Chio, M. Keu) (with post office)
Gz:12°47'/39°32' 2494 m; MS:12°48'/39°36' 2350 m
Centre at least 1964-1980 of Raya & Azebo awraja
& of Inda Mehonie wereda & of Deger Milash sub-district.
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
8E (Mekan pass, see under Korbeta)
9SE Ezba (pass) 2301/2500 m
10SE Gumburrada (pass)
9W Debra Laf (Debra L.) (pass)
10W Saefti (pass)
10NW Dubbar (Dubbai) (pass) 3938 m
?? Jijira (Agiura) 1613 m
4N Belago
7NE (Amba Arara, see under Korbeta)
10NE Yeberr Malash (pass)
Town on the main road, between lake Ashange and Amba Alage.
- meteo Mean monthly rainfall in 1953-1957 was 268 mm in August, 176 in July,
around 85-95 in March, April, September, and only 9 or less in
November, December, January.
- 1934 In October 1934 a rebellion was started at Maychew by a son of Lij Iyasu whom he had
by an Afar woman. After a violent battle he was defeated and made prisoner.
[Italian source in 1935]
- 1936 Before the **battle of Maychew** which began on 31 March 1936, the Italians began
to move up forces which the military adviser to the Emperor, Colonel Konovaloff,
realised could repeat the earlier encircling tactics. The Emperor, with Ras Seyoum and
Ras Kassa seated with him, held a traditional feast, and raw meat was served to the
soldiers. Attacks by Italian planes were becoming much more frequent in the region of the
Emperor's cave by the time the reluctant leaders eventually declared their forces ready for
the attack. It was planned that the army should advance in three columns, led by Ras
Kassa, Ras Seyoum and Ras Getachew. 'Why by them?' asked Konovaloff in his memoir,
'He had better men but he could not use them.'
The battle was to last several days. The Ethiopians broke through the outer defences of
the Italian lines but the delay had allowed time for those defences to be constructed in
depth and the offensive soon began to slow down. Haile Selassie was with the armies on
the plain before Maychew firing a machine-gun. He sent a telegram to the Empress:
"From five in the morning until seven in the evening our troops attacked the enemy's
strong positions fighting without pause. We /the Emperor/ also took part in the action
and by the Grace of God remained unharmed. -- The Guard fought magnificently and
deserve every praise. The Amhara troops also did their best. -- The Galla helped us only
with shouts, not with their strong right arm."
Ethiopians killed in the battle included Dejazmach Mengesha Yilma, Abera Tedla, Ras

Kebede, old Dejazmach Wendirad, and many many more. Leul-Ras Seyoum Mengesha slipped away from the field to march back into his fief of Tigray.

[R Greenfield, Ethiopia, London 1965 p 216-217]

At the far end of the plateau of lake Ashenge lay Maychew, the only sizeable town between Dessie and Mekele, governed by Dejazmach Aberra Tedla, a Shewan chosen for his vigour and loyalty to the Emperor, posted with a Shewan garrison in the heart of the territory of the Raya Galla.

[A Mockler, Haile Selassie's war, 1984 p 97-99 with sketch map]

The Italians occupied Amba Alage nine days after Ras Mulugeta had abandoned it. From Alagi Ber they could look down at Maychew and across the plain of lake Ashenge. The countryside was in open revolt.

On the Ethiopian side an entirely fresh army came up from the south-west, commanded by Ras Getachew Abate. The leaders who had fought at Amba Aradam came in, except for Admassu Birru who had retreated south-west. Ras Kassa and Ras Seyum reached Korem from Sekota on 19 March. The Emperor set up his advance headquarters in a cavern at Aya, facing the enemy's positions at Maychew. Badoglio's wireless messengers intercepted the message from Haile Selassie to the Empress. He immediately cancelled the orders for his proposed advance, and disposed his forces to await the Imperial attack.

[Mockler p 111-114]

On the Ethiopian side could be found most of the greatest names of the Empire. There were also priests and bishops and even women fighters. There were British-trained officers, ex-King's African Rifles, French-trained officers from St. Cyr, and Belgian-trained officers. But apart from the Russian Konavoloff there were very few foreigners still with the Emperor.

On the afternoon of 24 March the Emperor held a great feast in the cavern at Aya. Konavoloff had been sent off the day before disguised as a deacon to spy out the enemy lines, and the Emperor had spent the morning studying the Italian camp through his binoculars. After the feast there was an improvised council of war, confused and long-lasting. The attack was postponed till Saturday the 28th or Monday the 30th. It was unthinkable for the Ethiopians to attack on Sunday. Tuesday 31 March was, finally, the day decided on for battle - it was Saint George's Day.

Over the next few days until then leaders of the Azebo Galla trooped into the Emperor's cave, receiving individual gifts. The hope of winning them over had been one of the main reasons for delaying the attack. They promised their support and were told to harry the Italian flanks.

[Mockler p 115-116]

Badoglio planned his defence. His three best divisions manned his front line. On the Italian right he placed the crack *Valpusteria Alpini*; in the centre the 2nd Eritrean Division; and on the left the 1st Eritreans. Then in the second line lay three more, the *Sabauda*, the Blackshirts of the '23rd January' and, drawn far back to the north the *Assietta*.

The Italians, knowing in advance of the attack, had had time to fortify their positions, put up thorn *zeriba* hedges, site their guns, and bring up by pack mules all the supplies they needed. The radio messages of the enemy were intercepted, and many of the Azebo Galla had come in to obtain more dollars and better weapons from the Italians and to warn them that the attack was planned for the Monday. Finally on Monday evening an officer of the Guard deserted and warned the Italians to keep their eyes well open that night.

[Mockler p 116]

At 5.45 on St. George's Day two Mauser shots broke the silence and two red Verey lights flared up into the sky, as the alarm was given simultaneously on the front of the *Alpini* and the 2nd Eritreans. From the slopes of Korem the Ethiopian guns and mortars opened fire. The rattle of machine-guns joined in. Many Italians were killed. A battery of Schneider 75s directed by an ex-St. Cyr cadet, Kenyaz Chifli, was particularly effective, and the Ethiopian mortars wiped out all the officers of the opposing 8th battery. As the first Ethiopian assault went in, their artillery fire switched towards the slopes of the

eastern Mekan pass in front of which lay the 2nd Eritrean Division. Though surprise had been lost, the battle was, for the Ethiopians, beginning well.

Again and again that morning the Ethiopians hurled themselves forward against the static lines of the three Italian Divisions. Again and again the Italian guns and riflemen, well-situated and protected by the thorn *zeribas* to their front, cut swathes through the advancing ranks of the Ethiopians and drove them back. Only once did they have to use the bayonet. The discipline of the defenders was such that they never rashly ventured out in pursuit. What pursuit there was was done, as always, by the Italian planes. And all through that long morning the rival commanders nervously eyed the hordes of Azebo Galla gathering at Warahei on the eastern flank of the battlefield, aware of their treacherous instincts and their conflicting promises.

[Mockler p 117]

Before the sun rose the first wave of Ethiopians had broken itself on the *zeribas* and had been driven back. The second column, 15,000 strong, under Ras Kassa's command, plunged furiously for the weakest point in the Italian line. By 8 a.m. however the air overhead was filled with the sound the Ethiopians had come to dread: sixty planes machine-gunned and bombed the rear of Ras Kassa's column before flying on to strafe the Emperor's headquarters.

After a brief pause Haile Selassie launched his third and what he hoped would be his decisive assault. The Imperial Guard under Ras Getachew moved forward against the already wobbly Italian centre. This time the battle lasted a wearying three hours. By midday the great assault had been beaten off, and the Guard fell back to lick their wounds. A long lull ensued. It was still anybody's victory. The Ethiopians, though beaten back, had not been pursued. All three divisions in the Italian front line had been badly mauled and were running low on ammunition.

By early afternoon the sky was overcast and intermittent rain was falling. The attacks of the Italian planes were slackening. Haile Selassie reinforced his columns and ordered a general assault all along the front in a last attempt to break the Italian lines before nightfall. Fighting raged all along the line.

It was at this moment that the horsemen of the Azebo Galla at last intervened. It must have been with despair that in the confusion of the battlefield Haile Selassie watched them moving forward from over on his right, not - as he was surely hoping until the very last moment - to roll up the 1st Eritreans and sweep the whole Italian line away in confusion, but instead to fall upon the rear of his own embattled warriors. Pursued by the Galla, machine-gunned by the enemy, bombed from the air, the Ethiopians fell grimly back once again.

[Mockler p 117-118]

Haile Selassie was planning to attack again the next day. Had he done so, it might have been a decisive victory. Behind the three frontline divisions of the Italians were three more, but they were not so good and above all not nearly so experienced. If the Italian front had cracked, their second line might not have held in the face of fleeing troops of their own side.

But the Ethiopian leaders met in council and rejected the Emperor's plans. Despite their courage all their assaults, even the assault of the Guard, had failed. The Azebo Galla had betrayed them once more. There were many dead and more wounded. Heavy rains were beginning to fall. Faint counsels prevailed.

The rains fell all next day. The Ethiopians collected their dead and, amidst the wailing of their women and the chanting of their priests, buried them on the plain of lake Ashenge. Among the dead were two Fitawraris and three Dejazmaches. But it was not till the following night that the Emperor finally agreed to order retreat.

[A Mockler, Haile Selassie's war, 1984 p 119]

An Italian version of the battle of Maychew:

In mid-March 1936 Badoglio "ordered the 1st Corps to proceed to the occupation of the range of hills closing the southern end of the Mai Cid basin, and to start forthwith on the creation of a road system in the trackless high mountain region in their rear."

[Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 129]

The road for wheeled traffic had reached Enda Korkos and was to be brought forward as far as Maychew. "Work was in active progress, though hampered by the difficulties of the ground, on which in some places even blasting had little effect, and by rain, which checked the activities of the troops for whole days on end."

At the end of March "transport was effected entirely by pack-animals; supply trains from the Mai Cìò basin had to load up at the base which was now established at Enda Corcos and make journeys of 20 hours, over three passes, one of which (the Dubbar Pass) was over 10,000 feet above sea-level. All along the mule-track the animals were falling, worn out by hard work and lack of food, their feed reduced to nothing but oats, and not always a full ration even of that."

[Badoglio p 144]

"The night of the 30th-31st passed quietly. At 5.45 a.m., almost simultaneously on the front of the 'Pusteria' Division and of the 2nd Eritrean Division, the alarm was given: the first hostile patrols had come in contact with our advanced posts. Immediately afterwards, salvos from the enemy artillery and mortars fell on the western Mekan Pass, where a first attack was launched and promptly stopped by the Alpini. --

Between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. the attack on the eastern Mekan was renewed in greater strength, after preparation by well-directed artillery and machine-gun fire; but it was broken by the concerted action of the 3rd group of Eritrean battalions and the 'Exilles' battalion of Alpini, who drove the enemy to take refuge in a small wood near by --"

"About 8 a.m. the attack seemed likely to pause. But an hour later it reopened with renewed violence, its greatest weight being directed throughout against the left flank, where the enemy probably counted on the lesser capacity for resistance of our coloured troops. This time the whole of the Imperial Guard, supported by a lively fire, moved against our positions, advancing in rushes and making good use of the ground, giving proof of a solidity and a remarkable degree of training combined with a superb contempt of danger. Against it a veritable avalanche of fire was let loose; the attack was cut short; those who had succeeded in reaching the dry-built walls of our defences were thrust back with the bayonet and with bombs."

[Badoglio p 145]

"-- the enemy sought to extend his attack eastwards, where the ground, being more broken and giving better cover, was favourable to an advance. Here he made some progress; but, counter-attacked by the 4th, 5th, and 24th Eritrean battalions of the 2nd Division supported by fire from the artillery of both the divisions, his troops were first stopped and then repulsed decisively --"

"About 4 p.m. a fresh and desperate attack was attempted against both flanks of our line; but the concerted action of the two Eritrean divisions and the firm stand of the 'Intra' battalion of Alpini on the right, supported by detachments of Blackshirts from the 6th Group and by the Scimenzana native irregulars, decided the day."

"This was the last action launched by the enemy in a final effort. At 5 p.m. he fell back along the whole front -- He was at the same time attacked on the right flank by the Azebò Galla, whom we had won over to our side and armed, and who had been concentrated at Uarrabei, in front of Aià, to watch the left flank of the Eritrean Corps, a task which they performed excellently; they had been launched into the fighting at the opportune moment and had helped to cause the panic, bewilderment, and flight of the enemy."

[Badoglio p 146]

"Armed a few days before the battle of Endertà with 3,000 rifles and formed into units of varying strength and constitution, ever since then /the Azebò/ had maintained a ruthless guerrilla warfare on the Abyssinian army's lines of communication -- With arms captured from the enemy, their strength had gradually risen to six or seven thousand men, all armed with rifles; with this force they held control of the region from Corbettà almost as far as Ualdia --"

"The battle upon which the fate of the Empire depended was over. -- He had lost many thousands of men, and had had to abandon on the field of battle all his artillery, vast

quantities of arms, ammunition, and material of every kind. -- On April 1st, in spite of pelting rain, a few attacks were carried out on various sectors of the front, obviously with the aim of masking the retreat. At the first light of dawn on April 2nd the army of the Negus -- had retired on the positions at Assel Gherti, where it continued to be harassed by the activity of our aircraft."

"In the course of April 2nd the Ist Corps -- brought its divisions into line in the positions at the Mecan Pass, while the Eritrean Corps went down again to Corbettà so as to be able to act against the enemy's rear. On the 3rd the two corps proceeded southwards."

[Badoglio p 146-147]

An official Italian communication of 1 April said: "L'esercito del Negus con le truppe della guardia, fornite di armi moderne di ogni specie, ha attaccato le nostre posizioni a sud di Mai Ceu. La giornata si è chiusa con la piena vittoria delle nostre armi. L'azione abissina, che era prevista, si è svolta dalle 6 del mattino alle 18, con una serie di attacchi frontali e aggiranti che sono stati respinti. Nel pomeriggio le nostre truppe nazionali ed eritree hanno contrattaccato e hanno messo in fuga il nemico che si è ritirato in disordine nella Valle del Mercan, bombardato dagli aeroplani e dalle artiglierie. Le perdite subite dagli armati del Negus sono gravissime: si valutano a 7.000 morti fra i quali parecchi sottocapi -- Da notizie di prigionieri risulta che le truppe abissine partecipanti alla battaglia erano circa 20.000 e che il Negus ha personalmente partecipato all'attacco contro il nostro fianco sinistro."

[cited in U Caimpenta, L'impero italiano .., Milano 1936 p 278-279]

When the Italian air force reported that Haile Selassie seemed to be planning an attack, Badoglio changed his orders from preparing advance to preparing defence. General Santini was given supreme command to lead the operations, and the Eritrean Corps was added to his forces.

The 2nd Eritrean Division under General Dalmazzo was at Maychew and other units were in the surroundings.

It was supposed favourable to invite the Ethiopians to advance towards the Mekan pass, with relatively few soldiers there but much artillery on both sides to shoot down into the valley.

The Italian side did not yet dispose of sufficient supplies. Already by noon the artillery of the 2nd Eritrean Division had used up their ammunition.

On the Mekan front the Ethiopians first went into the area which was under much fire, but they found better routes upwards and could occupy one of the Italian positions. By 9.30 the 10th Battalion of the Italians had lost half of its officers. Lt.-Colonel Zuretti went into the close fighting there and even fought personally with rifle and hand grenades. Zuretti then fell, and his successor Captain Tarantino gave a report that "we will soon all be dead, but the dead will continue to shoot" because wounded soldiers did that.

By 14.00 the two passes were firmly in the hands of the Italians. A concerted attack by the Ethiopians at 16.30 failed. An hour later they started to retreat. The weather during the day had not been good for the airplanes, and only the 57 planes using the airfield at Mekele could operate all day. On 2 April some airplanes from Assab were added, so Badoglio then disposed of 62 planes. The weather became clear, so on the following day Badoglio could see himself from the air that everything was ready for moving southwards.

[... von Xylander, Die Eroberung .., 1936 p 40-42]

The Battle of Maychew, which in common parlance has become the appellation for the whole war, was actually in the nature of an epilogue. Ras Imru's army was not at all involved. The imperial troops of Mulugeta had been virtually nullified at Amba Aradam. The only fresh force was the Imperial Bodyguard.

It was inconceivable that the Italians, ensconced in their impregnable fortifications and enjoying the domination of the sky could have been defeated by the Ethiopians. The disorderly retreat was to cost them more lives than the actual battle. Still smarting from a punitive campaign sent against them by the government in the late 1920s, for cattle-raiding, the Rayya and Azebo peoples found this an ideal opportunity to settle past scores.

The fleeing soldiers were mercilessly mutilated and plundered. After that the road was clear for the Italians, first to Dessie which they reached on 4 April 1936.

[Bahru Zewde 1991 p 156-157]

- 1938 About 500 local population and 22 Italians. *Vice Residenza*, telephone, infirmary, distributor of petrol, restaurant, *spacci*. Market on Tuesdays.
- 1939 Post office of the Italians was opened on 28 October 1939.
Its cancellations read MAI CEU - ERITREA.
The Italians had an *Istituto Vaccinogeno del Tigray* at Maychew in 1939-1941, directed by the veterinarian Mattia Sforza.
- 1941 At the time of the war in 1941 there was an Italian military hospital at Maychew, directed by the surgeon Mario Manfredonia.
- 1942 In accordance with a proclamation issued in 1942, all who served at the battle of Maychew as soldiers or civilians were entitled to a landed property. Those who did not yet possess land or were unemployed had the right to receive a *gasha* of Government land /somewhere in Ethiopia/. The property thus accorded was exempt from taxation for two years.
Concerning land at Maychew itself very small terraces, not even one metre wide, are found on steep slopes north of Maychew.
[Agriculture in Ethiopia, Rome(FAO) 1961 p 128]
- 1943 About 20 km from Maychew on the road southwards there was once a sawmill which was in very poor condition by 1943. There was also a derelict overhead ropeway from the mill to the cutting area not quite 2 km away.
[W E M Logan, An introduction to the forests ..., Oxford 1946]
- 1950s Sudan Interior Mission had a clinic there (-1955-1970s-)
- 1957 The Maychew region is notable for its present-day seismicity, fairly strong shocks being experienced as recently as Oct.-Nov. 1957.
[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 173]
- 1959 Sub-province Governor of Raya & Azebo awraja in 1959 was Fitawrari Gebre Wahid Abera.
- 1960 At the Maychew junior secondary school 13 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960.
- 1966 In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Maychew.
- 1967 Population 8,341 as counted in 1967. At that time there were telephones for the governor, the municipality, the police, the public health office and the 8th Infantry Battalion. Telephone numbers on personal names were for Elwan Ali Mohammed, Gabrezghi Gabre Maskel, Weyzero Haddas Kiros, Major Negas Friew, and Raggih Ahmed.
- 1968 The primary school in 1968 had 616 boys and 418 girls, with 14 male and 2 female teachers.
A mission school /of SIM/ had 260 boys and 167 girls in grades 1-4, with 4 teachers.
The junior secondary school had 150 male and 61 female students in grades 7-8, with 6 teachers of which two foreign.
- 1970s The governor of Maychew in the 1970s was resented for his perceived negligence of the area. In the early 1970s, Maychew had a direct link to the student struggles in the national capital in the person of Tilahun Yigzaw, a well-known HSIU student activist, who returned to his home town to enlist the support of local students.
[Young 1997]
A reporter from Nairobi visited in August/?/ 1973:
"Just outside Maichaw, more than 400 skin and bone people sit in lines on both sides of the road, eating small squares of teff bread. Presiding over the distribution is Mrs. Renate Moratz, an SIM missionary from Germany. She says the mission has given a square of *injera* every day for a month."
A local relief committee had been running a feeding and rehabilitation centre for 537

drought hit village families. There was a dispensary and a basic literary school.

"But what about the hundreds outside the mission? -- all newcomers have to be registered first. And the centre has not enough food left to cope with another influx."

[JOE Magazine (Nairobi) December 1973 p 26-27]

By 1977 the Derg required that all vehicle traffic travelling north from Maychew be restricted to convoys. By 1980 convoys were deemed necessary to move even from Maychew to Mahoni, a distance of only 20 km.

[Young 1997]

1980s Spelling used by the post was MAYCHEW around 1983.

Population about 14,200 in 1984.

During the 1984/85 famine, Colonel Hailu Ghebre Yohannis, Commander of the First Division, ordered the theft of food stocks from the NGO World Vision in Maychew to feed his hungry troops.

[Young 1997]

During famine relief flights in 1985 a Russian helicopter collided with three others on the ground at Maychew.

[Jansson et al 1987 p 43]

On 20 July 1988 a young girl was thrown to her death over a cliff near Maychew, by Derg government forces. By late February 1989, the government forces had evacuated much of Tigray, including its capital Mekele, so there was only an outpost at Maychew. By 8 September 1989, EPRDF forces had captured Maychew and Korem and were advancing along the main highway southwards.

[Evil days (Africa Watch report), USA 1991]

1990s Population about 19,800 in 1994 and about 24,300 in 2001.

The pretty little town of May Chew, whose name means "salt water", is 147 km from Weldiya. [Aubert 1999]

"Tigrigna is the main language here, but otherwise Maychew is atypical of Tigrean towns in that there are few sandstone buildings, and that it lacks an identifiable shape or centre. More ominously, your arrival is likely to be greeted with the sort of *faranji* hysteria you rarely encounter elsewhere in the province. Before I arrived, Maychew was described to me as a one-street town - a little unfair, as the street stretches for a good 2 km - but nevertheless it has an untidy, dusty feel that reminded me of similarly amorphous towns in southern Ethiopia."

"The Maychew area is wonderfully green and hilly, and it strikes me as having enormous potential for off-the-beaten-track hiking and rambling. If you feel like exploring, there is no shortage of dollar-a-night accommodation. The Yekatit Hotel is a decent place, with clean rooms and communal showers. It's at the Korem end of town, on the opposite side of the main road to the post office and the adjoining open area, and it can be identified by a black-and-white checked wall and a green signpost that reads 'Hotel'."

[Bradt 1995(1998) p 327-328]

2000s The town would get Internet services in late 2001.

text J.C.F. Fuller, Decisive battles ..., USA 1940 p 977-1036

"Battles of Mai Chio and Aragon".

picts The autobiography of Emperor ..., Oxford 1976 p 144-145[7]

Emperor in action with anti-aircraft gun in early 1936, probably

at Maychew but only a rock wall visible of the landscape;

Gli annali ..., anno I vol II /Roma Aug 1938/ p 446-447[8]

ceremony at an Italian military monument;

D Buxton, Travels ..., London 1949(1957)

p 64-65[13] two mountain views in the neighbourhood;

J Doresse, Ethiopia, (1956)London 1959, p 112[59] wide view with road;

Ethiopia Observer vol XI /1967/ no 4 p 324 last remaining

house in the *gibbi* compound, p 325 road from the south.

HF... Maychew (in Agame awraja, not the one above?) 14/39? [+ Ad]

Medhane Alem mission school was closed by 1968.

Lideta Alitena/?/ mission school in 1968 had 123 boys and 17 girls in grades 1-5, with two teachers.

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|-----------|
| HF... | Maychew Belay wereda (Maichew Belai ..) | 14/38 | [+ Ad] |
| | (centre in 1964 = Aksum), "Upper Maychew", cf Lai Maychew | | |
| HF... | Maychew Betach wereda (Maichew ..) | 14/38 | [+ Ad] |
| | (centre in 1964 = Milekwa), "Lower Maychew", cf Tach Maychew | | |
| HCC99 | Mayda 06°19'/37°28' 2617 m, west of Chencha | 06/37 | [Gz] |
| | <i>Maye</i> , a lineage of the Sabbo-Karrayyu-Dayyu of the Borana people | | |
| JDJ34 | Maye Gudo 09°21'/42°01' 1980 m | 09/42 | [Gz] |
| HEE96 | Mayet Kidane Mihret (church) 11°42'/38°59' | 11/38 | [Gz] |
| | north of Bete Hor | | |
| HFE64 | Maygoga (Fremona), see Endiet Nebersh | | |
| H... | Mayo (centre in 1964 of Koka sub-district) | 08/39 | [Ad] |
| HEU42 | Mayra Amba (Maira) (recorded in 1868) | 13/39 | [18 It] |
| | As war area in February 1936, see under Amba Alage. | | |
| HFD06c | Maytsemri, see May Tsemre | | |
| HFD47 | Maytsimu, see May Tsimu | | |
| HFE29 | Mayu (Maiu, Maio) | 13/39 | [+ WO Wa] |
| JDC22 | Mayu (Maiu) (area) 08°48'/41°59' 1319 m, cf Meyu | 08/41 | [Gz WO] |
| JDH82 | Mayujeri (Maiugeri) (area) | 09/40 | [+ WO] |
| HEB19c | Mazarkanye , about 11°00'/36°30' | 11/36 | [Ch] |
| | South-west of Dangila. "By the year 1933 I had tried /for finding a road from the Sudan/ all the passes up the escarpment but one near a small village called Mazarkanye. It was, as usual, in uninhabited forest, and I had only viewed it from a distance of five miles, but just in that section of the range I had noted that the cliff-like line seemed to terminate and for a space of five miles (8 km) the slopes were gradual until the precipices began again. The surveyors of the J.G. White Engineering Corporation were in the district in 1933, and the leader, Major L.B. Roberts, who had seen my notes and sketches, decided to have one last attempt to discover an alignment for an escarpment road with no gradient exceeding 10 per cent, by sending one of his surveyors to examine the slopes below Mazarkanye. He sent Mr Long, who arrived in Dangila on Christmas Eve, and we went over my rough sketches carefully together before he started, as it was all unmapped country."
"I awaited his return anxiously, knowing that if he was not successful this time it was unlikely that a pass would ever be found; so his report, when he came back weeks later, was particularly gratifying, for he had been able to find a line with the required gradients, on which a motor-road could be constructed without any blasting of rock. The road may not be made for some time --"
[R E Cheesman, Lake Tana .., London 1936 p 79] | | |
| HFE.. | Mazeber, see under Aksum | | |
| HFD94 | Mazega, see Mezzega | | |
| HFF21 | Mazobu, see Masobu | | |
| JC... | Mazolide | 06/43 | [18] |