

	mead: <i>me'adeni</i> (T) mine /for minerals/		
JDS92	Mead (Me'ad) (area) 848 m	10/42	[WO]
??	Meadura , stream in the Awash area	../..	[20]
	<p>In 1975 Jon Kalb and Herb Mosca followed a small stream Meadura up to some low sedimentary foothills. They found basalt handaxes and cleavers, and there seemed to be thousands of them. At least three or four tuff layers were visible, interlayered with deltaic and nearshore lake deposits. There were also found fossils of hippos, suids, bovids, rhinos, and elephants. The site proved to have a size of about two square kilometres. June 1975: "-- first impression of Meadura was not good, because most of the fossils were well broken up and most of the stone tools were abraded and patinated. But then /Fred Wendorf/ saw the several tuff layers that would make dating possible - a major problem in most Acheulean sites - and fresh, sharp artifacts eroding from at least several levels. Herb and I /Jon Kalb/ also showed him isolated concentrations of bifaces, flakes, rock cores, and debris associated with animal remains. Fred was certain they were discrete butchering sites where tools had been fashioned and used on the spot. Elsewhere he identified a large area of artifacts and bones that he thought might be a living floor, where people had camped. We found the remains of a baby elephant in this same area; it might have served as a snack in the middle of a long day of slaughtering and maiming. Blackened bone suggested fire use, long suspected of Acheulean toolmakers in Europe and Asia, but unknown in Africa."</p> <p>"Fred thought Meadura might be an upper Acheulean site because of the presence of some advanced-looking artifacts: large, sharp flakes struck from specially faceted rock cores - a tool-manufacturing technique that is a relatively late innovation, about 300,000 to 400,000 years old."</p> <p>[J Kalb, Adventures in the bone trade, New York 2001 p 178]</p>		
HFF31	Meakudi (Meakuddi, Maikudi, Ma'aquddi) (with rock-hewn church) see under Geralta churches - northern	[x]	
HFE69	Meala (Me'ala) 14°08'/39°18' 2087 m (with church Giyorgis), south-west of Adigrat	14/39	[Gz]
??	Meant wereda (1996-) Within the Bench-Maji Zone which was established in 1996. Semi-sedentary population.	../..	[n]
HEU61	Meara (Me'ara) 13°14'/39°27' 2044 m (with church Kidane Mihret), south of Mekele	13/39	[Gz]
HFE80	Measake, see Adi Mendi <i>Meban</i> , a sub-division of the Sudanic people in Ethiopia		
HET19	Mebehal 12°50'/39°18' 1822 m, west of Maychew mebel: <i>mebil</i> (A) food, eatables	12/39	[Gz]
HEL04	Mebel, cf Mabil	11/38	[WO]
HC...	Meben Dega (in Chilalo awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 68 boys and 12 girls in grades 1-2, with one teacher.	07/39?	[Ad]
HEM91	Mebera (area), cf Mabera	12/39	[WO]
HEM93	Mebera 12°36'/39°38' 1610 m east of lake Ashenge	12/39	[Gu Gz]
HDR37	Mebesh 10°17'/37°15' 1976 m (with church Giyorgis)	10/37	[Gz]
HDJ15	Mebeshi 09°12'/37°03' 1832 m	09/37	[Gz]
HED84	Mebrej 11°39'/37°53' 2348 m, east of Bahir Dar	11/37	[Gz]
HEA94	Mec, see Mek		
HEH99c	Meca, see Meka		
HCE66	Mecale, see Mekale		

HEM02	Mecamecit, see Mekamechit		
HEU13	Mecan (Mecam), see Mekan		
HED86	Mecan Jesus, see Mekane Iyesus		
HED97	Mecan Jesus, see Mokshi		
HES69	Mecanna, see Makanna		
HES44	Mecara, see Mekara		
HEM92	Mecare (Mecarre), see Mekare		
GDF67	Mecciara, see Mechara & JDA46		
	<i>mech</i> (A) Guizotica scabra, a plant related to cultivated nug, up to 3 m tall growing above 1500 m, with acid-yellow flowers; <i>mecha</i> (O) nation; <i>mechcha</i> (O) bastard; <i>Mecha</i> (Macha in many English-language texts, Matcha), name of a tribe of Oromo living in Shewa, also a clan of the Mecha/Liban/Kutai/Galani Oromo		
HDD86	Mecha (area) 08°57'/38°06'	08/38	[n]
HDD94	Mecha, cf Jibat & Mecha awraja	08/37	
HDK08	Mecha (Meccia) (area), cf Macha	09/38	[+ WO]
HDL82	Mecha (Mech'a) 09°51'/38°38' 3068 m, west of Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz]
HEC66	Mecha 11°25'/37°08' between Dangila and Bahir Dar	11/37	[n]
HDD..	Mecha forest (Metcha) see under Ginchi	08/38	[+ x]
??	Mecha Gaji, see Gaji mecha koricha: <i>koricha</i> (qoricha) (O) medicine, /figuratively:/ punishment		
HDK08	Mecha Koricha (Meccia Coreccia, M. Careccia) (Meccia Kareccia, Metcha Goritcha) 09°06'/38°18' 2677 m A timber concession was obtained by Costi Papavassiliades around 1930, and it later was passed on to Eugenio Bertolani. [Zervos 1936]	09/38	[LM WO Gu Gz]
HEC67c	Mecha sub-district? (-1997-)	11/37	[n]
HEC67c	Mecha wereda (centre in 1964 = Merawi Maryam)	11/37	[Ad]
HDS..	Mechakel (Mächakäl, Machakal) (historically recorded area), between Dembecha and Debre Markos When after 1620 the Matcha/Mecha attacked Gojjam, half of them crossed the Abay via Matakal and the other half via Guman. [Mohammed 1994] When Iyasu shortly after 1697 went to the country of the Machakal Oromo these on two occasions are said to have immediately disappeared. [Pankhurst 1997]	10/37	[Pa]
??	Mechakil (Mächakil, Mächakel) During the period of Dejazmach Goshu in the 1840s, the district of Mächakil was responsible for carrying and pitching tents. [12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 1008]	../..	[n]
HEC79	Mecham (Mecciam) (village & watercourse) mechara: <i>machara</i> (O) 1. any prickly shrub, bramble; 2. kind of climber particularly trailing coffee trees	11/37	[+ It]
GDF67	Mechara (Mecciara), cf Machara, Michara	08/34	[+ WO]
HDA62	Mechara (Mecciara) 08°44'/35°00' 1525 m near map code GDF67	08/35	[Gz]
HDT01	Mechara (Mecciara) 10°00'/38°32' 2085 m	10/38	[AA Gz]
JDA46	Mechara (Mecciara) MS:08°30'/40°20' 1750 m Gz:08°36'/40°19' 1790 m	08/40	[MS Po WO Gu]

(with sub P.O. & mission station & church Medhane Alem)
(sub-district & its centre in 1964)

JDA45	Mechata (Mecheta, Micheta, Miceta), cf Micheta (with sub P.O. under Asbe Teferi) (centre in 1964 of Darolebu wereda) An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]	08/40	[MS Po Ad WO]
HDL55	Mechela 09°34'/38°52' 2608 m, south-east of Fiche (with church & quarry nearby)	09/38	[AA Gz]
HEK49	Mecheloa, see Meketewa		
HEL27	Mechena, see Mekena		
HFE18	Mecheno, see Adi Meken		
HEK49	Mechettoa, see Meketewa		
HEK49	Mechiet, see Meketewa		
JD...	Mechito (Mech'itu), in the south-east The Fride Hylander family regarded themselves as living there for a while in 1930 during their long caravan journey?	09/41	[x Gz]
HED52	Mecho (Mech'o) 11°24'/37°42' 2097 m south-east of Bahir Dar near Abay river	11/37	[Gz]
HDL60	Mechota (Mech'ota) 09°38'/38°29' 2078 m south-west of Fiche	09/38	[Gz]
JDA36	Mechta, see Micheta		
HDR65	Meckara (Meccara)	10/37	[+ WO]
HES77	Meckarabya Maryam (Meccarabia Mariam) (village) c1900 m	13/38	[+ Gu]
GDF53	Meckato (Meccato)	08/34	[+ WO]
	<i>meda</i> (A,T also transliterated mieda) field, grassy plain		
HFE91	Meda Kimtsay (M. K'imtsay) 14°24'/38°32' 1733 m north-west of Aksum, at border river of Eritrea	14/38	[Gz]
HDM00	Meda Midir 09°05'/39°23' 1667 m, south of Sheno	09/39	[Gz]
HCF43	Meda Welabu (M. Wolabu) 05°47'/39°41' 1214 m	05/39	[Gz Ad]
HCF61	Meda Welabu wereda (M. Wolabu ..) (-1964-2000-) (centre in 1964 = Oborso)	05/39	[Ad 20]
	medacha: <i>meddicha</i> (O) piece of goat or sheep skin worn as a wrist band during rituals		
HCS64	Medacha (Medaccia) 07°52'/37°56' 3074 m	07/37	[LM WO Gz]
HEF46	Medafu 11°17'/39°57' 1418 m, north-east of Dessie	11/39	[Gz]
??	Medak (monastery), in the Ankober region? "-- a considerable portion of the revenues are now applied to the maintenance of the monastery of Médak, whose superior, the Alaka Amda Zion, has charge of the heir presumptive." [Harris vol II 1844 p 303]	../..	[Ha]
JDH83	Medalalla (area) 975 m	09/40	[WO]
HCI38	Medalcho 06°39'/37°21' 1673 m	06/37	[Gz]
HCI38	Medalcho 06°40'/37°24' 1488 m	06/37	[Gz]
HCR86	Medale 08°00'/37°11' 2085 m, cf Madalle	08/37	[Gz]
HDA66	Medale 08°43'/35°22' 1390 m, south-west of Yubdo	08/35	[Gz]
JCC93	Medale (Modallo) 06°18'/41°57' 607 m	06/41	[Gz WO]

HD...	Medalle Ebicha, at 72 km from Ijaji The Evangelical community at Medalle Ebicha (in the 1970s?) started to build a church for their 1,300 members, two choirs, and 200 Sunday school children. It was to be a rectangular building - the Evangelical people do not care much for traditions of Orthodox church buildings. Because of disunity there were problems to get the project going. [A Nordlander, Väckelse .., 1996 p 40] <i>medali</i> (O) weights for scales	../37	[x]
HDE53	Medalo (Medalu) 08°39'/38°44' 1880 m village south of Akaki and north of Awash river	08/38	[Gz x]
HDL85	Medani Alem, see Lemi		
HDF06	Medanie Alem, see May Tsemre		
JDL12	Medaweyna (Medaueina) (area)	09/43	[+ WO]
	<i>medeb</i> (mädäb) (T) terrace; (A) bench made of earth; stall for merchandise, stand on a market; square of ground; plank		
HEK..	Medeb (Meddeb) Dejazmach Welde Gabriel, son and successor of Ras Michael, reigned only for a short time /in the 1780s?/. His death was occasioned by a musket-ball in a battle against 'Big Ali' at Meddeb near Debre Tabor. [M Parkyns, Life in Abyssinia, vol II, London 1853 p 109]	11/38	[+ 18]
	<i>medebay</i> (mädäbay) 1. name of a legendary royal family; 2. places where soldiers were quartered in northern Ethiopia		
HFD79	Medebay 14°13'/38°24' 1959 m north-east of Inda Silase	14/38	[Gz]
HFD89	Medebay 14°20'/38°25' 1714 m north-east of Inda Silase	14/38	[Gz]
HFD99	Medebay (Medebai Tabor, Medebai) (peak) 14°25'/38°24' 1930 m north of Inda Silase, near the border of Eritrea The IVth Corps of the Italians had ascended to the Medebay Tabor plateau by the beginning of March 1936. The Corps consisted of 14 battalions and some artillery. [Badoglio]	14/38	[Gz WO Gu]
HFE70	Medebay 14°15'/38°29' 1647 m north-east of Inda Silase	14/38	[Gz]
HFE73	Medebay Maryam (church) 14°14'/38°44' north of Aksum	14/38	[Gz]
HFD97	Medebay sub-district (Medebai ..) (centre in 1964 = Adi Kidi), cf Mederbai, Medobay	14/38	[+ Ad WO]
HFD99	Medebay Tabor, see HFD99 Medebay		
HFD..	Medebay Tabor sub-district (-1997-) <i>medebi</i> (O) seat of earth at the side of a house	14/38	[n]
	<i>medech</i> : <i>meddecha</i> (O) 1. anklet, "necklace for the feet"; 2. mutton kidney		
HDU00	Medech (Medich)	10/39	[LM WO]
HBL60c	Medecho At 20 km north-north-east of Mega, with very important wells of the Borana people. 15,000 heads of livestock have been counted as using them within three days in September-October.	04/38	[x]
HED08	Medeg (mountain) 10°56'/38°16' 2857,3304 m	10/38	[WO Gz]
HBT46	Meder 04°53'/38°58' 1226 m, north-east of Arero <i>mederba</i> (T) sausage tree, <i>Kigelia aethiopum</i>	04/38	[Gz]

HFE09	Mederbey (Mederbei, Mederbai) (pass) <i>mederderiya</i> (A) shelf; <i>medderiya</i> (A) dry masonry wall <i>mederi</i> (T), <i>midir</i> (A) land, earth; <i>dur</i> (A,T) forest	13/39	[+ WO Gu]
HCA64	Mederdur, see Tsilmamo		
JEG49	Mederi Didda (waterhole) 488 m	12/40	[WO]
HDL04	Medero 09°05'/38°50' 2665 m north-east of Addis Abeba	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDJ26	Medero (Mederu) 09°14'/42°09' 1866 m south-east of Harar	09/42	[Gz]
JDJ48	Medero (mountain) 09°25'/42°21' 2526 m north-east of Harar	09/42	[Gz]
JDJ26	Mederu 09°15'/42°09' 1721 m, cf Medero south-east of Harar	09/42	[Gz]
HDR65	Medeven	10/37	[WO]
HC...	Medfo Gora Abyotfre (a Wabe village) in 1980s in Aminya wereda, on Robe-Seru road	07/39	[x]
	<i>medhane alem</i> (A) saviour of the world		
HCL73	Medhane Alem 07°02'/38°45' 2518 m south-west of Kofele	07/38	[Gz]
HDD87	Medhane Alem (Medani Alem) (church)	08/38	[LM WO]
HDL95	Medhane Alem (Medani Alem)(with church)	09/38	[LM WO]
HEE90	Medhane Alem (Medanie Alem) (church)	11/38	[+ Gu]
HFF42	Medhane Alem Adi Kasho, s.u. Takatisfi	13/39	
HFF42	Medhane Alem Adi Kasho (rock-hewn ch.) <i>medhani alem</i> (T) saviour of the world	13/39	[Br]
HCL73	Medhani Alem (Medani Alem)	07/38	[+ WO]
HDB54	Medhani Alem (Medani A.) (church)	08/36	[+ WO]
HDD84	Medhani Alem (Medani A.) (church)	08/37	[LM WO]
HDE72	Medhani Alem (Medani A.) (church)	08/38	[LM WO]
HDK16	Medhani Alem (Medani A.) (church) see under Ilfeta	09/38	[+ WO]
HFC37	Medhani Alem (Medani A.) (church) see under Kafta	13/37	[+ WO]
HES96	Medhani Alem, see May Tsemre		
HFF14	Medhanit Hayk Mesal (M. Hayk' M.) 13°44'/39°45' 2225 m, east of Agula	13/39	[Gz]
HDU00	Medich, see Zinz		
HDM60	Medida, see Mendida		
JDK48	Medigan 09°29'/43°14' 1635 m at some distance from the border of Somalia	09/43	[Gz]
HDM97	Medina 09°56'/39°59' 1352 m north-east of Debre Sina /This Medina?/: "-- generals probably detached from the victorious army of Graan, are represented to have come from Mecca, and to have taken possession of the country - the legend assigning to the first of these warriors as his capital the populous village of Medina, which is conspicuous on a cone among the mountains shortly after entering the valley of the Robi." [W C Harris, The highlands ..., vol II, London 1844 p 315]	09/39	[Gz]
HEE56	Medina 11°23'/39°04' 2228 m, south of Bete Hor	11/39	[Gz]
JEA02	Medina 10°55'/40°00' 1399 m Medir ..., see Midir ..., cf Meder	10/40	[Gz]

HEL67	Mediva	12/39	[Gu]
JDN82c	Medjetie, see Majete <i>medo</i> (A) comb		
HDA13c	Medo, cf Mado	08/35	[Gu]
JCC21	Medo, see El Medo		
JCL81	Medo (wide area), see Daga Medo		
HF...	Medobay sub-district (Medobai ..), cf Medebay (centre in 1964 = Mai Megwa)	14/38	[+ Ad]
HFE..	Medoge (Madoge) (archaeological site south-west of Aksum)	14/38	[x]
picts	Annales d'Éthiopie, vol 1(Paris) 1955 pl XVI-XVII pottery vessels found at the site		
H....	Medra Zega (historically recorded place) The inhabitants of Medra Zega (south of modern Märabété) and Menz, who were then Muslims, surrounded Emperor 'Amdä Seyon in the 1320s. He nevertheless succeeded in defeating them, and killed their commander Dädader. [Pankhurst 1997]	10/39	[Pa]
HFD94	Medri (mountain) 14°28'/37°57' 1473/1949 m at some distance from the border of Eritrea	14/37	[Gz]
HFD95	Medri (area) 1949 m, cf Mederi	14/37	[WO]
HDS09	Medria (Medria Uadia?) (area) <i>mee</i> (O) let us see!	10/38	[WO]
JEC82	Mee Dorra (Mee-dorra) (waterhole)	11/41	[WO]
	<i>Me'en</i> (Mekan, Meken), ethnic group which has seven sections, numbering about 52,815 according to the 1994 census. They were described by K. Fukui in 1979, and he estimated their number to only about 3,000. They call themselves Me'en or Meken, are called Bodi by others, and speak a language of the Surma group. [Ethnicity .. 1994 p 49] Meerab (Me'erab) .., see Mirab ..		
HFD70	(Meeteb, small river in disputed area) Meeteb joins the Tekezze river at the south-west border of the Badme area which was disputed from 1998. <i>meeti</i> (O) silver	14/37	[WO 20]
JDH99	Meeto (waterholes), cf Meto	09/41	[MS WO]
HFk16	Mefalus 14°35'/38°07' 1479 m at some distance from the border of Eritrea	14/38	[Gz]
HEE64	Meftera (Meft'era) 11°29'/38°52' 2700 m south-west of Bete Hor	11/38	[Gz]
HBK49	Meg, G. (area), see under Mega	04/38	[WO]
HBK39	Mega (area) /which Mega?:/ With very important wells of the Borana people.	03/38	[WO]
geol	At Mega 600 m of arenaceous metamorphic rocks are exposed by recent faulting, showing transition from purple sandstone and arkose at top through banded quartzite to granitic facies at base. Chlorite schists of almost certain sedimentary origin occur between Mega and Moyale. [Mohr, Geology 1961 p 20-21] Extending between Mega and Wachile lies a late Pleistocene lacustrine limestone. This thin but widely spread limestone is later than the formation of the El Sod explosion crater and earlier than the faulting which uplifted the Mega hills.		

Basaltic cones top the hills of Mega, the eruptions pre-dating the faulting and uplift. The basalts are scoriaceous and very localised in occurrence.
[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 203, 214]

- HBK59 **Mega** (Megga, Megua, Magua) 04°03'/38°18' 1740 m 04/38 [Gz Br WO Ad]
(by 1954 with sub-post office & mission station)
MS coordinates would give map code HBK49.
Centre in 1964 of Bire wereda.
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
2S Urabe (Gara Urabe) (area)
6S Danissa (Gara Danissa) (area)
3W Meg (Gara Meg) (area)
5NW Gemelli (area)
7NW Pelato /&?/ Elmito (area/s/)
5N Urgesa (Urghesa) (area) 1659/2306 m
5NE landing ground used in the 1930's
- 1890s On a second expedition to Borana in 1897, Fitawrari Habte Giyorgis built a post near the Kenya frontier at Mega.
It was on the slopes of the mountain of the same name which dominates the plain. The sides of the mountain are rich in water and were once covered by Juniperus forest, but by the 1930s they were cultivated with maize and other crops. People from the highlands moved to Mega.
[Guida 1938]
- 1910s Mega, which was selected after many vicissitudes in 1916, "must be the most isolated British Consulate in the world." Hodson wrote a book *Seven years in Southern Abyssinia* (1929). Hodson after serving at Mega became consul at Maji.
[D Busk 1957]
- 1930s When the Italians in 1935 published a collection of formal accusations against Ethiopia, they also stated that the British consul at Mega in early 1933 had been prevented from making an excursion in the Borana area.
A little before the Italo-Ethiopian war there was a sub-post office under Yirga Alem and a telephone connection was under construction. The region was called in French "Province de Borena" and the governor of Sidamo, Ras Desta, had delegated the governorship to a Kenyazmach residing at Mega.
Mr Gerald Recce was British Consul at that time.
Transport by car for export of products to Kenya and Italian Somaliland had just started. There were not yet any missions, schools or health institutions in Province de Borena.
[Zervos 1936 p 335-336]
Dr Hylander's group of the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance, not yet settled on a particular site, arrived at Mega on 11 December 1935. They were received by Grazmach Abebe, and a new building with sheet iron roof being constructed for them was half finished. There were nine Swedes in the group, of which three physicians.
[F Hylander, I detta tecken, Sthlm 1936 p 54]
Mega was occupied by the Italians on 25 June 1936.
Post office of the Italians was opened on 21 January 1937.
Its cancellations read MEGA * GALLA E SIDAMA.
Around 1938 there were about 2,000 inhabitants. There was the Italian *Residenza*, telegraph, infirmary.
[Guida 1938]
The roads Mega-Wachile 120 km, Mega-Moyale 117 km and Mega-Yabelo 105 km were not maintained in the 1930s and not coated.
- 1940s The first bombing by the Allies of Italian-held targets in Mega was on 16 June 1940.
[E Rosenthal, The fall ..]

In January 1941 there were few military successes for Cunningham on the Moyale-Mega front when the British liberation forces started invading Ethiopia from Kenya.

[Mockler 1984 p 325]

"The real offensive -- did not begin until the first week of February. -- The objective was limited. It was intended to clear the last remaining Italian troops from Kenyan soil, and then take the major Italian fortified outpost at Mega --"

"The 2nd Brigade made a circuitous detour northward and then came directly east to cross the Mega-Yabelo road, cutting off any escape route to the north. This prevented any reinforcements coming from Yabelo -- Mega was attacked from the west and the south and southeast, leaving part of the force on the north to block the road to Yabelo. This was an important strategy because before the attack on Mega itself began, 15 /Italian/ tanks from Yabelo moved southward, but they failed to break through the South African forces holding the road blockade. The attackers on the Mega Fort were assisted by three days of heavy rain, resulting in mud and cold temperatures -- It was very difficult for the troops who were used to 110 degree desert heat and who were now short on rations and facing difficult bush barriers; yet on the final day, the infantry charged with fixed bayonets! A cloud concealed their approach, and the defenders mounted a white flag after only twenty minutes of resistance. -- Some 600 Italian prisoners were taken while more ran for the bush."

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., (Canada) 1987 p 106-107]

Thompson makes long excerpt from a report by a South African Corporal:

"We had waited at Mega for about a week before the battle started. On the Saturday night we were pushed off from the outpost and slipped on to another ridge, where we slept in our greatcoats, one blanket, and groundsheet. We got up early next morning --

It was terribly hot on that Sunday morning when we started out."

"We'd no idea that in addition to climbing thousands of feet, the getting to Mega meant the end of the weather. The truck took us as near our objective as it could - a hill where it couldn't go any further. Then we debussed and started climbing on foot. The hill went up in steps. You climbed for about twenty minutes - then you got to a sort of flat bit - then you went up again. All during the first morning we were busy cleaning up outposts. -- Some mortar shells came over, which went well overhead out of range and fell in the road. -- Our artillery and mortars were not in action yet."

"That afternoon it started raining, and from then on it rained all the time -- and we couldn't get blankets, greatcoats, anything, because every time the trucks tried to get through to us, the roads were shelled and they had to turn back. We retired five hundred yards to get a better place to sleep and there we were told to dig in. -- in the morning it was raining again and, when we wanted a cigarette, it was all drenched --"

"It was 12 when we got to the landmines. -- one of our majors and a sergeant walked down to have a look at it. The sergeant was called back, and the major went on alone, and as he went through the gully he put his foot on a landmine, and the next thing we saw him go up in the air. The landmine smashed one of his legs badly -- then a machine gunner walked down the gully, and he went up in the air too. Then the two stretcher bearers ran down to pick him up, and both his legs were useless -- They started walking back, and the back stretcher bearer, he trod on a landmine, and the three of them went up in the air. The fellow on the stretcher, he was killed outright."

"Then we were all afraid to go through the gully for fear of landmines, but Captain Cochran, he said he'd go through first and we'd walk in his footsteps. So we all got into single file and we tried to walk exactly in his footsteps. We got safely across - no one was hurt. Apparently we did walk on landmines - the engineers found out afterwards, but the fuses were wet and they didn't go off."

"The next few hundred yards were mud, and you couldn't walk more than a few paces at a time, you got so bogged in it. We then came to a hill we called 'Shivering Hill', and on the right of the hill was another very, very big one which would take an hour to climb."

"There was an Italian observation post on this hill, and the Major asked the men of 'A' Company for twelve volunteers to blow it out. He asked a platoon of 42 men, and all

stepped forward. The Major said he only wanted twelve men, so he selected them, and together with a corporal they started off to climb the hill. They had twelve rifles and two Bren guns, and there was lots of cover on the hill. And they approached to within 30 yards of the enemy. The enemy could see them coming and fired all the time, but they didn't fire back until they were in a good enough position, when they opened up. They fired for about ten minutes when the enemy stopped firing and put up a white flag."

"The Major -- got up himself. An Italian officer got up too. The Major called him over -- The Italian officer spoke to his men and we saw him pointing on the ground, so we thought he'd told them to ground arms and surrender, and then he suddenly dropped down and they opened fire again. So our Major, he said, 'Next time they put up a white flag, let them have it.' Our men went on firing, and up came the white flag again. So as soon as the Italian officer showed himself, they let him have it and he fell. Some of his men jumped up and started running away; a few were killed and the rest were taken prisoner. --"

"Then right in front there was another hill, on which was a blockhouse, and we advanced at that. There were four Breda guns firing at us. We'd good cover and, when we got the word to advance, we'd dash and land behind some rock. Sometimes they fired rifles at us, but we did not fire back because we couldn't see them. Out artillery was firing at the blockhouse."

"We had two aircraft by then and they tried to blow up the blockhouse, but at first they were pretty wide off the mark. Then one plane went straight up in the air and dived, and we thought it was going to go right into the blockhouse, but instead he landed a bomb in the middle of it."

"Then suddenly the mist cleared and we saw the fort and the flag come down off the fort and all the enemy coming out surrendering. They came out with great big white flags, and they came without arms or anything, but we got down and lay ready with our rifles in case of monkey tricks."

"I must say the Italians were masters at camouflage - you had to be right on top of a place before you recognized it. Most of them were Breda posts, and there were cases of ammunition, food, water, everything. Only in one place did we find one of the enemy. -- He said, 'Are you going to kill me?' and we said, 'No.'"

"We slept in the fort that night. The prisoners were in the part with a roof, and we had the part without, and it rained again too, but now we were beside a great big fire, and the trucks had been getting through, you see, and we got food and tea and were quite happy."

[Thompson 1987 p 108-113]

The East African Army Post Office (EA-APO 64) served at Mega in the period August 1941-February 1942. Before that there was APO 61 during March-June 1941.

An Ethiopian civil post office was to be opened in 1944.

[Philatelic source]

1940s

"We -- started climbing on to Mega mountain, an isolated mass which is the last southern outpost of the Ethiopian highlands. I have several times had the pleasure of spending a night or two in the tiny two-roomed house, perched high above Mega village, which is the residence of H.M. Consul for Southern Ethiopia. I liked this lofty, isolated spot, which offers fine walks among woods and grasslands and wonderful views over the plain. Once I met a party of three Greater Kudu, all males with magnificent corkscrew horns, on a rocky ridge near by. It is a cold and exposed place, often misty in the mornings, soon chilly after nightfall, and it was very pleasant, after a day here, to come back to a roaring fire at the consulate."

"It was at Mega that the late Sir Arnold Hodson (afterwards Governor of several colonial territories) spent most of the period described in his book, *Seven years in Southern Abyssinia*. His round *tukul* is still standing though no longer used as the consulate. In those days before the coming of roads, Mega really was a remote place, and the Consul's job one of the loneliest anywhere. The people of Mega must have been amused by the habits of His Britannic Majesty's representatives. Arnold Hodson tells how he made a golf-course around the consulate, and one can picture him pusing his ball in all solemnity as he took his afternoon's exercise during those lonely years. (D. Busk: A 9-

hole golf course was an unusual amenity. Hodson could not make greens and used cattle skulls as "holes"; if the ball touched the skull, the putt was "sunk". By the 1950s this golf course had disappeared.)

His successor in my time, a very kind host to me and others, was a keen archer who patrolled the hills with bow and arrows. By now, perhaps, the local community have learnt to accept the Britishers' irrepressible boyishness without surprise or comment."

"Mega during the Italian occupation, and, still more, during the campaign that put an end to it, became a hub of communications. Now there are two roads thence into Kenya, the older through the frontier posts of Moyale, the newer running directly south through the Huri Hills to Marsabit - a lonely and waterless route. The two routes from the north also join at Mega, and another track runs to the west -- But there is little traffic in these days, and Mega has almost reverted to the sleepy remoteness of pre-Italian times."

[D Buxton, *Travels in Ethiopia*, London (1949) 1957 p 92-93]

1950s

The first influence of Christian mission to reach Mega was through Oromo and Burji people who moved to Kenya and were converted by British mission while settled there and who later moved back to the Mega region again.

The Norwegian mission decided in 1949 to establish themselves, not in Mega but in Moyale. That place was found so difficult that in December 1951 the Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM) decided to move their work to Mega instead, hoping this would be a more strategic location for reaching the Borana.

[S Hunnestad, *Nærkamp ..*, Oslo 1973 p 69, 71]

Missionary Gunnar Kjærland started to prepare for the move from Moyale to Mega, although the mission there had no motorcar of their own. The missionary in Gidole came to help them, and the two also went to Addis Abeba to negotiate for the necessary permit. It took six weeks before they returned from this first trip.

The site under negotiation for a mission station was supposed to be owned by the governor in Konso, but the Borana said that they had given it as a gift of honour to the governor's father but not to be passed on to the son. The governor at Mega tried to settle the case without loss of honour by "recovering" the site to the government, but the case became so complicated that it took four years until the NLM could start constructing buildings. In 1954 Mega could be added to the previous eight Norwegian mission stations in Ethiopia. A clinic was soon opened there (-1955-).

In the meantime they had rented a house with various defects. The nearest post office was in Moyale, 120 km away, so it might pass 6-8 weeks for the missionaries without letters or newspapers.

[Hunnestad 1973 p 72-73]

Missionary Kristoffer Hetland (b 1926) with wife nurse Sigrid Amalie (b 1924) during 1957 arrived as newcomers to the Norwegian station.

Building work could then start rather soon. It had become forbidden to do Evangelical work in the district, so the evangelists in the field were brought in to the mission station as building workers, "but they were hopeless as such".

At one time evangelist Stefanus made a cautious tour in the district - carrying no books - and spread a message that there would be a general meeting in Mega after a fortnight. By that Sunday about 200 believers took the risk to gather in the town.

The three first to be baptized at the Mega mission in 1957 had been educated for three years by then. Missionary Reidar Eriksen was posted in Mega at the time when the teaching had started to take roots.

[Hunnestad 1973 p 74-85]

Population 1,428 as counted in 1956.

The British Ambassador visited the Consulate: "Lengthening shadows brought us to Mega and a hospitable welcome at the Consulate, which stands high on bare green hills, where Italian trenches and gun emplacements can still be seen. The position was a strong one and, when it was surrendered in 1941 after only a brief resistance, the German-speaking Tyrolese artillery officer stamped furiously into our lines and asked to be incarcerated separately from his erstwhile companions."

A later visit by the Ambassador: "We again took the Marsabit-Furoli route to Mega whence the Consul, John Bromley, was to accompany us -- We rested for an afternoon as far as the activities of John's pets would permit. The compound (all the time) and the house (much of the time) swarmed with livestock. -- As far as I can recall there were two cats, a monkey, two great Danes, three other nondescript dogs, six official Consulate donkeys employed to bear water from the village, four calves and a small flock of sheep, the latter acquired by exchange for great Dane pups at the rate of two lambs per pup." "The most original pet of all was a half-grown three-legged Kudu. This had been given to John as a calf and was accustomed to roam the house without fear of those it knew, including the dogs. Strangers, however, always threw it into a panic and one day on the arrival of a carload of visitors it hurled itself through the kitchen window, glass and all, and broke a hind leg. By a lucky chance one of the travellers was a Swiss doctor. He administered an anaesthetic and amputated the leg just below the knee."

"I fancy that visitors will be pretty rare at Mega when the animal has reached its full stature. At any rate none are likely to pay a second call to the house. They will prefer to conduct business across the garden gate. I was relieved that we left the kudu behind the next day --"

[D Busk, *The fountain of the sun*, London 1957 p 102, 107]

1960s Gunnar Almelid arrived in 1960 to the Norwegian mission in Mega, and his wife nurse Annlaug Berit (b 1934) during 1962.

In 1964 arrived Ragnar Ljønes and his wife Rigmor (b 1936), who had commercial education. The Norwegians thus sent two replacements every second year to Mega. Because of unrest in the area from early 1966, Ethiopian police and soldiers were 'tidying up' at Mega just before European Christmas 1966. Hundreds of "robbers" had come from Kenya and Somalia. Six men were killed in Mega.

[S Hunnestad, *Nærkamp ...*, Oslo 1973 p 86

The primary school (in Borena awraja) in 1968 had 72 boys and 13 girls in grades 1-2, with two teachers.

Norwegian Mission school had 129 boys and 51 girls in grades 1-6, with 6 male Ethiopian teachers and one female foreign teacher.

1970s There was no petrol in Mega in mid-1970.

Leader of the Norwegian mission station around 1974 was Haraldur Olafson.

District governor was Balambaras Abbera Maurid.

Through the Norwegians grain was distributed to about 15,000 people during the famine in 1973-1974. The distribution was led by two former missionaries to Ethiopia, Omund Birkeland and Reidar Eriksson.

Redd Barna (Norwegian Save the Children) joined from January 1974.

Marta Gabre, first female member of Parliament in Ethiopia, found after a year into the revolution that she had better flee with her family, and she did it in a car southwards into Kenya in September 1975:

The police at Mega knew beforehand that the female senator had passed a roadblock outside Addis Abeba. "Slowly, anxiously we approached Mega." On the outskirts of the town the headlights revealed a solid fence over three metres high. The Landrover crawled through a number of pits or furrows. Near the main gate at the police station they could glimpse that there was nobody at the desk. They seemed to have gone to a bar in the neighbourhood. A policeman with a bottle in his hand was clearly interested in the Landrover, which was driving slowly, with only three men visible (Marta and her children were hiding at the floor).

There was a fork in the road out of Mega. To the left was the countryside and to the right government buildings and garages. The driver Rebe by mistake turned into the road on the right, but this may have strengthened the impression of the policeman that they really were a working crew. They turned round and disappeared southwards into the night. After about 5-6 km the road became very rough, but a little after midnight they safely passed

- into Kenya.
[Marta Gabre, (Sheltered by the King, 1983), Swedish ed. Flykten 1985 p 157-160]
- 1990s "Halfway between Yabelo and Moyale, motorised visitors may want to stop at Mega, where you can still see the old British Consulate and Fort on a hill outside town. You may even bump into the Consular's ex-chauffeur!"
[Bradt 1995(1998)]
A vehicle (or convoy?) going from Mega to Moyale was ambushed at a place Karbete Bonaya Wale on 2 February 1999 by OLA fighters. Among six killed was a commander Abdulla Mohammed alias Aliyyi Mohammed.
[OLF report via Eritrea]
- 2000s "After checking the situation /in 1999 or 2000/, and being told that it had been safe for the last two or three days (read dangerous before that), we carried on south to the next town of Mega. This was a dusty and barren place, with a roadblock where they actually looked at you instead of just waving you through. -- fifteen km north of Mega is a turn-off -- which takes you on a good gravel road to the Soda Crater, a further 15 km off the main road."
[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/08/18]
- picts D Busk, The fountain .., London 1957 p 108
the British consul indoors with a kudu;
S Hunnestad, Nærkamp .., Oslo 1973 p 80-81[pl 8-16]
thirteen photos mostly of people
- HEE80 Mega 11°37'/38°30' 2721 m 11/38 [Gu]
south-west of Debre Zebit
- HFE39 megab: *migib* (A) food, nourishment
Megab (Magab, Megew) (village) 13/39 [WO Gz Gu x]
13°55'/39°21' 1959 m, mountain 2404/2427 m
south-west of Hawzen, cf Magab, Megeb
Coordinates would give map code HFF30
The main cluster of Geralta rock-hewn churches are around the villages of Megab and Dugem. Megab is 13 km from Hawzen. There is no public transport and only a rough road, so you must either hike or else visit in a hired four-wheel drive vehicle. The terrain between Hawzen, Megab and Dugem is reasonably flat, but most of the churches can only be reached by a stiff climb, so, to visit the churches near Megab, you really need to overnight there. Hikers should calculate spending four or five nights in the area.
[Bradt 1995(1998) p 314-315]
- HBK27 *megabi* (mägabi) (A) supplier, foster-father
Megado, see Magado
- JBN44 Megag, cf Migag .. 04/40 [WO]
- HF... Megaher (historical? area west of Adigrat) 14/39 [x]
- HEE79 *megal* (mägal) (A) dark brown /horse/, black horse's coat
Megal Tona, see Wegel Tena
megala (mägala) (A,Harari) market place /mainly in Harar/;
magala (O) market
- JDB25 Megala (area) 08°20'/41°12' 1226 m 08/41 [WO Gz]
- GDU01 **Megale** (Megelie, Magale, Magalle) 09/34 [Gz Ad WO]
09°58'/34°30' 1514 m
(sub-district & its centre in 1964)
- 1930s Megale was capital of Beni Shangul at the border of Sudan. On 22 July 1930 old Sheik Hodjili Al Hassan left Addis Abeba where he had been political prisoner for a while, to return to Megale. In the meantime his son Al Madi (El Mahdi) had governed the

province.

French mining interests, led by the Norwegian Harald Juell, had to pay local fees to these rulers. In one period they monthly paid 200 English pounds, corresponding to a little over 4,000 M.T. dollars.

[H Juell 1935 p 106]

William Avenstrup belong to those who directed mining labour. The workers were housed in Megale at an altitude of about 1800 m although the workplace was at 700 m but with much water and many mosquitoes. There was some trouble with the workers and a court case with El Mahdi as judge. As he spoke Arabic, an interpreter was needed. El Mahdi also ruled that one Bogale Gabre from Addis Abeba should lose his 'ownership' of a slave Mohamed. Bogale was whipped at court. Mohamed continued to serve his former master Bogale as long as they were in Megale.

[W Avenstrup, På djungelstigar (Swedish ed.) 1956 p 220-227]

Per Sandvik arrived to Megale in April /which year in the 1920s?/ when the miners' camp had recently been moved from Bomo to Megale. The road up to there was partly through bamboo forest. The camp was first in two bamboo huts rented near the market place, but later they moved one kilometre away and constructed four buildings, including kitchen, servants' quarters and stable.

A local man to serve the miners with various contacts was Christos Antonopoulos, who could speak Greek, French, Amharic and Arabic. There was a German purchaser of skins. He had lived for two years in the place and learnt to speak Arabic and Oromo.

Monday and Friday were market days. Many kinds of foodstuffs were sold. Imported goods such as English needles and Japanese cotton was also found. A man who bought gold sand had a particularly sensitive scale. Among the weights were small red beans. Coffee beans were used as change money. M.T. silver coins could be used, but small coins as change money were not readily accepted. Bananas and sweet potatoes could always be found.

Engineer Marlow led the prospecting to investigate the places for gold which El Mahdi had indicated. The miners received a new English-speaking interpreter Tasama Mullah. He had lived two years among Oromo, two years in Khartoum, studied in Alexandria at the expense of the Emperor but not been given a scholarship for England. He had been a translator at the British legation before coming to Beni Shangul.

[P Sandvik, I Etiopia efter gull, Oslo 1935 p 67-79]

- ?? Megale (Megele) (isolated Afar area) ../.. [Yo]
 In 1982 the TPLF negotiated permission by the Afar to operate a base at Rabat in the isolated Megale region. Signs of a road leading to the base had to be wiped out each morning, so as not to attract attention from aerial observers.
 Megale had a clinic, training centre for fighters and militia, a PoW camp, and became the TPLF's headquarters for the entire eastern part of Tigray.
 [Young 1997]
- GDU01 Megale wereda (in the 1990s) 09/34 [n]
megali (T) running; *meggele* (A) suppurate, discharge pus
- HDA34 Megalli, T. (hill) 08/35 [WO]
- JCH51 **Megalo** (Magalo, Magallo, Megallo) 06/40 [Gz Gu x Ad]
 Gz: 06°51'40"47' = JCH50;
 MS: 06°45'40"40' 1530/1600/1650 m.
 MS coordinates would give map code JCG49
 about 20 km more to the south-west.
 Centre in 1964 of Gura & Demolie wereda.
 Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
 5SW Roba Butta (village) 1506 m
 9SW Malkei (Malchei) (village)
 3N Uluka (Uluca) (cave)

- 7NE Logh (village) 1248 m
- 1930s When Italians were evacuated by train from Addis Abeba on 12 October 1935, Dr Agostino from Megalo did not arrive in time to join the others (rumours said that he had been collecting insects along the Awash). He was picked up at Adama/Nazret two weeks later when a final rest of Italians passed there.
[G L Steer 1936 p 157-158]
In mid-January 1936 the transport caravan of Dr Agge's group of the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance passed Megalo. The Swedes investigated the former Italian hospital there [photo p 75] and found that some of the medicines left behind by the Italian doctor could be useful, and these were sent to Goba.
[K Johansson, På äventyr .., Sthlm 1936 p 77-78]
It was known about the Italian hospital that there had also been dwelling for the doctor and for some dressers from Eritrea and Mogadisho. Furniture and equipment had been brought with camel caravans from Lugh. In order to make the hospital popular, treatment was free and patients were even given some money daily. When patients started arriving from far away there was created a little town of houses for them to stay in. The Italian-protected market became popular as no duties were paid there.
When D'Agostino fled, Grazmach Kasa had taken care of what was left behind, and he asked Dr Agge to investigate the medicines. Some hunting and army rifles and a tame young antelope were also found. Agge's group continued southwards on 15 January.
[G Agge, Med Röda Korset .., Sthlm 1936 p 44-46]
- 1937 Megalo was hit by Italian poison gas bombs in February 1936.
Important market, with a hedge around it. Cultivations of cereals.
Early it was the seat of an Italian commercial agency for Arussi, but its head D'Agostino was forced to leave at the beginning of the war. A few years later he returned as Maggiore Medico D'Agostino with his *banda* and occupied Megalo on 6 January 1937.
[Guida 1938]
- pict K Johansson, På äventyr .., Sthlm 1936 p 75 Italian hospital.
- Megaria .., see Migaria ..
megariya (T) hearth
- HFE76c (Megariya Tsemri (Megaria Zemri) plain in Eritrea?) 14/39 [+ Gu]
- HDM22 Megasas, see Megezez
megazo: *mezzazo* (mäggazo) (A) land given for cultivation
megeb: *migib* (A) food, nourishment;
megebe (mägäbe) (A,T) to feed, to serve
- HFF81 Megeb (Megheb) 2482 m, see under Adigrat 14/39 [WO Gu]
- ?? **Megech** (Magech, Swe: Magetsch) ../.. [+ x]
River south of Gondar, with a "bridge of Fasil"
- pict S Siwertz, En färd .., Sthlm 1926 p 250 old stone bridge seen from below
[F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia, USA 1960 fig 9 "the bridge of Fasil".
- HEE82 Megech (Megech', Magech) 11°39'/38°36' 2255 m 11/38 [Gz x]
south of Debre Zebit
The Swedish author Sigfrid Siwertz passed there in the first half of 1926.
- HET98 Megechi Mikael (Megech'i Mika'el) 13°33'/39°12' 13/39 [Gz]
(church), west of Mekele
- HEK17 Megegt 11°53'/38°11' 2742 m 11/38 [Gz]
north-east of Debre Tabor
- megele: *megele* (A) to suppurate
- GDU45 Megele 10°20'/34°52' 1040 m, north-east of Asosa 10/34 [Gz]
- HCD73 Megella (Meghella) (island) shore 1285m 06/37 [+ WO]
- JCC36 Megenley (Meghenlei, B.=Bur?) (area) 05/42 [+ WO]

KCH37	Megenlo (Meghenlo, Meghento) (with seasonal waterhole) 06°38'/46°25' 380 m	06/46	[+ Wa WO Gz]
JEB65	Megenta (mountain chain) 11°28'/41°12' 918 m south-east of Tendaho, cf Magenta	11/41	[Gz]
HCS92	Meger (village)	08/37	[x]
HCK95?	Megere, cf under Durame	07/38	[x]
HCS25	Megeri Abo (church) 07°26'/38°00'	07/38	[Gz]
HCS15	Megeri Kidane Mihret (church) 07°23'/38°00'	07/38	[Gz]
HFE08	Megesta (Megest'a) 13°36'/39°13' 2149 m east of Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz]
HFE39	Megew, see Megab		
??	Megez (Mägäz) (historically recorded area) When Susneyos met the Oromo again in 1602 he found them so friendly that when the people of Mägäz later rebelled, he used the Tuläma Oromo to fight against them. [Pankhurst 1997]	../..	[Pa]
HDM22	Megezez (Meghezez M., Megasas, Mägäzäz) (mountain) MS: 09°15'/39°31' 3596 m; Gz: 09°17'/39°32' 3304 m; see under Shola Gebeya & Gina Ager.	09/39	[Gz WO Ad n]
geol	Mount Megezez, an upstand-type volcano situated close to the Rift System scarp of Afar, with whose formation it was possibly related, and from which flowed more viscous, volatile-rich basaltic lavas than obtained for the flood fissure basalts of the Plateau. The coarse porphyritic and amygdaloidal nature of the lavas, together with the associated thick tuffs, confirm the peculiar and independent source of these rocks. [Mohr, Geology 1961 p 130]		
HDM22	Megezez (place) 09°18'/39°33' 3230 m east of Sheno	09/39	[Gz]
HBK59	Megga, see Mega		
HFF81	Megheb, see Imba Iwir		
HFF53	Meghelta, see May Megelta		
KCH37	Meghenlo, see Megenlo		
HDM22	Meghezez, see Megezez		
HER45	Megina (Meggina, Mägina) (area) peak 2342 m	13/37	[Wa x n]
HDT24	Megit (area), see under Addis Derra	10/38	[WO]
HER46	Megmna (Megnina) 13°04'/37°10' 2036 m	13/37	[WO Gz]
JCK98	Megwin 07°13'/43°14' 834 m	07/43	[Gz]
JDS92	Meha (hill)	10/42	[WO]
HE...	Mehago (centre in 1964 of Koba sub-district)	12/39	[Ad]
JCC99	Mehajob (Mahjabo) 06°17'/42°28' 472 m at Webi Shebele	06/42	[Gz WO]
HDL19	Mehakel 09°12'/39°14' 1897 m, south-west of Sheno	09/39	[Gz]
	<i>mehal ager</i> (A) middle /of/ country		
HEE08	Mehal Ager 10°54'/39°13' 3326 m	10/39	[Gz]
HDU86	Mehal Ager sub-district (centre in 1964 = Degaga)	10/39	[Ad]
HES..	Mehal Ager sub-district (Mahl Ager ..) (centre in 1964 = Weyla)	13/38	[+ Ad]
HET39	Mehal Ager sub-district (centre in 1964 = Adi Shahu)	13/39	[Ad]
HDS46	Mehal Amba 10°20'/38°06' 2489 m south-west of Bichena	10/38	[Gz]
HEF83	Mehal Amba Sudan (Libso, Lipso)	11/39	[Gz WO]

	11°36'/39°39' 1836 m, south of Weldiya		
H...	Mehal Assol (centre 1964 of Assol sub-district)	10/38	[Ad]
HE...	Mehal Endebet sub-district (Mahl E. ..) (centre in 1964 = SHEME GIYORGIS)	11/38	[+ Ad]
HEE72	Mehal Gayint sub-district (Mahlgaynt ..) (centre in 1964 = Arb Gebeya)	11/38	[+ Ad]
HE...	Mehal Iste sub-district (Mahl Iste ..) (centre in 1964 = Mekane Iyesus)	11/38	[+ Ad]
HCA88	Mehal Maji sub-district? (Mehalmarji ..) (-1997-)	06/35	[+ n]
HCA88	Mehal Maji wereda (centre in 1964 = Maji)	06/35	[+ Ad]
	<i>mehal meda</i> (A) middle /of/ plain; <i>mehale</i> (T) swear, attest		
HDU33	Mehal Meda (Mahal M., Mahil M., Muhal M.) 10°18'/39°40' 3071 m, north of Molale	10/39	[Gz]
HDU34	Mehal Meda (Mahal M., Mahil M., Māhal Méda) Gz: 10°14'/39°41' 2988 m, north of Molale MS: 10°15'/39°25' (with P.O.) MS coordinates would give map code HDU31. Centre at least 1969-1980 of Menz & Gishe awraja, and in 1964 of Gera Midir wereda.	10/39	[Gz MS Br Po]
1960s	<p>"At three o'clock /24 March 1967/ we reached this village, which is soon to be made the district administrative headquarters. Sheets of tin and piles of stones and building timber lie all over the place and I was startled to see a small tractor amidst the half-built houses. In the six years since Donald Levine wrote <i>Wax and gold</i> there have been many changes here. He was the first <i>faranj</i> to explore Manz, but now a rough motor-track links it with Addis and during the dry season a slow bus rattles through twice a week to Mehal Meda, where one can buy Italian-made wine and beer. The rapid 'progress' of this area is perhaps owing to Haile Selassie's special affection for Manz - the homeland of the present dynasty."</p> <p>"I wanted to spend the night in a settlement, and after half-an-hour at a <i>talla-beit</i> we continued down the main street. Then someone shouted and looking round I saw two angry men pursuing us. Within a moment we had been overtaken; they gripped my arm and claimed to be policemen, saying that I must come with them for questioning. One man was obviously drunk, neither wore anything remotely resembling a uniform and both were behaving outrageously. I therefore 'resisted arrest' and during the brawl that followed - watched by half the village and by a cringing Assefa - the metal buckle of my bush-shirt was bent, my arms were bruised and the drunk gave me an agonising punch in the stomach."</p> <p>"Then a third man intervened. He was wearing the remains of a uniform beneath a filthy <i>shamma</i>, and in poor English he confirmed that my attackers were policemen and explained that they wanted to see my passport. I replied furiously that though I have been in Ethiopia for three months the police had never before demanded my passport - which I don't have with me, since the Begemdir Chief of Police had advised me to send it to Addis lest it should be stolen on the way. At this the third man accused me of lying, twisted my arms behind my back and marched me off to the police station - with the other two in attendance and a trembling Assefa driving /the donkey/ Satan in our wake."</p> <p>"On the rare occasions when I lose my temper the loss is total and I was shaking with rage as we entered the mud shack 'police station'. The police C.O. matched his subordinates. He sat behind a wobbly desk in a dark little room, wearing a four-day beard and a torn army great-coat under his <i>shamma</i>. Pushing my way through a group of arguing men I told him exactly what I thought of the Mehal Meda police force. The insult was added to injury, for the man who had arrested me said sneeringly, 'Don't be so afraid!' Glaring, I snapped that fear was the last emotion likely to be aroused in me by such a dishevelled bunch of no-goods; and I observed spitefully that he and his companions would have their own reasons to be afraid when I reported this incident to the Addis authorities. For good</p>		

measure I threw in the names of Leilt Aida, Ras Mangasha and Iskander Desta - whereupon everyone stopped yelling at me."

"After a moment's silence, the C.O. remarked that I had better see the local Governor. I was then conducted to a recently-built shack, where a neatly-dressed but unimposing man sat rather self-consciously behind a brand-new, mock-mahogany desk with a pile of virginal ledgers on either side of the blotting pad. He was soon taken far out of his depth by the situation, as four men were simultaneously giving him different versions of the story of my arrest. He brusquely signed that I was to sit on a bench by the wall and wait."

"Ten minutes later an adequate interpreter appeared. Amsalu is the local Medical Officer and a most agreeable young man. He begged me not to be so angry, though my rage had already gone off the boil, and he clearly explained the situation to the Governor, Ato Balatchaw. Now the Big Man was awkwardly placed. To release me would be to admit that I had been 'wrongfully detained'; to keep me in custody, after all this talk about royalty, might prove calamitous. I suggested, as an honourable compromise, that Leilt Aida be telephoned by way of establishing my credentials. However, Mehal Meda has no telephone, so after much discussion and deliberation it was decided that a police officer would accompany me to Molale tomorrow morning and telephone Makalle from there."

"I was then escorted back to a subdued C.O. who spent the next forty minutes 'taking my statement' for the records, with Amsalu's assistance. Obviously my account of the incident was being carefully edited and I would give a lot to know what sort of statement I signed at the end of this performance."

"I am now relaxing in a minute 'hotel'. Its one earth-floored room contains two small iron-beds, with broken springs and revolting sheets. Bugs abound and the wall-paper consists of pictures from American, English, Italian and French magazines, many of which have been stuck on upside-down."

"Mehal Meda is suffering from collective guilt this evening. Crowds of men and women have come to call, deploring my unlucky encounter, emphasising that none of the policemen involved was a Manze and consoling me with gifts of *talla*, *tej*, coffee, tea, roasted grain, stewed beans, curds and hard-boiled eggs. Nowhere in the highlands have I met with greater kindness."

"Meanwhile Amsalu and the local teachers have been asking me the usual questions about my own country and my impressions of their country. When Dr Donald Levine was mentioned affectionate smiles lit up the grave faces of the non-English speakers who were sitting around us and one elderly man asked eagerly if I knew 'Dr Donald'. I replied that I hadn't the honour to know him personally but that I had read his book, and at once Amsalu seized my arm and begged me to send him a copy. He is prepared to spend almost a month's salary on it, but inevitably *Wax and gold* has been banned in Ethiopia. -- I explained that it is not an exposure of official iniquities but a scholarly study of their culture at its present stage of transition."

"The night wind felt icy as the four teachers walked with me through the village.

Approaching the Governor's shack we heard horrible noises emanating from his transistor radio and when Amsalu shouted loudly for a servant to come to announce us no one could hear him. I suggested knocking on the tin door but this appalled my companions, as it is bad manners for the *hoi-polloi* to communicate directly with a Big Man. However, when Amsalu had again shouted unavailingly, several times, I gave up pandering to local etiquette and hammered the tin sheets resoundingly."

"At once Ato Balatchaw appeared, wrapped in his *shamma*. He beckoned us crossly into his living-room, where an apologetic Amsalu produced the precious chit /from the Governor of Lalibela refound in a notebook/ - and, realising that I need not discuss his police force with Leilt Aida, the Governor stopped being cross. Five minutes later we were departing, with a written permit for me to proceed to Molale unescorted."

[Dervla Murphy, In Ethiopia with a mule, London 1968 p 258-261 (1994 p 262-266)]

The primary school in 1968 had 318 boys and 67 girls, with 6 teachers.

Spelling used by the post was MUHAL MEDA (when?) and MAHAL MEDA (-1982-).

1990s

In 1990 Daniel Ayana, Shumet Sishagne and Donald Crummey worked in northern

Shewa on a research grant to study History of Ethiopian Land Tenure and Its Social Context.

"We were chased out of Mähal Méda in Mänz by a threatened incursion of guerrillas of the Tegray People's Liberation Front."

[Crummey 2000 p 13-14]

Around 20 January 1990 the ENA news agency said that government forces had recaptured Mehal Meda from the TPLF.

"The EPRDF has acquired such a reputation for invincibility that army conscripts run away when the first shots are fired. It is widely believed in Addis Ababa that the Shoan town of Mehal Meda was taken by a force of four rebels. But this success is giving the EPRDF leadership problems."

[Africa Confidential, 18 May 1990]

In a government air raid on Mehal Meda on 19 October 1990 four people were killed and five were wounded.

[Africa Watch 1991]

The Mekane Yesus evangelical church finally also reached Mehal Meda (in the 1990s?) through an evangelist from Wello who spoke perfect Amharic. This church is very much based in Wellega, but representatives from there speaking Oromo-influenced Amharic would not be welcome in the Menz Amhara land.

[A Nordlander, Väckelse .., 1996 p 55]

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|--------|
| HEM41 | Mehal Meda 12°12'/39°27' 1962 m
south-west of Alamata | 12/39 | [Gz] |
| HED47c | Mehal Semada sub-district (Mahl Semada ..)
(centre in 1964 = Teklu Ketema) | 11/38 | [+ Ad] |
| HCG77c | Mehal Shako (sub-district & its centre in 1964) | 07/35 | [Ad] |
| HEM82 | Mehal Wefla wereda (centre in 1964 = Korem) | 12/39 | [Ad] |
| ?? | <p>Mehal Wenz (Mahal Uonz), near Ankober but lower/..</p> <p>Described by Harris in the early 1840s as a kind of country seat of King Sahle Selassie, at lower altitude than Ankober so he preferred it in the rainy season.
(Harris writes <i>Machal-wans</i>.)</p> <p>Harris visited the King at Mehal Wenz during a period of illness for him, with Dr Krapf as interpreter. There were several more such visits.</p> <p>"The first visit that we paid to Machal-wans was on the occasion of the king's indisposition. The high-priest, the chief eunuch, the purveyor-general, Wulásma Mohammad, and ten or twelve other of the courtiers, were in attendance; but they were dismissed after the customary compliments had been passed; and His Majesty, reclining as usual upon the throne, thus proceeded, through the interpretation of the Reverend Dr. Krapf, to detail the long catalogue of his ailments."</p> <p>"I was returning from the expedition against the rebel Galla. I felt suddenly unwell. My head grew giddy. The earth turned round. It became blue under my feet. I fell from my mule. -- The army was in confusion. A governor rebelled. He sought to place his son upon the throne. The people dashed cold water over me. I recovered my senses. I was able to resume the command, and order was restored."</p> <p>"The royal swoon -- had been followed by the consignment to captivity for life in the dungeons of Góncho, of the traitor who had so prematurely sought the elevation of his son, and who was the proprietor of the Residency. -- But although living in perpetual alarm of assassination, and never moving abroad without weapons concealed under his garments, or unaccompanied by a numerous and trustworthy escort, His Majesty's fears did not extend to his British guests; and during our subsequent visits to Machal-wans, he hesitated not to trust us all about his person with loaded fire-arms, when none of his attendants were present."</p> <p>"Magazines were exploded by means of detonating shells - seven-barrelled pitols and</p> | ../.. | [Ha] |

stick-guns for the first time introduced at court - and a liege subject of the realm was nearly shot dead by the royal hand, when clumsily making trial of an air cane, from which a wax bullet had previously been fired -- 'I have seen many strange things from your country, but none that surpass this engine, which without the aid of gunpowder can destroy men.'

[W C Harris, *The highlands ..*, vol II, London 1844 p 23, 26-29]

A number of craftsmen were lodged at Mehal Wenz in Sahle Sellasie's time.

1880s The engineer Luigi Capucci in the second half of the 1880s made a gunpowder factory for Menilek at Mehal Wenz. There was first a dangerous fire, but later they succeeded to really produce powder.

Mehamed, transliteration from Amharic of Mohammed

HDK99	Mehamed (Mehamedo) 09°57'/38°20' 2530 m near Tulu Milki	09/38	[Gz]
HDS09	Mehamed	09/38	[AA]
HDL35	Mehamede 09°23'/38°54' 2697 m north-east of Addis Abeba	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL37	Mehamede 09°23'/39°08' 2673 m, north of Sendafa	09/39	[Gz]
HFE..	Meheno (village) Late January 1936: "repeatedly our battalions were engaged in hard hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy's columns coming down from the Zeban Chercatà; the village of Meheno was taken and lost more than once." [Badoglio (Eng. ed.) 1937 p 52]	13/39	[It]
JDH20	Meheso (Mehesso), see Mieso		
HEM32	Mehid 12°06'/39°32' 2351 m, south of Alamata	12/39	[Gz]
HEF..	Mehonennya (mountain near Kuta Ber)	11/39?	[n]
HEU..	Mehoni sub-district? (-1997-)	12/39	[n]
HEU..	Mehoni wereda (-1994-)	12/39	[n]
HEU13	Mehonie Korbeta sub-district (centre in 1964 = Korbeta)	12/39	[Ad]
HFD47	Mehra Seitan 13°57'/38°10'	13/38	[x]
KCN58	Meigag Gifa, see Magan Gifa		
HBL03	Meili (area)	03/38	[WO]
JDP36	Meinhatolli (recorded in 1841)	10/41	[Ha]
HET92	Meita 13°31'/38°37' 1706 m	13/38	[WO Gz]
JDC85	Meiyisa Rendo (Me'iyisa R.) 08°56'/42°04' 1450 m south of Harar	08/42	[Gz]
	<i>mej</i> (Harar O) water plant found in streams, <i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> ; (A) upper millstone		
HDE41	Meja 08°31'/38°31' 2614 m (with church Gebriel)	08/38	[Gz]
HDK25	Meja (waterfalls) 09°18'/38°01' <i>Mejo</i> , name of a Kefa clan	09/38	[Gz]
HCE96c	Mejo (centre in 1964 of Aroresa wereda)	06/38	[MS Ad]
HCL16	Mejo 06°27'/38°57' 2668 m	06/38	[Gz]