

- mel* (A) fat ox; *meel* (Som) place, spot, part
- HBK56 Mel, G. (area) 04/38 [WO]
- mela* (A) forecast, opinion, idea for solving a problem;  
 (T) tact, policy, device, method, science; (Wellega) *Acacia* spp.  
*mella* (A) whole, be full; *mela* (O) pus, purulent matter;  
*mala* (O) dewlap;  
*Mela*, a section of the *Me'en* ethnic cluster living east of the Omo river  
 and together with another section called *Bodi* by outsiders.  
 "The Mela attacked the Su several times in February and March 1976. -- When I visited  
 the Mela in 1989 and 1991, I found they had expanded into the eastern mountainous area  
 that was originally Dimeland."  
 [K Fukui in Ethnicity .. 1994 p 46]
- JEN18 Mela (area) 12/40 [WO]
- HDL93 Melahé 09°52'/38°44' 1753 m 09/38 [AA Gz]
- ?? **Melakale** (wereda in 1965?) near border of Somalia ../.. [x]  
 Balambaras Girma Abebe was District Governor when many (35,000 people?) of the  
 Haber Yunis and Adagalla tribes crossed the border into Ethiopia as refugees around  
 August 1965.
- melaho* (T) kind of scrubby bush or tree, *Ximenia americana*;  
*melako* (Sidamo) kind of tree with ornamental red flowers,  
*Erythrina abyssinica*;  
*melaku* (A) the angel; *melake* (T) ghost?; *maleka* (O) angel
- HEK25 Melaku (Melacou, Melaccu) 11°59'/38°02' 1902 m 11/38 [+ WO Gz]  
 melale: *malale* (O) wonder
- JEJ90 Melale (Mel Ale) (area) 12°38'/41°35' 998 m 12/41 [WO x]
- JER20 Melale, see Oyma
- JDP29 Melasni (area recorded in 1841) 10/41 [Ha WO]
- JDP65 Melasni 10°10'/41°34' 756 m 10/41 [Gz]
- HEE69 Melata, see Amba Maryam
- melau*, *mellau* (T) kind of scrubby bush or tree, *Ximenia americana*
- HFC09 Melau (hill) 13°39'/37°25' 1971 m 13/37 [WO Gz]
- HFE54c Melazzo, see Hawelti Melazzo
- HFE07 Melba 13°37'/39°06' 2755 m 13/39 [Gz]
- HBL30 **Melbana** 03/38 [WO n]  
 Area with very important wells of the Borana people,  
 20 kilometres south of Mega.  
 8,850 heads of livestock have been counted as using these wells  
 within three days in September-October.  
 At a waterhole in the Melbana plain men of the Norwegian mission got the idea to cut a  
 Latin cross in the trunk of a tree at an old offering site. Some who saw this Christian cross  
 afterwards became afraid that it might be a message of the armed robbers that had become  
 frequent in 1966, but for Christian believers it felt like an important symbol of hope. The  
 tree had such sap that the cross was filled with it and showed in white colour.  
 [S Hunnestad, Nærkamp ..., Oslo 1973 p 94-95]
- pict G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 117 top of a well.
- Melca .., see Melka ..
- HDE25 Melca Idi, see Lafesa
- HDU44 Melchet (Melch'et) 10°24'/39°44' 3309 m 10/39 [Gz]  
 north of Molale
- HEF05 Melco, see Lole

HEJ99	Meldiba (Abba Maldiba), see under Gondar	12/37	[WO Gu]
HCC59	Mele 05°53'/37°26' 1173 m, west of lake Chamo	05/37	[Gz]
JDJ98	Melebleyad (Melebleiad) (area) 1287 m	09/42	[+ WO]
HEE15	Melech Sanca, see Ashenga		
HFF20	Meleget 13°48'/39°24' 2091 m (with church Maryam), south of Hawzen	13/39	[Gz]
HFF42	Meleget Mikael (church) 13°57'/39°35' east of Hawzen	13/39	[Gz]
HCC36	Meleh (area)	05/37	[WO]
HFF43	Melehayzenghi, see Mellehai Zengi		
HCE74c	<b>Meleka</b> , village at the main road About 35-40 km north-west of Kibre Mengist. There occurs "according to Bernard (1960) an outcrop of pegmatite with high mica content. Pegmatites of various strike and thickness (few cm to 12 metres) have been noted. One of the pegmatite was followed 200-300 m in the recess excavated for the highway construction." "The main accumulation of muscovite is not in the pegmatite of originally graphic structure, but chiefly in the irregular veins of a smaller thickness, attaining 5-20 cm, often mixed with coarse-grained quartz. Mica forms sheets in the range of 4 sq.cm to 120 sq.cm and of a thickness of 2-10 cm. The whole system is according to Bernard (1960) crossed by veinlets 1-5 cm thick, containing according to X-ray and spectral analysis a black mineral vernadite with isomorphous and partly absorbed particles of strontium, potassium, lead and alumina." Presence of manganese in the kaolinite near Meleka was found by spectral analysis. [Mineral 1966 p 111-113]	06/38	[Mi]
??	Melekoza (visiting postman under Shashemene)	../..	[Po]
??	Melekoza sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
HDF35	Melela 08°28'/39°47' 1757 m	08/39	[Gz]
JBS23	Melele, see El Melhale melet: <i>melat</i> (A) abundance; <i>meleta</i> (mälä't'a) (A) bald, bare; (T) kind of shrub or small tree, <i>Brucea antidysenterica</i>	04/42	[LM]
HDK42	Melet 09°30'/37°41' 1547 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
HFE07	Melfa (Melta) 13°38'/39°08' 2347/2480 m (large village, with church Maryam), see under Abiy Adi The maps available to the Italian forces in 1935-1936 were not detailed and reliable in all parts. For example, Melfa was found to have been indicated at 20 km further to the north than its real position. [P Gentizon, La conquista ..., 1937 p 209]	13/39	[Gu Gz WO]
HCL..	<b>Melge Wendo</b> , near Shashemene A clinic was started there in 1964 by Swedes of the Philadelphia Church Mission. It had about 15,000 visits a year by 1966. Britt Bergfelt and Solveig Sköld worked at the clinic in 1967. In January 1970, having mail address Shashemene, there were nurses Margareta Pettersson (b 1935) and Carin Sjöblom (b 1921). Britt Bergfelt was there in mid-1976 and Solveig Sköld and Kerstin Holm then at least still had the same P.O.Box address in Shashemene. [Swedish embassy source]	07/38	[x]
HED62	Melgib 11°27'/37°42' 2133 m near Abay river south-east of Bahir Dar	11/37	[Gz]
HCL73	Melgie sub-district (centre in 1964 = Guguma)	06/38	[Ad]

JDN89	Meli (area), see under Trena	10/40	[WO]
GC...	Melile (near Akobo river)	06/34	[x]
	melissai: <i>malasay</i> (O) kind of /historical/ warrior; <i>Malesei</i> ( <i>Maläsäy</i> ) are mentioned around 1530 as a group of Somali; <i>mellese</i> (T) return, bring back, answer		
HFD83	Melissai (Melisay) (well)	14/37	[MS WO LM]
HDS52	Melit Maryam (Melit Mariam)	10/37	[+ WO]
HDK98	Meliyu 09°57'/38°18' 2547 m, near Tulu Milki	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDS09	Meliyu 09°59'/38°21' 2455 m, near Tulu Milki	09/38	[AA Gz]
JCG76	Meliyu 07°01'/40°21' 2164 m, south-west of Ginir	07/40	[Gz]
	In which Meliyu in Fasil awraja the primary school in 1968 had 103 boys and 12 girls in grades 1-3, with three teachers.		
	<i>melka</i> (A) ford; <i>malka</i> (O) ford; muddy pool; river, confluence		
	<b>Melka</b> .., see also Malka ..		
JCB96	Melka Abagle (Malca Abagle, Abagle)	06/41	[+ Gu WO]
??	Melka Abbe (Malca A.) (with trees)	../..	[+ Gu]
HDE63	Melka Agemsa (ford at Akaki river)	08/38	[x]
HBT58	Melka Allu (Melca Allu)	05/39	[+ MS WO]
	<i>malka amara</i> (O) ford of the Amhara?		
	<i>amara</i> (A) Amhara, /also:/ Christian; <i>amare</i> (amarä) (A) be beautiful		
HCF84	Melka Amara (Malca Amara) (ford)	06/39	[+ WO Gu]
HCF93	Melka Andoro (Malca A.) (with bridge)	06/39	[+ WO Gu]
	<i>malka anna</i> (O) roaring river?		
HCF07	Melka Anna (Malca Anna) (ford)	05/39	[+ WO Gu]
HDK49	Melka Arba (waterfalls) 09°26'/38°23' north of Addis Alem, south of Muger river	09/38	[Gz]
JC...	Melka Arsuno (Malca A.) (with bridge)	06/40	[+ Gu]
HDE62c	Melka Awash, see Melka Kunture		
JCJ45	Melka Bafeta (Malca Bafata, Malka B.) (area) 06°46'/42°05' 492 m	06/42	[Gz WO]
??	Melka Belo sub-district (-1997-)	08/41?	[n]
HFC16	Melka Chanchafe (Malca Cianciafe) (Melca Giangiafe)	05/39 05/39	[+ Gu] [+ WO]
??	Melka Chera (historically recorded), in Ganqa Crossing the Gibé river around 1705 Iyasu I travelled to the frontier of the province of Ganqa, at a place called Mälka Chera. There two rival chiefs sent him messages, each asking him to confirm them in their office. [Pankhurst 1997]	../..	[+ Pa]
JBR82	Melka Chireti (Malka Chereti, M.Ciratti) 05°20'/41°50' 321 m (WO has JCC12)	05/41	[Gz WO]
HDE62	Melka Contarre, see Melka Kunture		
HDN15	Melka Daboch (Melca D.) 10°04'/35°18' 752 m	10/35	[+ Gz]
JCR07	Melka Dakata, see Geldoh		
HD...	<b>Melka Datessa</b> (Malca D.) 1170 m Ford of the Abay river, with an unfinished bridge from the 1880s. The bridge was constructed by the Italian engineer Augusto Salimbeni (b 1847), who arrived in Ethiopia together with the explorer Bianchi. Yohannes IV approved the plan for a bridge across Abay although he was incredulous of the possibility to construct it. Salimbeni explored possible sites for the bridge, but because of fights between Amhara	09/37	[+ Gu x]

and Oromo it was difficult to get materials and work power and to built a brick kiln. At one point in time Salimbeni had to resort to hunting in order to avoid hunger. He petitioned Tekle Haymanot of Gojjam even by letter, and on 15 December 1884 there was a ceremony when Tekle Haymanot laid the first stone. Salimbeni returned for a while to his home country to try to get assistance from the Italian Government and the Italian Geographical Society. He returned to Ethiopia in October 1886 with a diplomatic mission of Colonel Piano.

It was necessary to obtain travelling permit from Ras Alula, but because of Dogali and other conflicts between Ethiopians and Italians, the members of the mission were even put in chains. They were set free on 20 March 1887, and in 1889 they accompanied the Ras Makonnen mission to Italy. Salimbeni also took part in a diplomatic mission to the court of Emperor Menilek in 1890. He thus never returned to bridge construction and settled in Italy, where he earlier had published *Tre anni di lavoro nei Goggiam*, Roma 1886. [G Puglisi, *Chi è? dell'Eritrea*, Asmara 1952]

- melka dega: *dega* (däga) (A) highland  
 HDD92 Melka Dega 09°00'/37°45' 1859 m 09/37 [AA Gz]  
 HDS18 Melka Dejen (Malca Degen), see Dejen  
 HDT51 Melka Dibo, see Malka Dibo
- malka dida* (O) forest ford  
 JBR01 **Melka Dida** (with ford & waterhole), ambulance camp 04/41 [WO x Gz]  
 04°44'/41°43'

Camp of the Swedish Red Cross ambulance in 1935, 80 km from Dolo.

(John H. Spencer in his memoires of 1984 calls the place Melka Didaka, but is this justified or is it only a writing mistake? Graziani who gave the order to bomb the camp writes that it was at Gorgoru.)

Dr Hylander's group of the ambulance arrived at Melka Dida on 21 December after three days' journey from Negele. The war front was then about 30 km away, with Fitawrari Addeme as chief commander.

Ras Desta with his political adviser Lieutenant Frère [photo p 128] and his nearest officer Kenyazmach/Grazmach Bezabeh [photo p 131] were not far from Melka Dida on 21 December.

The Ganale river was about 75 metres wide at this place and there was still so much water from the rains that it could not be crossed. There were doum palms and also plenty of crocodiles.

The Swedes went swimming in the river. Balambaras Siyum was first horrified and shouted warnings, but the he also joined them himself. They were told that Ras Desta had not yet arrived with the main forces, so the Ambulance decided to make a camp at the river. According to Geneva Convention rules they hung large Swedish and Ethiopian flags, with the Red Cross flag in the middle [photo p 62]. Lieutenant Frère was waiting for Ras Desta about 3 km to the west. He made a visit, and his suggestion to remove the Ethiopian flag so as not to provoke the Italians was not followed.

Soon there was some Italian air reconnaissance, bombing and shooting. Through a radio telegraph of Lieutenant Frère a message could be sent to the Swedish Consul about what the two Italian planes had done on 22 December. Soon patients from the front started arriving.

On 26 December the Swedes could visit Ras Desta and his nearest man Kenyazmach Bezabeh at about 7 km from the camp. The Kenyazmach knew the Swedes well from earlier. Ras Desta approved the location, and the ambulance hospital tent was on purpose erected in a very visible position. It was agreed that no armed forces should move close to the field hospital, to make it clear that it was neutral ground. Some of the patients were transported about 30 km from the south by lorries of the ambulance.

The Swedish ambulance was bombed by the Italians on 30 December. [F Hylander, *I detta tecken*, Sthlm 1936 p 59-100, 103-112, 127-133]

It was ten Caproni airplanes which bombed the camp for ten minutes around 7.30 in the morning. Of the 60 in-patients 28 were dead by the evening. Dresser Gunnar Lundström was mortally wounded, and Dr Fride Hylander was also seriously wounded so that he was brought by air to Addis Abeba for operation.

Two of the motorcars were completely destroyed by gun fire, but three could be used for transporting patients westwards. In one of the tents 446 bullet holes were counted. There was loose sand in the locality, so otherwise the damage from bombs could have been even greater.

Telegrams about the event reached Stockholm at noon on the following day, and the news caused much reaction and a mournful sentiment in Sweden on New Year's Eve.

[R Herrmanns & F Hylaner]

The written report of commander Bernasconi has been published:

Four R I aeroplanes dropped 96 bombs weighing 12 kg each. Then the bombing was continued by six Ca 101. Reconnaissance planes were used to take photos and drop leaflets. The six Caproni planes dropped 1,982 kg of bombs, the reconnaissance planes 1,152 kg, total 3,134 kg.

[cited in F Hylander, Crabatto 1980 p 151]

- 1936 The Geneva delegate of the International Red Cross, Marcel Junod, together with the Swedish Consul Knut Hanner, with Carl Gustaf von Rosen as pilot, flew to Negele on 3 January with the Fokker of the Ethiopian Red Cross. Hanner accompanied the wounded Hylander on the flight back to the capital. Junod visited Melka Dida to observe and report on what had happened. Junod and Balambaras Siyum were driven in a motorcar by Smith and Allander. The Balambaras shot some animals for meat, among them a giraffe. They arrived to the bombed camp in the night of 7 January. Even the next morning there was a little bombing by the Italians. They met Lieutenant Frère and were invited to Ras Desta for lunch, and they returned to the camp overnight but started on the road back to Negele very early the following morning.

Junod was flown back to Addis Abeba on 12 January.

[Hylander, I detta tecken ..., ]

- picts F Hylander, I detta tecken ..., Sthlm 1936 p 79 ambulance tents, 91 after the bomb attack, 107 ford; Svenskmannagärning, Sthlm 1936 p 47 landscape at the river bank.

	melka doa: <i>do-a</i> (O) cracked, with a rift		
HDE60	Melka Doa (Melca Doa)	08/38	[+ WO]
	melka dube: <i>dube</i> (Som) oven, cooking pot; <i>dubbe</i> (Som) hammer		
JCJ45	Melka Dube (Malca Dube) 06°47'/42°04' 472 m	06/42	[+ Gz]
	melka dungo: <i>dungo</i> (O) torch		
HDE43	Melka Dungo (Melca Dungo)	08/38	[+ WO]
JDJ29	Melka Ferda 09°18'/42°26' 1802 m	09/42	[Gz]
	Melka Ferda, midway between Harar and Jijiga		
HDE61	Melka Gerba (Malcaguerba, Malkaguerba)	08/38	[+ Gu Gz]
	08°44'/38°34' 1961/2302 m, at upper Awash river		
JBj75	Melka Gersey (Malca Ghersei)	04/42	[+ WO Gu]
HFD83	Melka Gilo, see Melka Jilo		
HDE24	Melka Gorge (Melca Gorghe)	08/38	[+ WO]
	melka gotu: <i>gotu</i> (A) the hill		
HDE43	Melka Gotu (Melca Gotu)	08/38	[+ WO]
	melka guba: <i>guba</i> , <i>gubaa</i> (O) 1. fever; 2. branding iron; 3. strong /tobacco/; 4. cloudy		
HBU20	Melka Guba (Melca Guba, Malca Guba)	04/39	[Gz WO Gu]
	04°47'/39°22' 752 m (with Italian-built bridge 115 m)		
HBT72c	<b>Melka Hama</b> (Malca H.)	05/38	[+ Mi]
	About 85 km south-west of Kibre Mengist.		

According to Ohlschläger (1958) the area belongs to a zone of highly metamorphic rocks. On the surface of Melka Hama garnets copper shows have been noted. The mineralization is composed of chalcocite with green malachite. They are associated by epidote and probably by weathered magnetite.

[Mineral 1966]

- |        |  |       |               |
|--------|--|-------|---------------|
| JDJ46  | Melka Harewacha (M. Harewach'a)<br>09°25'/42°12' 1946 m, north of Harar  | 09/42 | [Gz]          |
| ??     | Melka Harre (Malca H.) (ford) 360 m  | ../.. | [+ Gu]        |
| HBT88c | Melka Heedi, see under Awata<br><i>malka hola</i> (O) sheep ford   | 05/39 | [Mi]          |
| HDH11  | Melka Hola (Malca Hola), see under Gimbi<br>(with Catholic mission)<br>St. Michael mission school in 1968 had 132 boys and 35 girls<br>in grades 1-5, with 3 teachers.   | 09/35 | [+ Gu]        |
| HCM80  | Melka Howei (Malca Hoei) (area)  | 07/39 | [+ WO]        |
|        | melka ida: <i>ida, idda</i> (O) root; family   |       |               |
| HDE38  | Melka Ida (Melca Ida, Malca Idda, Melka Hida)<br>village a little north of Awash river, see under Nazret   | 08/39 | [+ WO Mi x]   |
| HDE25  | Melka Idi (Melca Idi), see Lafesa  |       |               |
| HCF75  | Melka Jamerri (Malca Giamerri) (ford)  | 06/39 | [+ WO Gu]     |
| JDJ51  | Melka Jebdu 09°35'/41°46' 1194 m<br>west of Dire Dawa  | 09/41 | [Gz]          |
| JDJ62  | <b>Melka Jebdu</b> 09°37'/41°47' 1123 m, near Dire Dawa<br>A so-called "sub-surface dam" at Melka Jebdu was inaugurated in March 1985. It was a way of protecting clean spring water. The dam provided clean water for 2,500 people and about 500 animals, and surplus water was used for irrigation of 500 fruit trees. Two Swedish volunteers Ulrika and Jan worked there. However, after the big rains the watercourse brought big stone boulders which crushed the dam so that it was destroyed.<br>[C-G Landergren, Medmänsklig färdriktning, Sthlm 2003 p 124-125] | 09/41 | [Gz 20]       |
| JDJ27c | <b>Melka Jibri</b><br>A halting place for travellers, 15 km east of Harar and with a little village on the crest of a ridge.<br>Melka Jibri was established already by Ras Makonnen, and by early 1931 when Dr Agge passed there, it was still maintained by some of Makonnen's old servants. A couple of buildings had corrugated sheet iron roofs, and there was a <i>zeriba</i> where caravan camels could find some protection inside.<br>[G Agge, I svart tjänst ..., Sthlm 1935 p 13-14]   | 09/42 | [x]           |
| HDF83  | <b>Melka Jilo</b> (Melkajilo, Malca Jilo, Melca Gilo)<br>(Malca Gilo) 08°53'/39°37' 1125/1209 m, railway station<br>(Fre: Malka-Djilo) (centre in 1964 of Cheba sub-district)<br>Situated opposite the Garibaldi Pass where the road to Awash stn passes at 15 km distance from the railway.<br>A post office had been foreseen in the administration of the Italian occupants, with spelling Malcagilo, but it was never opened by them.  | 08/39 | [Gz Ad WO Gu] |
|        | melka jira: <i>jira</i> (O) on /as postposition/   |       |               |
| HDE23  | Melka Jira (Melca Gira)<br>melka jis: <i>jiis</i> (Som) lame person  | 08/38 | [+ WO]        |
| JBR45  | Melka Jis (Malca Gis)  | 04/42 | [+ WO]        |
| ??     | Melka Kalo (Malca Calo) (ford) 990/1040m   | 09/37 | [+ Gu]        |

HDE33	Melka Kartata (Melca Cartata)	08/38	[+ WO]
??	Melka Kore (visiting postman under Dessie)	../..	[Po]
??	Melka Kuba (Malca Cuba)	../..	[+ It]

at 86 km by road from Negele (same as M. Guba?)

melka kunture: *kuntura* (quntura) (O) slice /of food/;  
*kunturu* (qunturuu) (O) certain kinds of bread or pancake;  
*kunturro* (qunturroo) (O) genitals, penis

HDE62	<b>Melka Kunture</b> (Melca Konture, M. Contarre)	08/38	[Gz Ca WO]
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08°41'37"38' 2727 m

very ancient archaeological sites along several kilometres of Awash river are named in order Kella, Gombore, Garba, Warraba, Charri Arussi, Tabel, Tuka, Hofi, Simbiro (Simbuuro) Situated in principle at 1.5 km from the little settlement of Melka Awash.

"Famous for the remarkable prehistoric stone-tool factory discovered in the 1960s. It is difficult to visit (you need a special letter of permission from the Oromo Investment Bureau in Addis Ababa) and there is not much to see as the site has become pretty overgrown."

[Lonely planet 2000 p 215]

In 1963 G. Dekker, a UN hydrologist while on a professional tour, found thousands of palaeolithic tools scattered on the surface over an area of 6 sq.km on both banks of the Awash river. When he reported his discovery to the Ethiopian Institute of Archaeology, they sent G. Bailloud, a French specialist in pre-history, to make a wider survey of the site. Mr Bailloud spent two months at Melka Kunture, and his results were published in 1965.

Thereafter, every year for two months there were excavations and research guided by Professor Jean Chavaillon. The important level is situated at two metres above the present-day bed of the river, so that when the river overflows after the big rains there is further erosion.

Excavations down to 20 m depth revealed many human occupations. On the first layer is the Stillbayen, then the Fauresmithien, lower down the Acheulean, and lowest of all the 'pebble culture'. Diggings at sites further from the river bank, e.g. at Gombore, Garba and Kella, revealed strata belonging to different cultures. It is remarkable that there have been successive occupations since over one million years in the same place.

At Gombore were found large bones such as of hippopotamus. At Kella were found pebble culture and fossilized elephant tusks. The archaeological level found at Garba was only 20 cm thick but still neatly stratified. The obsidian used is abundant within 10 km of Melka Kunture. At some period the river seems to have formed a lake so that humans/hominids had to move away to its shores.

[Ethiopian Herald 1969-01-05 p 6-7]

Only modest numbers of fossils were recovered, and by 1971 not yet any human remains. The lowest levels contained crudely made choppers. Higher levels contained abundant handaxes and cleavers in the Acheulean tradition.

[J Kalb 2001 p 24]

During the first years after discovery it was easy for anybody to visit the site, and it was only lightly guarded by police patrols. The Swedish community, for example, made a group excursion to Melka Kunture on 16 January 1982.

2000s "About 30 km down the turn off at Alem Gena you come to the bridge across the Awash river at Melka Kontoure. The river is substantial, and there is an impressive waterfall just down river from the bridge. It is a short walk to see it, which is worthwhile despite the gaggle of local kids who collect around you.

Melka Kontoure is most famous for an archaeological site where human-made tools dated at over 1.8 million years have been found. There is a fenced off area with a guard, who bars access to a few tukuls with some of the artefacts displayed inside. To gain access to the artefacts you must have a letter from the proper Oromo Region authorities -- The site

itself was down a track which can only be called a road with the greatest sense of irony or exaggeration. You go down this track for about 2 km -- The track is just past the bridge on the right."

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/03/31]

"There is little in the way of on-site interpretative material, so you might want to visit the National Museum in Addis Ababa where there is a good display on Melka Kunture."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

- texts G. Bailloud, Les gisements paléolithiques de Malka Kontoure, *in Cahiers de l'Institut Éthiopien d'Archéologie (A.A.)* 1965 with text in French 37 pages containing also photos, and 79 plates showing sites and objects;
- J. Chavaillon, La préhistoire éthiopienne à Melka Kountoure, *in Archéologia* 19, 1967;
- M. Taieb, Melka Kontouré ... stratigraphie du Quarternaire, *in Palaeoecology of Africa* vol 4, 1969 p 60-61;
- J. Chavaillon, Les habitats acheuléen de Melka-Kontouré, *in Proceedings of the VIIth (1971) Pan-African Congress of Prehistory and Quarternary Studies*, Addis Ababa 1976 p 57-61.
- picts Annales d'Éthiopie, vol 7, Paris 1967 p 4[fig 1] section of Garba site, 5[2] Kella site, 6[3] + 11-15[2-6] parts of Garba site with stone objects found;
- G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 1 archaeological excavation.

JBR10c	Melka Ladir (Malka Ladir)	04/41	[+ Wa]
JC...	Melka Lakoli (Malca Laccoli)	06/40	[+ Gu]
HDK96	Melka Lebbu (Melca Lebbu)	09/38	[+ WO]
HDR42	Melka Lelu, see Koli		
JB...	Melka Libai (Malca L.)	../..	[+ Gu]
HDR32	Melka Lokam (Melca L.) (ford), cf Lokman	10/37	[+ WO]
HCF06	Melka Lughena, see Ellugena		

JBH70	Melka Meri (Malka Mari, M. Murri, Malka) 04°17'40°45' 537 m, as area also inside Kenya cf JBN24 Meri	04/40	[Gz]
HDK09	Melka Miche (Malca Micce), see Bora		
JBH70	Melka Murri (Malca Muri) 04°17'40°45' 537 m	04/40	[+ Gu]

melka obbe: *obe, obee* (O) exclamation to urge cattle to move

JCH15c	Melka Obbe (Malca Obbe)	06/41	[+ Gu]
HCL92	Melka Oda 07°13'38°37' 2014 m, near Shashemene	07/38	[Gz]
JCH72	<b>Melka Oda</b> , south-east of Ginir	07/40	[WO x]

When Dr Agge's group of the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance in early 1936 moved southwards towards the front, one of their camps was at Melka Oda.

"When we in the evening arrived to Melka Oda /from Ginir/, we were somewhat surprised. Our whole camp had disappeared -- We guessed that the loaded camels of Kenyazmach Mekuria had arrived. -- After following footprints for about an hour we saw a camel, tied to a bush. A few hundred metres past there his pack saddle lay in the middle of the road." The camel was difficult to handle, and the wooden case with sugar had been dropped and almost broken. After walking for one hour more they found the camp. "I never saw a larger camp than the one now extending in front of us." The ambulance had 7 riding mules, 39 camels and 6 donkeys. The Kenyazmach with a dozen soldiers had over 50 camels. Their load was several hundred French Lebel rifles and some one hundred cases of ammunition, though for another type of rifles. During travelling, the Ambulance tried to keep some distance to the armed group, the reason of which was difficult for the

locals to understand.

[G Agge, *Med Röda Korset ...*, 1936 p 51-52]

- HCL92c **Melka Odekuyera** 07/38 [x]  
 The co-operative society in Melka Odekuyera was registered in 1971, and had some 200 members. The activities of the co-operative were purely business oriented, the co-operative obtaining fertilizer credits and cash loans from the AID Bank. The fertilizer was distributed to the members and the co-operative bought up the harvest of the members. The grains purchased in this manner were sold on the national market. The executive committee of Melka Odekuyera was in 1973 dominated by commercial farmers, the president being a retired colonel. Among the members there were many small owner-cultivators and tenants.  
 [M Ståhl, *Ethiopia: Political contradictions ...*, Sthlm 1974 p 141]
- HCF06c *malka odessa* (O) ford of talk, gossip ford  
 Melka Odessa (Malca Odessa) 05/39 [+ Gu]  
 JB... Melka Rie (Malca R.) (border locality) ../.. [+ Gu]  
 ?? Melka Rufa (Melkar) ../.. [Ad]  
 Population 2,920 as counted in 1967.
- HDR.. Melka Sabar 10/37 [+ Gu Ch]  
 March 1927: "Our guide talked of the Abbai fords at Wamet, particularly the downstream one which he called Malka Sabar, but as he described it as a swimming-crossing only it did not sound important."  
 [Cheesman 1936 p 320]
- JDG45 **Melka Sede** (M. Sadi, M. Sedi, M. Sidi, Sadi Malka) 09/40 [Gz Po x]  
 09°21'40°18' 788 m  
 (sub P.O. under Nazret), in middle Awash valley  
 At Melka Sede the Ministry of Agriculture in the 1960s established a research station for experimenting on irrigated cultivation of cotton, fruits and oilseeds. Around 1968 the irrigated area of the Melka Sedi/Amibara farms was about 1,200 hectares.  
 By the early 1970s the farm had been 52% Italian-financed. [Gilkes]  
 This plain used to be one of the best grazing areas for the Afar. In 1970 there were plans to transform it into commercial farms by 1980, so its use by the nomadic Afar was threatened.  
 By the mid-1970s it was feared that the plain would be invaded by more Afar and Kereyu pushed out from Awash Valley farms and from the Awash National Park. Apart from overgrazing this would also increase hostilities between Afar and Kereyu.  
 [L Bondestam 1974 p 72-73, 83]
- HCR36c **Melka Sedi** (with iron ore) 2650 m 07/37 [Mi]  
 Within the May Gudo mountainous massif.  
 "Lateritic iron ores occur in -- the basin of the Odokenita River, an affluent of the Omo River -- The limonite, psilomelane, and haematite found in this area are due to the lateritization of some iron mother rock and gradual enrichment in iron. The iron-manganese deposits occur below the upper soil and form crusty iron hydroxide which sometimes penetrates the roots of trees, etc. In this way, the typical appearance of iron-manganese ores has been formed."  
 "The iron-bearing area between Melka Sedi and Kurkure lies from about 2600-2250 m above sea level. It is situated along the Odonitta River, which flows south-southwest to the Omo River. The area can be reached only by field car over very bad road about 65 km in length. -- The region is mountainous and more or less covered by vegetation. -- It appears to be in a late stage of youth, with rather steep slopes and narrow valleys. Mining

and smelting activity have long been carried on in the area and are more or less primitive and limited in extent."

Description for the period 1935-1941 on pages 574-577 is mostly a general summary of geology. In the May Gudo massif, the localities Melka Sedi, Gammalucho, Kurkure, Boto, Garo, Gato, Gube-Abanchela, Derabe, Ilke, Dombowa and Dekano are listed.

Production of iron was 5,500 kg in the first half of 1938, but at which places?

Many missions visited the area during 1950-1962. In the autumn of 1962, prospecting and exploration activity was undertaken by the geological survey section of the Ministry of Mines. Summary concerning Melka Sedi, south-west of Dekano:

"The iron ore occurrences appear in the lowest part of a rather steep ridge on the slope which dips toward a local narrow valley. The estimated surface of the outcrop in which six pits were dug is about 12 x 90 m. The area is covered by a layer of residual soil resulting from weathering. Old trenches with depth sometimes about 10 m are evident. Some outcrops of compact limonite and yellow ochre including bluish-black manganese hydroxides can be seen. -- The prevailing component within the limits of the outcrop is the weathered rock and residue which is ferriferous and yellow-red-brown and frequently includes small veins and bulbs of ore." /Six test pits are described in detail./ "It can be concluded that in the weathered rock some larger bands or lenses of ore exist."

For Melka Sedi some analyses of ore are given in Krupp's Ethiopia Report (December 1956). The average iron content in the sample analyzed is about 40%. At Melka Sedi, the manganese content is quite high (12%). "It may be assumed that the sampling at Melka Sedi was performed at the southeast border of the ore area, where outcrops of relatively rich ore exist and a higher manganese content is evident as black wad. The place may be estimated to be the richest in the area, and the traces of old mining are concentrated. The silica and alumina contents are comparatively low in the analyzed samples. -- The workable thickness of the layer could not be definitely established; it is, however, small." [Mineral 1966 p 573-577, 585-586]

??	Melka Sodda, in the south Prospecting has been carried out along the Dawa river near a locality called Melka Sodda. Only some of the test pits have shown traces of gold. [Mineral 1966] melka soddu: <i>soddu</i> (O) tomb, burial place	../..	[Mi]
HCM02	Melka Soddu (Malca Soddu)	06/39	[+ WO Gu]
JB42	Melka Suftu 04°00'/41°46' 242 m	04/41	[Gz]
HCL78	Melka Tadecha (Malca Tadeccia, M. Daddeccia) 07°03'/39°11' c2400 m, near Dodola	07/39	[+ Gu]
HDE33	Melka Tadecha (Melca Tadeccia)	08/38	[+ WO]
JCD65	Melka Teka (M. Taka) (area) 06°03'/43°02' 277 m melka tibbe: <i>tibee</i> (Som) 1. pound grain; 2. hit with a club	06/43	[Gz WO]
JCH41	Melka Tibbe (Malca Tibbe)	06/40	[WO Gu]
HCM80	<b>Melka Wakanna</b> (Malca Uacanna, Malga U.) (M. Wakana) (with old fort and new power station) 2350 m In April 1985 Czechoslovakia agreed to provide a long-term loan to finance equipment for the 153 MW Melka Wakana hydroelectric project. In November it was said that the Soviet Union would contribute to Melka Wakana. The station opened in May 1988 with an initial capacity of 135 MW. More than 400 Soviet and 100 Czechoslovak experts, and around 7,000 local workers were employed at the project.	07/39	[+ WO Gu It]
HBT48	Melka Walagodiya (Malca Ualagodia), see Watagodiya		
JCH..	Melka Ware, south-east of Ginir	06/41?	[x]

When Dr Agge's group of the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance moved southwards towards the front in early 1936, Grazmach Kasa parted with them at Melka Ware and they were to continue together with Kenyazmach Mekuria from Ginir with some forty camels into the hot and dry lowlands. The caravan men were not used to camels and to loading the medical baggage, so it took about three hours in the mornings to get going.

[G Agge, *Med Röda Korset ...*, 1936 p 52]

- JDG34 Melka Wered (M. Warer, Melkawarer) 09°20'/40°10' 09/40 [Gz]  
(research station), north of Awash station on river right-hand bank
- JDG56 **Melka Werer** (Melkawarer) 09°33'/40°24' 811 m 09/40 [Gz Po]  
(sub P.O. under Nazret, with research station)  
A research station of the Institute of Agricultural Research operated there (-1966-1973-).  
In April 1967 the Awash Valley Authority started a settlement with 67 Afar families at Melka Werer in the Middle Awash. They were supposed to each take care of 2.5 hectares with centrally administered mechanised cultivation, so that their own work would mostly be to pick weeds and make cotton harvest.  
Five years later there were still 67 families though only a few the same as in the beginning. The change of life for the Afar was too great to make the project function, and the administration tried to change the policy in several ways. Even if not functioning well, Melka Werer still produced a profit for the administration.  
At Melka Werer there was also the government institute for agricultural research. Of 800 seasonal labourers employed there, 600 were Afar (and of these 100-150 women). The Institute used to pay a fixed amount of Eth\$ 1.50 for each day of work, irrespective of what had been done and produced.  
[L Bondestam 1974 p 115-116, 123]  
Members of the army garrison at Melka Werer in June 1991 became involved in a dispute with the local Afar inhabitants. The origin of the dispute is unknown but is rumored to be related to *chat* chewing. Over 20 Afar civilians were killed in the fight that resulted.  
[Africa Watch 1991]
- HDE53 melka werke: *werke* (wärqe) (A) ensete, "false banana"  
Melka Werke (Melca Uorche) 08/38 [+ WO]
- HDK91 Melka Yekatel (Malka Yekatel) 09/37 [+ Ch]  
(Melca Iecatel) (ford) about 09°50'/37°33' 09/37 [+ WO]  
D'Abbadie, who published his travels in 1868 and 1873, crossed the Abay at or near Yekatel ford. South of there a road climbs up to the Gudru highlands.  
[Cheesman 1936]
- HCB71 Melkab (Melcab) (swamp) 06/35 [+ WO]
- HEJ66 Melkam Wiha 12°20'/37°12' 1837 m 12/37 [Gz]  
north-west of lake Tana
- JDJ45 Melkarafu (Melkarafo, Melkarrafu), see Kembolcha
- HDF20 melkasa = *melka asa* (A) ford with fish?  
**Melkasa** (Melkassa, Malkassa, Malcasa) (w bridge) 08/39 [Gz Ca WO Gu]  
08°24'/39°20' 1529 m, 20 km south-east of Nazret on the road towards Asela
- 1960s An employment office had been opened there by January 1965, because of construction work for the power plants Awash II+III.  
[News]  
A contract for a high tension line from Melkasa to Kaliti in Akaki was signed in August 1964 with the Italian firm S.A.E. of Milano.  
The power station Awash II, also called Malkassa, was inaugurated by the Emperor on 10 December 1966.

[News]

Five Yugoslav technicians working on the construction of the Melkasa dam were drowned on 31 August 1967 when a Land Rover plunged into the river. A sixth man succeeded to save himself.

[News]

The 1967 telephone directory had numbers for EELPA, CITRO, Compagnie Industrielle de Travaux.

1990s To get to Sodere, turn right at the first main intersection in Nazret, and then left at the little village of Melkasa, home of an agricultural research station, where an asphalt road leads to Sodere.

[Camerapix 1995]

JDG56c	Melkawere	09/40	[MS]
HDJ85	Melke 09°49'/37°05' 2423 m, south of Alibo	09/37	[Gz]
HDL52	Melke 09°34'/38°40' 1675 m melke belo: <i>malka belu</i> (O) ford of hunger? <i>belo</i> (Som) hardship, difficulty	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDK71	Melke Belo 09°45'/37°39' 1488 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
??	Melki (village)	../..	[18]
HDD92	Melki, river at 08°56'/37°44'	08/37	[n]
HEF05	Melko, see Lole		
HEF06	Melko (Melco) (area)	10/39	[+ WO]
HET78	Melkumba (Melk'umba, Melqumba) 13°22'/39°15' 2016 m, north-west of Samre	13/39	[Gz q]
	<i>mella</i> (A) to fill, to be full; <i>mellai</i> (T) kind of scrubby bush or tree, <i>Ximenia americana</i>		
H CJ06c	Mella, 111 km from Soddo	06/37	[Gu]
??	Mellajillo Some of the Argobba ethnic group are said to live in Mellajillo around 1990.	../..	[n]
	<i>melleb asa</i> : <i>asa</i> (A,T) fish; (O) conversation, discussion		
HFF03	Melleb Asa (area)	13/39	[WO]
KCS62	Melleged (Melleghed) (area)	07/47	[+ WO]
HFF43	<b>Mellehay Zengi</b> (Melehayzenghi, Mellehei Z.) (Milhaizinge, Millihay Z., Malahayenghi), cf Takatisfi with rock-hewn churches Mikael and Petros Pawlos. <b>Petros Pawlos</b> "tout en haut de l'escarpment, blottie sous une immense voûte rocheuse. Eglise de plan très irrégulier, édiflée sur une sorte de balcon naturel, sous la voûte, pourvue d'excavations (naturelles?) servant de maqdas." [Sauter 1976] Built in a steep part so that it can be reached only by good climbers. Half cut into rock and half built-up. There are interesting paintings. [Äthiopien 1999 p 363]	13/39 13/39	[x] [20]
texts	Ivy Pearce <i>in</i> Ethiopia Observer 1968 no 2 p 97, 104; O. & E. Dale <i>in</i> Ethiopia Observer 1968 no 2 p 136; Ruth Plant <i>in</i> Ethiopia Observer 1970 no 3 p 227 with plan and drawing; J. Gire & R. Schneider, <i>Etude des églises rupestres ..</i> , Paris 1970 p 77.		
pict	K. Nomachi, <i>Bless Ethiopia</i> , Tokyo 1998 (English ed. Hong Kong) p 108 wall paintings in ruined old church of Petros Pawlos. <b>Mikael</b> "à 1 km au S de la précédente, dans un promontoire gréseux s'avancant vers l'O parmi les euphorbes-candélabres. Petit mais gracieux hypogée à trois nefs et deux travées seulement. Les deux piliers cruciformes relient les trois arcs se succédant du N au S. On y admire trois coupes basses, dont l'une, au centre, est remarquable par ses imitations de		

	frise, de rosaces et de motifs géométriques."		
texts	Pearce as above p 106; Dale as above p 139; Plant as above p 228 with plan and drawing; Gire & Schneider as above, p 147; G. Gerster, Kirchen im Fels (1968)Zürich 1972 p 147.		
	<i>mello, melo</i> (O) grain boiled in water; <i>mellu</i> (T) kind of shrub or "climbing tree", <i>Combretum aculeatum</i> ; <i>Mello, Melo, Malo</i> , ethnic group (sub-group related to the Welayita) numbering about 20,189 according to the 1994 census		
JDR15	Mello, see Milo		
??	Melmele (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
HDE88	Melmeli Gudo 08°32'/39°09' 1804 m between Mojo and Nazret	08/39	[Gz]
HFE07	Melta, see Melfa		
GCS75	Melthi <i>melti</i> (A) 1. vagabond, tramp; 2. false testimony; <i>melte</i> (O) weak	07/33	[WO]
HCJ44	Meltiti (Melt'it'i) 06°46'/37°01' 1513 m	06/37	[Gz]
JCN97	Meltu (Melt'u) 08°07'/40°26' 1417 m	08/40	[Gz]
GDD38	Melual, see Malwal		
HDL59	Melyu 09°35'/39°17' 2675 m south-west of Debre Birhan, cf Meliyu	09/39	[Gz]
HEK27	Melza (Molza) (mountain) 12°01'/38°12' 2826 m north-east of Debre Tabor, cf Dega Melza, Kola Melza	12/38	[18 WO Gz]
HDT04	Memacha 10°02'/38°51' 1976 m south of Addis Derra	10/38	[Gz]
HDM65	Membret (Emmebret) (mountain) MS: 09°39'/39°48' 3350 m; Gz: 09°41'/39°48' 2611 m see under Ankober Gz coordinates would give map code HDM75	09/39	[WO Gz Gu]
HDM.?	Memhir Ager (with church Be'ale Weld) in Sendafa area	09/39	[x]