

- mesa* (mäsa) (Tigré) to become evening;
(meesaa) (O) preparing land and sowing *tef* there
- HFE98 Mesaber (hill) /=Mesa Ber?/, see Mezbir
?? Mesafe, cf under Durame
- mesal* (A) whetstone; *dengiya* (A) stone; *mesel* (mäsal) (T) right
- HES72 Mesal Dengiya (Masal Dengia, Massal D.) 12/37 [+ Gu Gz]
12°49'/37°44' 2705/2727 m
The road Debark-Masal Dengia 35 km seems to have been asphalted already in the 1930s by the Italians. The road Gondar-Masal Dengia 31 km was gravelled but not asphalted (another note for this road says 36 km and no maintenance or coating).
[L'industria in A.O.I. 1939]
- HCG78 Mesan, see Mizan Teferi
- HEU94 Mesba Maryam (M. Mariam) 13°31'/39°48' 1900 m 13/39 [Gz]
east of Kwiha
- HEA35 Mescescia, see Bameza
- HFE58 Meschel .., see Meskel ..
- HDM21 Meschela .., see Meskela ..
- JDH05 **Mesela** (Messela, Mesella, Masala) 09/41 [Gz Po WO Gu]
09°05'/41°10' 2474 m
(with sub P.O. under Asbe Teferi)
In Chercher awraja, centre in 1964 of Mesela wereda.
A village in the Chercher district which is located at the end of the Kulubi-Pursa road.
[Mineral 1966]
The primary school in 1968 had 97 boys and 25 girls in grades 1-4,
eith two teachers.
Spelling used by the post has been MESELA (-1975-).
- JDH05 Mesela sub-district? (-1997-) 09/41 [n]
meselal (A); *mesalil* (T) stool, low chair
- HCM05 Mesello, see Meslo
Mesengo, ethnic group speaking Majang and
numbering about 15,341 according to the 1994 census
- HC... Mesengo (sub-district & its centre in 1964) 07/35 [Ad]
- HEJ06 Mesenka (Mesenk'a) 11°47'/37°12' 1828 m 11/37 [Gz]
near the inflow of Little Abay into lake Tana
- HC... Mesenkela (=Mizan Kella?), in Sidama awraja 06/38? [Ad]
The primary school in 1968 had 140 boys and 7 girls
in grades 1-3, with one(!) teacher.
- meseraia: *mesariya* (A,T) weapon; (A) tool for work, means;
maseriya (A) thong, strap, something to tie with;
mesireya (A) hole in the ground for the pedal of a weaver;
mesaferiya (A) camping-ground
- HES68 Meseraia (mountain) 13°15'/38°13' 4419 m 13/38 [WO Gz]
pict F Rosen, Eine deutsche .., Leipzig 1907 p 447 very steep cliffs
- JDH37 Meserete (with school) 09°22'/41°22' 09/41 [Gz]
north-west of Deder
- HEF80 Mesfa 11°37'/39°24' 2866 m 11/39 [Gz]
Mesfa, north-east of Mekdela
mesfin (mäsfīn) (A,T) prince, duke, lord;

- mesafintu* (A) the nobility
- HER88 **Mesfinto** (Masfinto) 13/37 [MS WO x]
 (Madra Gavaia = Madira Gebeya?) 13°28'/37°23' 1996 m
 Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
 6E Sereva (village)
 2S Skaka Daab (Scaca D.) (village)
 6S Kidus Mikael (church)
 8S Madira Gebeya (Madra Gavaia) (village) 2466 m
 5NW Dima (village) 1701 m
 7NE Govatwit
mesgid = mosque
- HEM70 Mesgid 12°27'/39°25' 2835 m, west of Alamata 12/39 [Gz]
- HET60c Meshar, village east of Ras Dashen 13/38 [x]
 The hunter Major Maydon passed there in February 1923.
 "I was hospitably received by a minor Dejazmach at Meshar village, who gave me two of his own retainers as guides -- despite every endeavour I never saw a shootable ram /of Walia Ibex/, although at least one herd was spotted and stalked daily."
 [H C Maydon, Simen, London 1925 p 117]
- HFF60 Meshat 14°08'/39°23' 1952 m, south-west of Adigrat 14/39 [Gz]
 HEP46 Mesheha (Mesciaha) (plateau area) 13/36 [WO]
 HEP46 Mesheha sub-district (centre in 1964 = Kilil) 13/36 [Ad]
- HE... Meshelemya (Mäshälämya, Mäsälämya?) 11/38 [+ Pa]
 (historically recorded), not far from Nefas Mewcha
 Emperor Susneyos (1606-1632) fought at Mäshälämya, not far from Näfas Mäwcha, against five Oromo groups and was victorious.
 In 1920 the Emperor learnt of an Oromo attack in Bägémder. He again rapidly descended to Mäshälämya, where he inflicted considerable casualties on the advancing force.
 [Pankhurst 1997]
- ?? **Meshellu**, area and stream south of lower Awash river ../.. [20]
 Opposite Hadar where the 'Lucy' hominid fossils were found.
 The stream flows in nearly a straight line for 30 kilometres along a fault, or a series of faults, aligned with the East African Rift. Near the Awash river, the trend intersects another major fault, which is aligned with the Red Sea Rift.
 The archaeological site was visited by Jon Kalb in 1972 and later.
 "-- the Meshellu badlands - a jagged sedimentary expanse raked by wadis leading to the Awash. -- Consisting of an immense U-shaped basin, the sedimentary exposures were twice the breadth of those at Hadar. -- We saw no people in the area."
 [J Kalb, Adventures in the bone trade, (Copernicus Books) 2001 p 57, 159]
- HEC78 Meshenti 11°28'/37°17' 1965 m 11/37 [Gz]
 HEK51 Meshenti 12/37 [MS]
- HEA34 **Meshesha** (Mescescia, Mashasha) 485/957 m 11/35 [+ WO Gu Ch]
 In 1929: "Gold-washing begins at the Didessa -- and is not carried on downstream of Mashasha where the sand gives place to pebbles and boulders. The speed of the water and the submerged rocks and rocky islands make these reaches of the /Abay/ river unsuitable for boats."
 [Cheesman 1936]
 On the right bank of the river. The sound of a waterfall can be heard there.
 [Guida 1938]
- pict R E Cheesman, Lake Tana .., London 1936 p 362 stony banks of the Abay

- HES.. Meshida (Mescida) (area) 13/37 [+ Gu]
 South-east of Adi Arkay. The area contains the villages Ategeta, Cheroleba and Kidane Mihret. The whole surrounding was denuded of trees already in the 1930s, save for a grove of euphorbia near the stream Meshaa.
 [Guida 1938]
- HEU42 **Meshik** (Meshick, Meshek) (river, Br. camp in 1868) 13/39 [+ WO 18]
 The British scientist W.T. Blanford on his way to Mekdela was at Meshik in the beginning of April 1868.
 "Meshek is a lovely spot. A small grass plain, with a few scattered willow-trees, looking as if made for a camping-ground, occupies a rather wide portion of the valley. Above, there is cultivation -- below, dense forest."
 "The hills at the side are composed of sandstone and limestone, capped by trap. The sedimentary beds are greatly disturbed -- even contorted or vertical. -- sandstone and conglomerate prevail to a much greater extent than elsewhere. These rocks are dark in colour, and far less pure than the sandstones of Adigrat and Senafe -- The general dip is west or south-west. I found a few very ill-preserved fossils in one place."
 [W T Blanford, .. geology and zoology .., London 1870 p 71]
 "In the Meshek valley and in other valleys to the south -- it is very plainly seen that the trappean rocks belong to two distinct and unconformable groups. The lower of these is much inclined while the higher rests on its upturned and denuded edges. In this part of the country the two groups are easily distinguished by the absence of disturbances in the higher beds. -- Of these two groups the lower or inclined beds may -- be called the Ashangi group, from their development around the lake of that name, and the higher or horizontal beds the Magdala group. They are evidently of different geological age."
 [Blanford p 182]
- HES68c Meshida (Mescida) (area) 13/38 [+ Gu]
 HFF00 Meshihil 13°36'/39°25' 1929 m, north-west of Mekele 13/39 [Gz]
mesk (mäsk) (A) pasture, grazing ground, meadow
- HED87 Mesk 11°38'/38°14' 3450 m 11/38 [Gz]
 south-east of Debre Tabor
- HDM81 Meskalasos (Mescalasos) 09/39 [+ WO]
Meskan (mäsqan), traditionally a Gurage area, also a western Gurage dialect
- HDE00 Meskan (Mescan), see under Gogetti 08/38 [+ Gu]
 HC... Meskan & Mareko sub-district (-1997-) 08/38 [n]
 HCS99 Meskan wereda (Mäsk'an ..) 08/38 [Ad x]
 (centre in 1957 = Butajira, in 1964 = Koto)
- meskel* (mäsqäl) (A,T) cross
- HDM90 Meskel (Mascal) 2755 m 09/39 [+ WO]
 HDT26 Meskel (Mesk'el, Mesqel) 10°12'/39°02' 1909 m 10/39 [Gz q]
 east of Addis Derra
- HEE83 Meskel (Mesk'el, Mesqel) 11°40'/38°45' 2772 m 11/38 [Gz q]
 west of Bete Hor
- HFF43 Meskel (Mesk'el, Mesqel, Mascal) (mountain) 13/39 [Gz q]
 13°59'/39°40' 2846 m, east of Hawzen
- HDT28 Meskel Amba (Mesk'el A.) 10°08'/39°14' 2501 m 10/39 [Gz]
 HEL85 **Meskel Kristos** (Mascal Cristos, Maskala Cristos) 12/38 [+ Gu Ch]
 (village and church), peak 3670 m
 "On /20 April 1933/ we left Delgi, and turning the north-west corner /of lake Tana/, camped on the shore opposite the village and church of Maskala Cristos -- which is

	perched on a small hill a mile from the lake." [Cheesman 1936]		
HFE58	Meskel Tsediya (Meschel Tzedia) 14°04'/39°12' 1965 m	14/39	[+ Gu Gz]
	meskela: <i>maskala</i> (O) cross		
HDJ54	Meskela (Mesk'ela, Mesqela) 09°32'/37°00' 2256 m	09/37	[Gz q]
HDL82	Meskela (Mesk'ela, Mesqela) (area) 3196 m, see under Fiche	09/38	[AA q]
HEF50	Meskela (Mesk'ela, Meskella) 11°20'/39°25' 2657 m (visiting postman under Dessie), south-east of Mekdela	11/39	[Gz Po]
HDM21	Meskela Ager (Meschela Agher) see under Shola Gebeya	09/39	[+ WO]
HE...	Meskela sub-district (centre in 1964 = Manoshe)	11/39	[Ad]
HED02	Meskele Kristos (Mesk'ele K., M. Kiristos) 10°52'/37°44' 2722 m, south-west of Mota	10/37	[Gz]
HEJ34	Meskele Kristos (Mesk'ele K., M. Kiristos) (Maskala Cristos, Masgala C.) (with church) 12°22'/37°15' 1849 m The façade shows the Axumite style of copying a wood construction. Inside, the church is divided by rock-hewn stone pillars into a nave and two aisles. Low reliefs of crosses decorate the arches. The church is not entirely isolated from the surrounding rock. Nearby lies the mausoleum of the Wagshums, who remained leaders in Wag after the Solomonian Dynasty had regained the throne of Ethiopia. In this monument, which is also rock-hewn, are small coffins containing the remains of the kings. [O A Jäger, Antiquities ..., Stuttgart 1965 p 117]	12/37	[Gz Ch WO]
HEM30	Meskelenas (Mascalanos), see under Muja	12/39	[LM WO]
HEL85	Meskelo (Mesk'elo, Mesqelo, Mascalo) 12°29'/38°57' 2443 m	12/38	[Gz q WO]
??	Meskembit (Mäsqämbit), mountain in Shewada In 1795, Ras Gebre of Simen defeated Dejazmach Welde Gebri'el of Lasta near the Meskembit mountain.	../..	[x]
	mesketo: <i>meskot</i> (T), <i>maskoti</i> (O) window; <i>Mesketo</i> , an ethnic group within the Ometo, with their own variety of language		
HCB98	Mesketo (Mesekito, Meskito, Frehiwet) 06°15'/36°25' 802 m Mentioned in 1936 by Zervos. Centre in 1964 of Bonke wereda.	06/36	[Gz Ad x]
HCB..	Mesketo Laska (centre in 1964 of Dime wereda) <i>meskin</i> (T) 1. poor, miserable, wretched; 2. naive, innocent	06/36	[Ad]
JEB88	Meskini (Meschini) (area), see under Asaita	11/41	[+ WO]
HEL49?	Meskiye (Meskiyie) (centre in 1964 of Amewat sub-district)	12/39	[Ad]
HEL49	Meskiye Maryam (church) 12°10'/39°17' north-east of Lalibela	12/39	[Gz]
HCM05	Meslo (Masslo, Maslo, Isak Gilo, Masslo Goba) (Mesello, not: Sacchegillo), see also Mena Gz: 06°25'/39°51' 1260 m; MS: 06°15'/39°50' 1340/1430 m MS coordinates would give map code HCF95 more to the south. With sub-post office under Goba.	06/39 06/39	[Gz WO Gu] [Po Ad Gu]

Centre at least 1964-1980 of Delo awraja
and in 1964 of Delo sub-district.

1950s Karl Ramstrand in 1959 made reconnaissance of Meslo for the Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission, but nothing resulted then and they selected Awasa instead. Later on they had a small station at Meslo with a school and a clinic, but it was closed during the Mengistu regime.
[R Ramstrand, Guds lilla piga .., 2002 p 151]

1960s A road from Bitata to Meslo and Goro was built in 1966.

1990s With airfield but no scheduled regular flights (-1998-)?
Unpaved runway, length about 1200 m.

mesno (A,T) irrigation channel; *masino* (O) irrigation area

HDK98	Mesno 09°57'/39°14' 2181 m west of Tulu Milki, cf Masno	09/39	[Gz]
HDT08	Mesno 09°57'/39°14' (with church Maryam Debir) in Bulga/Kasim wereda	09/39	[Gz x]
HES41	Mesno 13°07'/37°41' 1866 m north-west of Dabat	13/37	[WO Gz]
JDJ25	Mesno 09°17'/42°03' 1819 m, west of Harar	09/42	[Gz]
JDJ41	Mesno 09°29'/41°46' 2055 m south-west of Dire Dawa	09/41	[Gz]
HDU61	Mesno Amba 10°30'/39°27' 2643 m south-west of Were Ilu	10/39	[Gz]
HDU70	Mesno Amba 10°35'/39°24' 2746 m west of Were Ilu	10/39	[Gz]
JDJ41	Mesno Wahel (mountain) 09°29'/41°44' 1819 m south-west of Dire Dawa	09/41	[Gz]
HDM10	Mesno Zenbaba 09°11'/39°22' 2008 m	09/39	[Gz]
HDM94	Mesobit 09°53'/39°44' 3001 m (w church Abun Abit) between Debre Sina and Sela Dingay	09/39	[Gz x]
HDT15	Mesobit 10°06'/38°57' 1881 m south-east of Addis Derra	10/38	[Gz]
HDT50	Mesobit 10°27'/38°27' 1597 m, east of Bichena	10/38	[Gz]
HE...	Mesraha (=Mitraha?) (island in lake Tana) Wälätta Seyon, married to Emperor Iyasu I, died in 1693 and was buried with much ceremony on the island of Mesraha in lake Tana. [Pankhurst 1997]	12/37	[Pa]
HCS..	Messa, area in Timbaro wereda	07/37	[x]
HES95	Messecher Gabriel 13°31'/38°03' 1154 m messega: <i>mosogo</i> (T) kind of tree ?/, <i>Meriandra bengalensis</i>	13/38	[Gz]
HER74	Messega Ava (area)	13/36	[WO]
HER74	Messega Girmay (Messega Ghirmai) (area)	13/36	[+ WO]
JDH05	Messela, see Mesela		
HFF92	<i>messet</i> (Gurage) singing fellow-girls of a bride Messeta (Messetu) 14°25'/39°37' 2377 m	14/39	[WO Gz]
??	Messiraba (historical), in Simen? In the time of Emperor Susneyos (1607-1632), Messiraba was one of the strongest ambas of the Falasha ruler Gideon. Finally it was captured by the forces of Susneyos. [3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies, 1969 p 105]	../..	[x]
HC...	Mesunger, near Awasa	07/38	[20]

Mesunger, see under Sheko & Mesunger wereda

meswait (A) sacrifice; *meswaiti* (T) 1. sacrifice; 2. victim;

miswat, mitswat (A) alms, charity

"-- *meswat* (alms) alone would suffice to demonstrate Jewish religious influence among the Abyssinians. /Such/ terms were imported in pre-Christian times, but survived after the introduction of Christianity with slight shifts in meaning and substance."

[Ullendorff (1960)1973 p 96]

HEU02	Meswait (Meswa'it, Meswa'et) 12°42'/39°32' 2695 m (centre in 1964 of Werebayo & Gebati sub-district) (visiting postman under Mekele) The primary school in 1968 had 78 boys and 29 girls in grades 1-5, with 4 teachers.	12/39	[Gz Ad]
	<i>meta</i> (A) guard of prisoners; <i>meta, mata</i> (O) 1. head, skull, cranium; 2. iron ring worn on the thumb; <i>metta</i> (mätt'a) (A) arrive, come <i>yemeta meret</i> (A) land allotted to prison guards <i>Meta</i> , a group of eastern Oromo		
HDE81	Meta, see Meta Jira		
HDK19	Meta (Metta) 09°09'/38°24' 2621 m, cf Mata, Mita north of Addis Alem	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDH28	Meta (district) Administrative district in the early 1930s, with centre at /Deru/ Deder. [Zervos 1936]	09/41	[x]
JDH39	Meta 09°21'/41°31' 2181 m, north-east of Deder	09/41	[Gz]
JDJ33	Meta 09°20'/41°52' 1944 m, south of Dire Dawa	09/41	[Gz]
??	Meta Amba Kile A place in the Ankober region, named after an Oromo chief Qile. [Acta aethiopica III p 243] <i>meta gafarsa</i> (O) skull of buffalo	../..	[n]
HBT24	Meta Gafersa, see Arero		
HDE81	Meta Jira (Meta) 08°55'/38°31' 2219 m (with school, and church Abo), west of Sebeta meta koma: <i>mata koma</i> (O) head and chest? <i>koma</i> (A) 1. sterile /land/; kind of large tree; <i>koma</i> (O) 1. chest, breast; 2. (qoomaa) instant killing; <i>matokoma</i> (O), <i>matakoma</i> (Alabdu O) tree, such as <i>Celtis kraussiana</i>	08/38	[Gz]
JDA98	Meta Koma (Matacoma)	08/40	[LM WO]
JDA67	Meta Mura 08°43'/40°28' 1730 m between Mechara and Gelemso	08/40	[Gz]
HD...	Meta Robi sub-district (-1997-)	09/38?	[n]
H...	Meta sub-district (Mieta ..) (centre in 1964 = Chilalo)	../..	[+ Ad]
HDL00	Metala 09°06'/38°25' 2455 m see under Addis Alem	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL00	Metaleya 09°05'/38°25' 2572 m (with church Abo), see under Addis Alem	09/38	[AA Gz]
HCL56	Metama (area) 2670 m	06/38	[WO]
HCS84	Metana (Met'ana, Tambore) 08°01'/37°49' 2133 m	08/37	[Gz]
HFE37	Metar Maryam (church) 13°52'/39°05' north of Abiy Adi	13/39	[Gz]
HDL75	Metaya (waterfalls) 09°41'/38°56'	09/38	[Gz]

- east of Debre Libanos
HEE69 Metcha Meda (recorded in 1868) 11/39 [18]
see under Mekdela
- metebiya: *mataba* (O) long necklace
HEH87c **Metebiya** (Matabia) 12/36 [MS n]
"Wienholt, delayed by lack of transport animals, left Khor Otrub on 31 August /1940/
with three men and eight donkeys, intending to join Sandford but taking a different route,
passing south of Matabia and heading for Kwara. Between Matabia and Kwara he was
attacked by armed Gumuz tribesmen from the Matabia post as he was loading at dawn.
His men left their rifles and ran and he was last seen running into the bush holding his
side. His body was never recovered."
[Shirreff 1995 p 45]
"On 1 December /1940, Fitawrari/ Werku attacked and reduced the post of Matabia,
dispersing the garrison. Unfortunately on returning to his camp he was ambushed and
shot, and died of his wounds /on 20 December/ -- the siege continued under his successor,
Lij Belaya -- Werku's death was successfully concealed from the Italians who continued
to believe that he was in command."
[Shirreff 1995 p 60]
- HEH87c Metebiya sub-district (-1997-) 12/36 [n]
HDL80 Metecha (Met'echa) 09°48'/39°29' 2271 m 09/39 [Gz]
south-east of Tulu Milki
HDT78 Metegere 10°38'/39°12' 2500 m, west of Were Ilu 10/39 [Gz]
HFF01 Metegol 13°37'/39°30' 1968 m 13/39 [Gz]
(with church Iyesus), north of Mekele
- HDF86 **Metehara** (Metahara, Methara, Matahara, Mathara) 08/39 [MS Gz Gu Po Ne]
(Metahari) MS: 08°53'/39°52' (lake at 08°52'/39°52') 947 m
Gz: 08°54'/39°55' 1007 m, 25 km east of the Garibaldi pass.
Railway station (with sub P.O. & church Mikael),
centre in 1964 of Simegne Meda sub-district.
- geol Lake Metehara is now a small saline lake occupying the centre of a huge Pleistocene lake
basin which extended for an unknown distance to the north-east. Most of the Rift floor in
this region is extraordinarily flat.
[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 202]
- 1900s Hugues Le Roux passed at lake Metahara in early February 1901.
"Impossible to imagine a more frightful landscape. The Ancients would have placed the
sources of Styx here. Odious smells of chlorine escape from one doesn't know where and
seize your throat. -- We marched in the footprints of antilopes /to avoid that the mules
would sink into the mire/. -- There was some grey-green vegetation at the upper levels.
Anemic cactuses tried to grow between the rocks -- I have never seen a place with so
much game as the land beyond the lake. Already by supper four antelopes had been felled.
/Among the game they obtained an oryx, and they continued from Metahara towards
Addis Abeba on their route from the coast./
[Hugues Le Roux, Paris, p 181-182]
- 1920s At end of 1926/beginning of 1927: "-- at the town of Metahari, we learned why there are
no villages in that favored valley; it is the dividing line - or deadline - between the
Abyssinians and Gallas on the one side and the dreaded Dankali savages on the other, a
sort of no-man's land. A few hours before we arrived at Metahari, Dankalis had raided the
town and carried off thirty Galla women and many camels. The little cluster of tukuls was
buzzing with excitement. All cattle, camels and goats for miles around had been driven in
for protection. The plain was dotted with closely guarded herds. But the raid was over.
Women and camels had been carried back to Dankaliland and the Galla villagers were
counting up their losses. One with whom we talked didn't seem so much put out at the

loss of the thirty women - but he was terribly upset about the camels."

[J E Baum, *Savage Abyssinia*, New York 1927 p 217-218]

Hermann Norden in the late 1930s/?/ was the guest of Herr Neitzel, who near Metahara administrated a cotton plantation established with German and British capital.

"Bowman and I were the only passengers who left the train at Metahara. -- A few huts near the rail beside the small masonry station building were the only signs of human life. There was no one to see -- from a cloud of dust in the distance some riders emerged. It was our landlord with a servant, who brought horses for Bowman and me. 'Our ox cart will soon be here,' Neitzel said. 'You can leave your baggage at the rails in the meantime. The inhabitants here do not steal anything which they do not know how to use.'"

"A riding tour of less than an hour brought us to the plantation, which so far was a gamble with rather little hope of success. -- In every one of the six years that the plantation had existed, it had been flooded. Therefore there had not been much of harvest so far.

Whatever the outcome of this commercial enterprise, it has given an opportunity for an unplanned sociological experiment. The land fenced in with barbed wire is neutral ground for the tribes which since many generations have been enemies. Here they meet as labour comrades in the cotton fields."

"The main building of the plantation is a clay house with three rooms. The administrator sleeps in the room at one end, his Austrian assistants in the room at the other ends, and the large room between them is office, dwelling and dining room. Opposite a stable with four horses and two mules is a hut for the cook and the houseboy. Albert -- half Turk, half Ethiopian, who was secretary and interpreter, lived in a separate house with his mother, who was in charge of the household. -- Another undecorated clay house was the dwelling of the engineer with his wife and their two sons."

Awash flowed through the plantation. Crocodiles were sunning on the banks. There were many kinds of animals such as zebras, kudus, ostriches, warthogs and hyenas. The oryx antelopes were shy and difficult to hunt.

Through the administrator messages were sent to different groups of people so that they would visit and Norden could interview them. Even the interpreter could not persuade the locals to let him take photos.

Even Neitzel could not prevent the men from carrying their knives when they came to dance. /Norden describes the dances of the Arussi and Afar in detail./ Norden also had a conversation with Buro-Rowio, chieftain of the Karayu. A tall but lean and old eunuch was with the chieftain and seemed to enjoy considerable prestige. A priest Sidama was also present. A request from Buro-Rowio that his people would be permitted to settle near the plantation was firmly refused by Neitzel.

Conversation seemed to reveal that there was no local handicraft. A man could have a wife for each one hundred heads of "domestic animals" including even dugs. Their cattle had been decimated by an epidemic, so only about two thousand remained and the people were poor.

An Afar chieftain by name Ali Fernami was also interviewed by Norden, concerning how a man would gain the right to take a bride etc. A lower chieftain Roba-Buway said he had once accompanied a European who collected animals for zoological gardens. Norden's assistant Mengistu asked very eagerly to be allowed to accompany him down to the coaste. Norden sent a telegram to Addis Abeba, but as no reply arrived, Norden departed from Metahara without the young man.

[H Norden, *Durch Abessinien ...*, Berlin p 62, 65-80]

1930s

Guida dell'A.O.I. gives the name of the lakes as Metahara and not Besaka and says that there are crocodiles but also wells with good water.

Ufficio Superiore Topocartografico in 1937 measured out a 10 km long geodetical base at Metehara.

[Guida 1938]

Post office of the Italians was opened on 24 April 1937, with cancellations that read METAHARA*AMARA, but it became METAHARA*HARAR on 1 August 1938.

A different source says that it was opened on 15 December 1938.

- [Philatelic sources]
- 1940s "We cross the railway a little west of the Metahara lake, apparently blocked by a very recent lava-flow coming from a subsidiary cone at the foot of Fantallé. The railway cuts through this flow, passing close to where the spiky lavas disappear under the waters of the lake; flamingoes can sometimes be seen standing in the distance. The road, however, avoids this flow by climbing up the slope and passing above the small crater from which it was erupted."
- [D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 131]
- 1950s In 1957 a rice plantation was started at Metehara, and it was the first cultivation of rice in Ethiopia since the Portuguese did some in the 1500s. Having been unknown to Ethiopians, no internal demand for this product existed.
- 1960s H.V.A.-Ethiopia, who already since 15 years operated the Wenji and Shoa sugar estates, in July 1965 launched a new sugar project.
H.V.A.-Metehara started with a share capital of Eth\$ 3.7 million but this was increased to Eth\$ 32 million in July 1967. Together with a loan from an affiliate of the World Bank the Metehara sugar estate was budgeted for an investment of Eth\$ 56 million.
The plantation is on both sides of Awash river, with 21,000 acres (8,500 hectares) of land available.
[Eth. Herald 1967-09-10 citing Monthly Bulletin of the A.A. Chamber of Commerce]
Population of the settlement 704 as counted in 1967.
Around 1968 the irrigated area was about 3,000 hectares.
The primary school in 1968 had 161 boys and 59 girls in grades 1-2, with two teachers, or according to another note the primary school had 71 boys and 26 girls in grades 1-4, with two teachers.
Production at the sugar estate was expected to start in 1969, and with further extensions it would be the largest single project in Ethiopia so far. Part of the investment money would be lent by the U.S. International Finance Corporation. The project was expected to employ 4,000 people.
[Ethiopia - the official handbook, 1969 p 162]
On 6 November 1969 the Emperor inaugurated the Metehara sugar factory, Ethiopia's third. He flew there by helicopter from Asela.
[News]
- 1970s In 1970 the Kereyu arranged an armed demonstration in Metehara which caused fences and buildings at the HVA-Ethiopia plantation to be destroyed.
[Bondestam 1974 p 135]
It was announced on 3 February 1975 by the Derg government that the sugar plantations, with Dutch investments, would be fully nationalised.
[News]
With a petrol filling station of Shell (-1978-).
- 1980s Population about 6,100 in 1984.
- 1990s Populations about 11,900 in 1994, almost a doubling in ten years.
This small town, known throughout Ethiopia for the large sugar plantation on its outskirts, lies about 1 km past lake Besaka. There are several dollar-a-night hotels, and the one where all the buses stop for lunch has adequate rooms.
[Bradt 1995(1998)]
- 2000s Population about 14,700 in 2001.
Metehara : Besaka (Basaka, Beseka, Metahara)
"The main reason for stopping in Metahara would be to walk in the vicinity of Lake Beseka. There is good access to the lake from the main Nazret road, which crosses over it via a causeway that is divided in two sections by what amounts to an island of black chunky lava rocks. The bird life on this shallow lake is profuse /there are hundreds of flamingoes/ and the patches of acacia scrub on the far bank should also repay exploration. The scenery, too, is rather special, with the ragged edges of Fantelle Volcano looming a few kilometres to the north - I'm told that the Metahara night sky is often lit with fireworks from the crater's vents."

"A few words of warning. Crocodiles are present in the lake, and although it's unlikely that any crocodile large enough to attack a person would survive so close to town, you should be cautious. I've been told that hippos are also present, but I'm inclined to think this is nonsense. -- the lake shore is hot and exposed -- Lake Beseka may not lie within the national park but Fantelle does - it would be illegal to try to walk there."

[Bradt 1995(1998) p 174]

(Camerapix guide 1995 has a map on p 128.)

"The train crosses over deep faults in the earth's crust before dropping down to the black waters of Lake Beseka which it crosses with the rails almost submerged. Not far away, the Fontale volcano rises majestically from the arid plain punctuated with outcrops of lava rising like slag heaps. After a brief stop at Metahara, the train crosses the savanna of the Awash National Park."

[Aubert 1999 p 146-147]

A group of students had a boating accident on Besaka lake in April or May 2003. When they made a tour on the lake their boat capsized and Zelalem Teshome, a second-year geography student, was drowned.

[AddisTribune 2003/05/16 citing newspaper Tomar]

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|-------------|
| HDM16 | Metehbila 09°10'/39°55' 869 m | 09/39 | [Gz] |
| HEB18 | Metehhe (area) | 11/36 | [WO] |
| HEF30 | Metejo (Met'ejo) 11°10'/39°25' 3103 m
west of Dessie | 11/39 | [Gz] |
| | meteka: <i>mengist metekiya</i> (mängist mätäkiya) (A) was state land used for modifications "to plant or uproot" soldiers | | |
| JDG98 | Meteka 09°52'/40°31' 628 m | 09/40 | [Gz] |
| HFE14 | Meteka sub-district (Meteca ..) cf Mataka
(centre in 1964 = Shimarwie) | 13/38 | [Ad WO] |
| HEB26 | Metekel (Metekele, Meteke), see Chagne | | |
| HEB13 | Metekel awraja (Metkel .., Mätäkäl ..) 11°00'/36°00'
(Matakäl .., Metekkil ..)
(centre at least 1959-1964 = Kadamawi H.S.Ber)
(centre at least 1969-1980 = Chagne = former Kadamawi H.S.Ber) | 11/36 | [Gz Ad n x] |
| 1600s | Emperor Susneyos's third expedition, in 1613, was when he marched by way of Mätäkäl to attack the Agäw, Gonga and Jigat peoples.
Around 1620 the Mächa Oromo advanced into western Gojjam and occupied a wide stretch of territory including Mätäkäl.
In 1680, Emperor Yohannes I despatched the governor of Mätäkäl and many soldiers against the 'Shanqellas'.
Iyasu I carried out his first expedition in 1688, when advancing westwards by way of Mätäkäl he attacked the 'Shanqella town' of Gisa. His last expedition in this direction took place in 1703, when he proceeded, once more by way of Mätäkäl, to Gesi near Dura river.
[Pankhurst 1997] | | |
| 1970s | In early May 1975, there were four refugee camps in Gojjam along the main road between Debre Markos and Finote Selam housing several thousand Moslem tenants. Most of them had been expelled from Metekel awraja after their homes were burnt and their cattle confiscated.
[M & D Ottaway 1978 p 200 note 22] | | |
| 1980s | During the resettlement programme until 1985 villages of approximately 500 families were erected in clusters in the Metekel area.
The newly settled population made up 38 per cent of the total population of the awraja.
[Jansson, Harris & Penrose 1987 p 175]
/In the time of the Derg government:/ Italy decided to make a major investment in the largest of all the resettlement projects at Pawe in the Gojjam Metekel, to where 125,000 people were transported. Many of them died, and the site became a target of harassment | | |

- by EPRP remnants operating in the area.
[P B Henze, *Layers of time*, London 2000 p 309]
- texts Wolde-Selassie, *Resettlement and ethnicity: Dimensions of identity among highland settlers in Metekel*, *in 15th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 2003*;
Yntiso Gebre, *From tractors back to oxen: Lessons from Metekel Resettlement*, *in 15th Int. Conf. ditto*.
- HDM46 Meteklea (Meteclea) (area) 09/39 [+ WO]
HDE84 Meteli 08/38 [x]
- HEP35 **Metemma** (Metema, Matemma, Matamma, Matama) 12/36 [WO Gz Gu Te]
(Matammeh, Metemeh, Mettemma) 12°58'/36°12' 685m 12/36 [18 x]
(with sub post office under Gondar), given as Gallabat in some lists for Ethiopia, but the main Gallabat is in Sudan, near Metemma
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
5SE Genga (Ghenga, Cengia) (village) 703 m
9SE Werk Amba (Uorch A.) (area)
?? Assaf (small village) 711 m
4S Marmage (Gebel Marmaghe) (area)
3NE Maryam Wiha (Mariam Waha)
- 1700s In the reign of Iyasu II (1730-1755) the Turks placed their Governors as far south as Metemma/Gallabat.
- 1830s Before 1840: "Many pilgrims -- have settled down on the frontiers, between Abyssinia and the neighbouring provinces of Sennár. They first settled at Metemma and Gallabat, where they increased gradually by the droppers off from caravans, till they became a considerable tribe. The Dar Saleyans at first were the most numerous of any in this heterogeneous colony -- this did not please the people from Darfour, who consider the Saleyans as their natural enemies -- Increasing in number, the Darfouris of Metemma revolted, and beat the Saleyans, who, with their chief Othman -- fled to a place called Ai Ai -- where they now /in 1845/ remain."
"The victors remained at Metemma, and their chief -- Merri ruled there till he was killed by the Abyssinian /Dejazmach Kumfu/."
[M Parkyns, *Life in Abyssinia*, vol II, London 1853 p 356-357]
- 1848 Egyptian troops appeared at Metemma and exacted tribute for the first time in 1838.
Dejazmach Kassa (the future Tewodros II) in early 1848 responded to Egyptian cross-border raiding by marching to Metemma, defeating its small garrison, and looting its rich market. The victory was so easy that he directed his sixteen thousand men towards Sennar. In March 1848, when Kassa launched a frontal attack against a fortified camp, he was defeated by the well-placed artillery and the disciplined Egyptian musketry.
[Marcus 1994 p 61]
- 1860s Sheik Joma in the 1860s had to pay tribute both to Egypt and to Ethiopia. Metemma at that time de facto was a kind of free, neutral trading centre.
The kinds of products brought into Ethiopia through Metemma in the 1800s (and about the same a century earlier) were cotton, copper and lead, sword blades, guns, gunpowder, sulphur, beads, bottles and glasses and cups, nails, mirrors, needles, dates, incense etc., also Maria Theresa coins after their use had started.
Trade was mainly on Mondays and Tuesdays during the dry season.
(In the late 1800s the trade route from Metemma to Addis Abeba took 32 days.)
[T Heuglin 1868 p 227-228]
The explorer Baker was at Metemma in 1862 and met some European missionaries. Emperor Tewodros for a time was fairly liberal in allowing foreigners to enter and to leave his country, although he did not give any consular privileges (to the Frenchman Guillaume Lejean). As an example, the missionary C. Haussmann received a letter at Metemma in mid-1863 permitting him to enter and leave Ethiopia at will, without being bothered by any customs officers.
[S Rubenson, *The survival ..*, London etc 1976 p 227]

- Metemma can be regarded as belonging to Egypt from 1863.
- 1865 Hormuzd Rassam was sent to Emperor Tewodros because of the British captives. Rassam reached Metemma on 21 November 1865, together with Dr H. Blanc and Lieutenant W.F. Prideaux. Tewodros sent an escort and the mission proceeded on 28 December, but it took them a month to reach the emperor's camp in Damot.
[Rubenson 1976 p 243]
- G. Schweinfurth published in 1873 that he had been told by an Ethiopian customs officer at Metemma that the annual export of slaves was 18,000. (De Sarzec stated 15,000-20,000 but Rassam 3,000 and Lejean 2,000.)
- 1870 Tekle Giyorgis, also known as Wagshum Gobeze, was among those who tried to succeed Yohannes IV. He took the opportunity to approach the French government through a missionary and offered to open up the country to French merchants and a consul. However, on a trip to visit his converts in the Tana region in 1870, Reverend Flad turned back from Metemma reporting that Ethiopia was closed to Europeans arriving from the west. Martin Flad arrived in 1870 with a large shipment of Scriptures with the intention to resume the Falasha mission, but this proved impossible.
[Rubenson 1976 p 274 + Arén 1978]
- 1873 In May 1873 the Egyptians occupied Metemma (Matamma, Al-Qallabat) and, encouraged by the Swiss adventurer Werner Munzinger, planned a further invasion deep into Ethiopia.
[Ehrlich 1996 p 10]
- 1883 In 1882-1883 the explorers Luigi Pennazzi and Guglielmo Godio made a journey from the Red Sea as far as Metemma and back to the coast again along a different route. The traveller Paolo Magretti arrived to Metemma on 18 April 1883, and from there he continued towards Keren and Massawa.
- 1884 In the Hewett Treaty of June 1884 Metemma, though much desired by Emperor Yohannes, was not even mentioned. The British thought it already was in Mahdist hands.
[Ehrlich p 48]
- 1887 "In 1887 the Abyssinians became more active and Negus Tekle Haymanot inflicted a defeat on the dervish *ansar* under Wad Arbab at Metemma. The Khalifa regarded this town as an indispensable frontier fort and in June of the same year an immense army of dervishes -- invaded Abyssinia."
[Trimingham, Islam in Ethiopia, 1952 p 124]
- 1888 When Tekle Haymanot was defeated by the Mahdists in 1888 on the plains at Sar Wiha, along the north-east shore of lake Tana, an estimated 8,000 women and children were enslaved and sent to Metemma, among them the king's daughter, Mentewab.
[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 101]
- 1889 At the end of February 1889, Emperor Yohannes reached Metemma with an army estimated at about 100,000 and sent a message warning the Muslim commander that he had 'come to avenge Christian blood'.
The battle opened on 9 March with salvos of artillery and rifle fire. Dejazmach Mengesha, on the right, outflanked the Mahdists, killed many, and took much booty. Ras Hailu Maryam, who commanded the left, had difficulty in advancing, but Yohannes, in the centre, made great headway with a combined artillery and infantry attack, and breached the enemy line.
Leading his troops forward rapidly, the emperor was shot, first in the right hand, and then, as he again advanced, by a bullet which passed through his left hand and lodged in his chest. When it became known that the Emperor had been mortally injured, the Ethiopian effort could not be sustained, and the Mahdists won by default.
As Yohannes lay dying he declared Dejazmach Mengesha to be his successor and commended Mengesha to the care of his followers, especially to Ras Alula. Mengesha was crowned and dressed in imperial robes so that, with his face partially covered, he would resemble Yohannes, who died on 10 (or 11) March. A retreat was ordered in the emperor's name, and a rumour of his recovery circulated.
When the withdrawal began the following day, several Sudanese gunners, not deceived by

the report, defected to the Mahdists, with the news that Yohannes was dead. Once the Mahdists knew this, they followed the Ethiopian army and attacked it, especially on 12 (or 13) March on the right bank of the Atbara river.

[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 111-112]

According to a description by Ichege Tewoflos, the armies confronted each other on Saturday, 9 March 1889, and the Ethiopian right wing under Ras Mengesha managed to penetrate the Mahdist strong point under Az-Zaki Tamal. On the left wing, the death of Ras Hayle Maryam led to confusion and disaster. Emperor Yohannes, hitherto inspecting the battle from the rear, moved forward. "A bullet hit his right hand. But he wrapped it in his shamma as if it were nothing. -- Another bullet pierced his left hand, struck his chest and lodged there. He was carried to his tent." (Conti Rossini)

The demoralized Ethiopians broke and ran, suffering many losses. Yohannes passed the night in great pain and died on Sunday, 10 March. His body was captured by the Mahdists and old Ras Araya was killed. Rases Mengesha and Alula began a hasty retreat to Tigray. Several years later Ras Alula told A.B. Wylde that it was not until the next day /Sunday/ when quarrels arose as to the succession to the throne, that the Ethiopian army retreated. [Ehrlich 1996 p 135, 139 note 83]

1930s Control of Metemma customs was an important factor behind the clash in 1930 between Ras/Negus Tafari and Ras Gugsa Wale of Begemdir. [Bahru Zewde 1991 p 99]

A post office was opened within the period 1923-1932.

Postal cancellation stamping is known from 1930, with spelling METEMA.

1936 "On the 10th /of April 1936/ a column consisting of 1 Eritrean battalion, 1 camel squadron, and 1 platoon of light tanks moved from Gadabi and occupied, on the 12th, Gallabat, an important intersection of caravan routes." [Badoglio (Eng.ed.) 1937 p 155]

Opening of a post office of the Italians was organized for August 1936, but real operation started on 1 December 1939.

Its cancellations read METEMMA*AMARA

(there was also a cancellor in that office with the name GALLABAT).

[Philatelic source]

The Italians built a mosque at Metemma.

1938 Important market on the right bank of the border river between Ethiopia and the Sudan. The climate is hot and there is malaria from June to December. About 3,000 inhabitants. *Residenza*, post, telephone, customs, infirmary, *spacci*. [Guida 1938]

1940 "Down at Gallabat on the Sudan-Ethiopian frontier the local garrison, No.3 Company of the Eastern Arab Corps of the Sudan Defence Force, set up operational headquarters. It was April 1940. They started strengthening the hill-top fort and planning trenches. All this they did, however, without much conviction, gazing over at their friends in the rather larger Italian post at Metemma on the other side of the frontier, marked by the dried river-bed of a khor."

"*Bimbashi* W.P. Thesiger -- came to No.3, accompanied by his personal servant who was a reprieved murderer and quite a charming chap if a shade wilful. Thesiger had accounted for over 70 lion during his Sudan career, was a boxing Blue, and altogether a useful man to have about the place."

"The first arms had, finally, come for the /Ethiopian/ rebels: a batch of 300 single shot Martini rifles followed by 400 more. On 2 June, 'the Gallabat-Metemma Axis' was formally annulled by the closing of the frontier. Two days later one-eyed Fitaurari Worku arrived from Kwara with 200 men, impatient for rifles. The following day Colonel Castagnola demanded a meeting with his British 'friends'."

"They met, formally, at the Sudan Customs shed -- the round little Colonel Castagnola, with the Prince de Bourbon-Siciles as his interpreter, and, for the British -- this extremely tall, rather formidable newcomer, *Bimbashi* Thesiger. Behind them on the fort of Gallabat the Union Jack and the green flag of Egypt floated side by side."

"The Colonel complained about rebel activities and British support for them. War, he remarked, had not yet been declared. The *Bimbashi* rejected the complaint. Ending the interview on a more cordial but at the same time more sinister note, he regretted that he was unable to invite the Colonel and the Prince back for lunch owing to 'the manoeuvres' planned for that afternoon."

"On the rebels themselves Thesiger had had to exercise a very different style of diplomacy: for with the rifles had come very strict instructions not to issue them till war was declared. So by 9 June Fitaurari Worku and his men, disgusted, had decided to go back to their hills again. Fortunately, wheedled by Thesiger they waited a day. Even then further contradictory cables arrived saying that no arms or ammunition were to be issued until further instructions. These were ignored -- by the men on the spot; and the Fitaurari acquired both renewed faith in the British and the long-coveted weapons."

"Thesiger's exuberance on that evening of 10 June was, however, short-lived. Two hours later came further messages from HQ at Gedaref: according to information received an attack on Gallabat fort by the Italians was due to be put in an hour before dawn the following morning. -- But dawn came unheralded by gunfire -- That was how the war began on the frontier."

[Mockler 1984 p 207, 217-218]

The British had on 28 June decided on a plan to attack Metemma. "It had, in fact, not gone too well. The plan had been simple enough: a night march by *Bimbashi* Thesiger and his men to a hill on the far side of Metemma, there a rendezvous with the rebels, and the setting up of an ambush - a trap into which the Italians would be provoked to fall by sporadic sniper-shots coming from the hill."

"Thesiger took up position successfully enough /on 30 June/, and fired off his sniper-shots. But in the confusion of the night things began to go wrong. The men of Birre Zagaye and Ayane Chekol set up their ambush on the wrong side of the hill. As for Wubneh Amoraw, 'the Eagle', he had refused to take part at all. At dawn Thesiger and his platoon, supported by only about eighty Ethiopians found themselves being attacked by the whole 27th Colonial Battalion of the Beni Amer, the main force of Colonel Castagnola's garrison. -- Though casualties were few - five wounded, four missing - this attempt had proved a fiasco. Very clearly much more thought and much more planning were needed before any further combined operations with the rebels were tried out." (Cf Metemma : Mariamuwa below.)

[Mockler p 226-227]

In July 1940 Captain Giovanni Braca, commanding the *Ist Gruppo Bande di Confine*, was stationed at Metemma with orders to intercept arms convoys to the Ethiopian rebels.

[Shirreff 1995 p 38]

In the first weeks of July five British Wellesleys bombed Metemma. One of them crashed and pilot Bush and aircraftsman Davidson died, the first two British servicemen to be killed in this war, the Liberation War of Ethiopia.

The Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, arrived on 28 October to Khartoum. Eden wanted an immediate military operation to recapture Gallabat. Colonel Castagnola had not made any move forward since July.

"Colonel Castagnola whatever his other failings had certainly not been idle as regards defence. He had surrounded the captured fort at Gallabat with a very stout wall and a barbed wire entanglement, six hundred yards long and four hundred yards wide -- Metemma on the Italian side of the frontier was even more formidably defended. Two separate deep wire entanglements encircled the whole area, inside which the buildings were fortified. The road running across the *Khor* linking Metemma to Gallabat was also heavily wired on both sides."

[Mockler p 272-273]

On 6 November 1940 the British in the Sudan attacked Gallabat, which the Italians had occupied on 4 July, and the intention was to go on and take the Italian fort at Metemma, 500 metres away.

Captain Braca's forces of about 1,600 mixed Ethiopian and Eritrean infantry were in

number about half of the attacking British, but the Italian side won this early and important fight.

[Shirreff p 52-53]

Brigadier Slim, commanding the 10th Indian Infantry Brigade, "planned to seize Gallabat by a surprise attack at dawn -- This was to be a very different thing from *Bimbashi* Thesiger and a few rebels loosing-off shots from the hills. It was intended to be a highly-organized military operation complete with air support, the first the British had ever attempted against the Italians. -- The attack had been planned for the morning of 8 November; but news came that reinforcements for the Italian garrison were on their way from Gondar. It was put forward to the morning of the 6th."

"Sure enough there was a hum from the west and as the bombers and fighters went in, the guns opened fire for the first time on the Sudanese front. As the planes flew away signalling that a direct hit had been scored on the Metemma wireless station the tanks lumbered towards Gallabat hill. -- Slim and his staff drove forward towards the captured /Gallabat/ fort, to be halted by a small but well-laid mine field. -- But they finally roared up through gaps in the wire and the wall obviously torn by a tank, only to come face to face with an Italian officer resplendent in red and gold. -- 'I surrender -- I am Capitano in the colonial battalion.' -- Slim asked him where his commanding officer was. 'In Metemma by now,' the Capitano answered bitterly."

"-- the Italian plan had been to evacuate Gallabat if it was attacked in strength, but then to counter-attack swiftly with the reinforcements concentrated in Metemma - the 25th and the 77th and a company of the Savoy machine-gunners - before the British had had time to reorganize. They had in fact very rapidly put in this counter-attack -- But it had failed -- "

[Mockler p 272-275]

There were serious problems with the British tanks intended to be used against Metemma. "Slim -- decided, reluctantly, to postpone the second phase of his attack till late afternoon. -- in lieu of a sudden tank attack, a prolonged artillery barrage would have to be laid on to break the two belts of wire around Metemma. -- At about three o'clock, as he was talking on the field telephone, he heard the drone of aeroplanes, coming this time from the east. It was a large force -- about ten bombers which dropped stick after stick of bombs on Gallabat, escorted by nearly twenty fighters --"

"This was absolutely contrary to Air Commodore Slatter's plan, which had been to attack - if at all - only in strength. Nevertheless more planes in dribbles came flying out from the airstrip at Gedaref only to be picked off by the Italian fighters one by one as they appeared. -- They almost eliminated the few planes still in the Sudan. They also decided the battle."

The troops on the British side panicked and evacuated Gallabat fort, not because of any ground attack but because of the bombs. "The Essex had panicked. There had been no desperate stands and no great slaughter for the simple reason that the Italians had not only not recaptured the fort, they had not made a move towards it out of Metemma. -- The incident that had touched the panic off had been a direct hit on an ammunition dump near the reserve company. -- It took until dark to restore order. Obviously the assault on Metemma was off -- But Gallabat was bombed that evening and again at dawn the following morning -- the Essex -- panicked again when the Italians fired smoke shells from Metemma /they thought it was gas/. -- Slim admitted defeat. He ordered his brigade to pull out and abandoned the ill-fated Gallabat Fort to the enemy. Italian reinforcements, Polverini's IV Brigade, reached Metemma forty-eight hours later to face in their turn a terrible pounding by British bombers on 20 November that, in Castagnola's words, reduced Gallabat and Metemma to 'a pile of rubble'. -- Slim kept on harassing the Italians till the end of the month, successfully enough. But there could be no disguising the fact that the battle had been lost."

[Mockler 1984 p 276-279]

"The defending Italians were now on the Ethiopian side of the border and not on the Sudan side. A more important result, although indirect, was that the Patriot guerillas

operating in the Gojam area had been given further encouragement to participate in battles yet to come. The victory which lay in the weeks ahead certainly would not have been possible without the support of the Patriot guerrillas from behind the Italian offensive lines."

[R N Thompson, *Liberation ...*, Canada 1987 p 67-68]

1941 To conform with the retreat from Kassala in the north /captured by the British on 19 January 1941/ in the face of Platt's advance, the Italian forces at Metemma withdrew back to Chilga.

[Shirreff 1995 p 75]

1960s In 1962 the Highway Authority described the road from Gondar to Metemma as "passable but difficult, 4-wheel drive needed".

The Atse Yohannes primary school in 1968 had 64 boys and 20 girls in grades 1-5, with 3 teachers.

1970s EDU, entering Begemder from the Sudan border, captured Metemma in early 1977. EDU had by then grown into a force of some 6,000 men, armed largely with Soviet equipment given earlier to Sudan.

[M & D Ottaway 1978 p 171]

In a broadcast on 12 April 1977 Lt.-Col. Mengistu admitted that the Derg government had lost Metemma to the EDU.

[Keesing's 28422]

1980s Early in 1980, some Falasha planned to make the exodus from Ethiopia to Israel by first taking a bus from Gondar to Metemma. "But the plan ended in disaster. In Metemma, the seventy-three people in the group were caught by soldiers. /The leaders/ Avraham, Yehoshua, and the other heads of household were flown by helicopter to the prison in Gondar. Most of the remaining people were marched from Metemma to Gondar, a two-week ordeal during which several died."

[L Rapoport, *Redemption song*, USA 1986 p 80]

Metemma was one of the sites chosen for the resettlement program. "The entire governmental machinery, except the military, ceased to function; all that mattered was resettlement."

By the beginning of 1986, 6,387 people had been moved from Gondar region to Metemma.

[Dawit Wolde Giorgis, *Red tears*, 1989 p 295, 303]

1990s The EPRDF radio said that forces of the EDU and government had been defeated near Shiridin and Metemma on 7 October 1990. The EPRDF claimed to have killed 28 of its enemy forces, wounded 21, and captured 16. A local EDU official, Takele Ayihun, was said to have been killed and Gete Telele, chief of the government militia, to have been wounded.

[Indian Ocean Newsletter, 3 November 1990]

With airfield (-1998-) but no scheduled regular flights?

Unpaved runway, length about 1200 m.

2000s A Metemma-Gedariff road of good standard was completed in mid-March 2002 so that Ethiopia could transport import/export goods using Port Sudan, where an area had been reserved for Ethiopian goods and containers.

[News]

texts H. Blanc, *From Metemma to Damot ...*, in *Royal Geographical Society Journal*, vol. 39, 1869;

J. Martin Flad, *Reise von Massaua zu Metemmah* (January 1874), in *Ausland* 48(1875) p 99-100;

Abbeba Tesemma, *An adventurous trip to Metema*, in *Gondar Health Series*, no 10 1963 p 7-9;

Sahle Woldegaber, *The background and the consequences of the battle of Metemma*, (HSI Univ., Faculty of Education) 1968, about 40 pages, mimeogr.;

Abdussamad H. Ahmed, *Ethio-Sudanese Matamma-Galabat from market place to battlefield* (circa 1830-1889),

in 15th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 2003.

Metemma : Mariamuwa

At a place called Mariamuwa there was on 30 June 1940 a battle between Ethiopian Patriots /and a small British force/ and an Italian unit called *Ventisette* (=27th Colonial Battalion/. Dejazmach Tekele Wolde Hawariat was one of the participants.

[Bondestam 1975 p 71 based on Tesfay Abebe 1971]

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|------|
| HFC33 | Metemma | 13/36 | [WO] |
| ?? | Metemma sub-district (-1964-1997-)
(centre in 1964 = Awateho) | ../36 | [n] |
| ?? | Metemma wereda (ctr in 1964 = Yohannes Ketema)
Metemma was one of the about fifteen most important cotton production areas in Ethiopia (not counting Eritrea) in the 1950s.
In the lowlands near Metemma, the woods assume an open, parklike aspect, with short grass growing beneath the trees. In this dry forest there are few shrubs or young trees, and full-grown trees usually are only a foot or so in diameter. Here and there among the trees are termite mounds which at their maximum seldom rise higher than a man's head.
The Gumis are a Negro tribe who live in the thinly settled Sudan border country from Metemma southward. There is the danger of malaria in the lowland. | ../36 | [Ad] |
| 1960s | "Metemma is considered a punishment post for the police, civil officials, and schoolteachers who are assigned there by the government. Many of the Amhara sent to Metemma leave their families safely behind in the highland and besiege their superiors with petitions requesting permission to return to the cool, pleasant, relatively healthy plateau."
Both long ago and recently the Metemma area has been stated to have some special illness which kills horses and even donkeys.
Metemma in the 1800s was at an important caravan route and a market where Sudanese cotton and Ethiopian coffee were exchanged. More recently there has been a decline when Sudan could export cotton by railway in other directions and Ethiopia could export coffee by motor and rail routes eastwards. Even if Metemma has lost its position as a trade centre, the border country continues to be an important source of cotton for the western highland of Ethiopia.
[F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia .., Madison/USA 1960] | | |
| 1970s | Around 1975: Metemma was an area of surplus production and served as a centre for hired labour from a vast hinterland, including Tigray. The Land Proclamation of 1975 brought about the economic collapse of big farmers from aristocratic families. As a result, they and their largely poor workers joined Teranafit/EDU en masse.
(Young 1997) | | |
| 1980s | During the resettlement programme until 1985 villages of approximately 500 families were erected in clusters in the Metemma area.
[Jansson, Harris & Penrose 1987 p 175] | | |
| HFC33 | Metemmeh (Metemmeli) 13°52'/36°53' 881 m
west of Kafta | 13/36 | [Gz] |
| HDN.. | Metem, on the Abay river
"At Metem, we /the National Geographic expedition in 2000/ tied up the boats to rocks along a steep, grassy bank and followed Ashegur through a sorghum field to a village that was arranged much like the first one we'd visited: about fifteen round huts set in a circle around a central courtyard, with a shady fig tree in the middle. Runners from Ashegur's village had already alerted the people here about our imminent arrival, and they'd placed long wooden benches and stools beneath the tree."
"We loved studying the women, as much as they loved looking at us. Several of them had round, decorative scars on their cheeks, and wore jewelry cleverly fashioned from bits of Western flotsam - the blue caps of ball point pens, gun-shell casings, burned out flashlight bulbs, metal watch bands, zippers and safety pins. They'd strung these treasures together | 10/35 | [20] |

with colored glass beads on leather cords to wear as necklaces. Their arms shone with brass, copper and aluminium bracelets, and the lobes of their ears were bright with more beads, metals and bone."

"All the musical instruments - the horns - at Meten were stashed on the roof of one of the huts. They were bundled together in a row on top of the thatch, and held in place by a long bar. A couple of the men and boys began taking them down, and readying them for the coming concert by spraying water from their mouths over them."

"The men with the drum from Kwale then appeared. The drum was big -- and they carried it between them on a long pole -- Once again, the music started up suddenly. Two men this time raised their arms and horns overhead. They stood back-to-back, each facing a semi-circle of men and boys with varying styles of long and short horns. -- They jumped in the air, swooped low toward the ground, and rocked from side to side -- Their cheeks bulged, their eyes popped, and the music never stopped."

A song was taped by the visitors and translated to them. "-- something like this: 'Ovanda is a strong man and he comes from the forest. Ovanda is a hero. He crossed the river to poke a girl, and the people saw him. Ovanda is a hero. He has some love medicine, and he pokes /sleeps with/ all the girls. Ovanda is a hero. That is Ovanda's job, poking the girls. Ovanda is a hero.'"

[V Morell, Blue Nile, Washington 2001 p 279-282]

HEF24	Metene (Met'ene) 11°04'/39°42' 2013 m near Kombolcha	11/39	[Gz]
HBR..	Metera Village elder was old Golombe Wake in 1974 when at least three people died in his village from famine. [G Filseth, Jorden brenner, Oslo 1974 p 148]	05/37	[x]
HDT57	Meterariya (Met'erariya) 10°24'/39°04' 1718 m	10/39	[Gz]
HE...	Metere, in Dessie awraja The primary school in 1968 had 117 boys and 23 girls in grades 1-5, with 4 teachers.	11/39	[Ad]
	metero: <i>mettero</i> (mättäro) (A) lowland plant used against tapeworm		
HEF37	Metero (Met'ero, Mietiero) 11°12'/39°59' 1748 m east of Kombolcha at the road to Assab (centre in 1964 of Wehelo sub-district) (same Metero?: centre in 1964 of Bet Lij sub-district)	11/39	[Gz Ad]
JCN89	Meterro, G. (area) 2027 m	08/40	[WO]
GDE07	Methoc (Metoc) 08°12'/34°04' 437 m	08/34	[Gz]
JFA14	Methongoli (area) 932 m	13/40	[WO]
	<i>meti</i> (O) 1. silver; 2. shield; <i>metti</i> (western O) collective name for all palms; wild date palms, Phoenix reclinata, Hyphaene thebaica; palm leaf		
HBR45	Meti (waterhole)	04/37	[WO]
HBR54	Meti (area)	05/37	[WO]
HCN05	Meti (Met'i, Meti Chafi, M. Ciafi) 07°14'/35°19' 1266 m, south of Gecha Coordinates would give map code HCG05 /this Meti?/: Foreign traders there in the early 1930s were D. Valentis, J. Isaris, and M. Karkalemis. [Zervos 1936]	07/35	[Gz WO]
HCR97	Meti (mountain)	08/37	[WO]
HDG62	Meti (Met'i, Metti) 09°39'/35°00' 1454 m	09/35	[Gz x]

near map code GDM67, south-west of Mendi
About 30 km (in a straight line) south of Mendi, with no proper road in the 1960s.
[EFS mission sketch map]

HDL43	Meti (Met'i, Metti) 09°26'/38°42' 2370/2435 m south of Fiche	09/38	[AA Gz Gu]
HFM01	Metich 14°30'/39°32' 1938 m north of Adigrat on the border of Eritrea	14/39	[Gz]
HDT00	Metk (Met'k', Metq) 09°59'/39°29' 2593 m north-east of Tulu Milki	09/39	[Gz]
HFF12	Metkel Ilama 13°42'/39°35' 1971 m, west of Agula	13/39	[Gz]
HDK89	Metkoriya (Met'k'oriya) 09°50'/39°23' 2708 m south-east of Tulu Milki	09/39	[Gz]
	<i>meto</i> (mäto) (A) /one/ hundred; <i>matto</i> (O) old and respectable /woman/		
HDM82	Meto (Mietto) 2726 m	09/39	[LM WO]
JDA03	Meto, G.(area) 2025 m, see under Gololcha	08/40	[WO]
JDH99	Meto (Metto, Metu) (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	09/41	[MS Ad LM]
HES13	Meto Giyorgis (Metuo Georgis) (church)	12/37	[LM WO]
GDE07	Metoc, see Methoc		
HED08	Metol (Met'ol) 10°52'/38°16' 2557 m	10/38	[Gz]
HCR23	Metoso (Met'oso, Met'osa) 07°25'/36°53' 2160 m south-east of Jimma	07/36	[Gz]
HEK40	Metraa (Metraha), see Mitraa		
HDE12c	Metregebt (Metreghebt) (mountain) over 2500 m	08/38	[+ Gu]
HEU20	Metri Wazeno (Metri Uazeno)	12/39	[+ WO]
HEK86	Metsefet (mountain) 12°32'/38°08' 2005 m	12/38	[WO Gz]
HFF25	Metsua, see Mitsiwai		
	<i>metta</i> (mätt'a) (A) arrive, come; <i>metta</i> (A) hit; put animals together for breeding <i>Metta, Mietta</i> , name of a Tulama Oromo tribe, also a lineage of the Sabbo-Mattarri of the Borana people; also <i>Warra Metta</i> is an Ala tribe of the eastern Oromo		
HDK09	Metta (area), cf Mietta	09/38	[WO]
HDK19	Metta, see Meta		
HD...	Metta Jara, in Menagesha awraja The primary school in 1968 had 106 boys and 50 girls in grades 1-4, with 5 teachers.	09/38?	[Ad]
JDH39	Metta wereda (centre in 1964 = Chelenko)	09/41	[Ad]
	<i>metti</i> (O) troop, band, crowd		
HDF64	Metti, M. (area) 1680 m /river in this area?/: In the general area of Birbirsa river and Dembidolo and one of the few rivers in the area which flow throughout the year. A prospecting test for gold (Astrup 1950) showed only 0.14 gram per cu.metre. [Mineral 1966]	08/39	[WO Gu]
HDG48	Metti, see under Nejo	09/35	[x]
HDC57	Mettu Silmo (area)	08/37	[WO]
	metu: <i>matu</i> (O) cut back, prune /trees/		
HDA18	Metu (Mettu, Matu, Mattu, Matto)	08/35	[Gz Po Br WO]

Gz: 08°18'/35°35' 1605 m; MS: 08°10'/35°30' 1494 m
MS coordinates would give map code HDA07 more to the SW.

Centre in 1964 of Ali wereda & of Metu sub-district, and
centre in 1980 of Sor & Geba awraja, with post office.

- 1920s On 9 July 1927 the Greek nationals T. Zewos and A. Donalis were awarded a contract to link Metu and Gore by road with Gambela, a distance of 180 km. [Pankhurst 1968 p 290-291]
- 1930s Village being the last stop before reaching Gore. Situated near Sor river. It was a centre for mule caravans and later also as a terminal for the Ethiopian Transport Motor Company. Telephone to Gore and Addis Abeba. Population before the Italian occupation about 1,000 and 15 foreigners. Coffee dealers were Ibr. Georgis Hana, M. Margettis, S.N. Protoulis, D. Tsentzeris and J. Tsentzeris. S. Fovos was agent of Constantinou in Gore. G. Margettis had a grain mill; N. Kazakokos and A. Seremitis produced soap.
- 1950s Coffee cleaning plants at Metu were operated (-1955-) by A. Besse & Co., D.D. Nadel, Seferian & Co., Salim Tabit, Ahmed Balla, and Sakellaropoulos. Besse, Nadel and Seferian were also important general importers-exporters.
- 1960s Through the newly-established public health centre in Metu over 10,000 people were vaccinated against smallpox in May 1961. [News]
An elementary school building constructed with assistance from Sweden through ESBU was completed by 1966.
In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Metu.
Population 4,060 in 1967.
In the 1967 telephone book there were numbers for Duke of Harar Private Estate, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, National Coffee Board, as well as for Besse & Co., Seferian & Co., Nicola Atanatzi, Michelino Pugioni, and Fili Yenus Bar..
Of telephones on personal names there were about 13 each on Christian-type and on Moslem-type names.
- 1970s Metu was headquarters of the Illubabor Bethel Synod, which was related to the Bethel Church (Presbyterian).
Anna-Brita and Martin Bolving arrived to Ethiopia as volunteers in 1968 and they stayed until 1972. Anna-Britta (b 1945) was a nurse and Martin (b 1941) was a car maintenance technician. A daughter was born to them on 31 March 1971.
Two more Swedish volunteers were laboratory technician Berit Borg (b 1944) who left in late 1972, and chemist's assistant Anita Hulthin (b 1943).
These four volunteers worked at Illubabor Provincial Hospital.
SIDA-employed Dr Jan Mörner serving as Provincial Medical Health Officer arrived with his family in November 1969 and left in early 1973.
Anna-Brita and Martin Bolving returned to the Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission in Ethiopia around August 1991.
Population 10,057 in 1975.
With petrol filling station of Total (-1978-).
About 41% of those living in Metu in 1978 were also born in the town so, although there was more than a doubling of inhabitants in ten years, this indicates a relatively low influx of new residents from outside in relation to the general pattern of urban growth in Ethiopia.
- 1980s Spelling used by the post has been METU (-1983-).
"The first main town of Illubabor is Metu, surrounded by singing forests filled with brightly-plumed birds. The mood here is that of a frontier settlement, the frontier being not a political one but rather the intangible borderline between raw nature and the endeavours of man. Ethiopia's Oromo people -- who have committed themselves to pushing this frontier back in their steady westwards expansion, crowd into Metu on

holidays and weekends, drinking and listening to music in many small bars, or offering their produce for sale in outdoor market - produce that includes berries and wild honey as well as grains and vegetables. At night a small generator chugs and puffs bravely for an hour or two before it is closed down, and then darkness and silence together fall over the town like a veil."

"It does not take a major leap of imagination to realize that in the green and fertile western territories there may lie some hope of salvation for the starving people of the grey and barren north. -- With the 1984 drought, the /government resettling/ programme went into much higher gear --"

[G Hancock, Ethiopia - the challenge of hunger, London 1985 p 24-25]

Population 14,042 in 1987.

1990s The National Aids Control Program made an investigation in 1991-1992. Among the young people in Metu 15-19 years of age there were 4.8% HIV-positive in 1991, but already in the next year that figure had become 19.1%.

[A Nordlander, Väckelse ..., 1997 p 120]

Population about 19,300 in 1994 (another source says 12,920 around 1993).

There was an Oromiya Development Week in July 1995 when four kebeles of Metu town raised over 40,000 birr for the occasion. Ato Alemu Chanyalew was Chief Administrator of the Illubabor Zone at this time.

[ENA news]

Some 400 prisoners reportedly escaped when a grenade was thrown and exploded at the Bisheri prison, Metu. The private weekly Urji wrote on 11 July 1995 that the prison guards were killed immediately and that six other persons were estimated to have been killed.

Metu was once the capital of Ilubabor province and has recently become a centre of the Jimma Oromo. There is an airport and bus connections with Nekemte and Jimma, and there is Lucy Hotel.

[Äthiopien 1999 p 465]

Metu is situated 25 km from Gore, and spreading over the slope of a small hill.

There is a petrol filling station. Buses depart daily for Gambela, Bedele, and Addis Abeba via Jimma.

Hotela Lusii (Lucy Hotel) is regarded as the best in town.

[Lonely planet 2000 p 268-269]

2000s Population about 23,700 in 2001.

HDA18	Metu sub-district (-1964-1997-)	08/35	[n]
	<i>mewat</i> (mäwat) (A) hot springs; <i>mewata</i> (mäwata) (A), <i>mewati</i> (T) mortal, dying		
HEL39	Mewat 12°07'/39°20' 3461 m north-east of Lalibela	12/39	[Gz]
HFC34c	Mewat Tesfaye	13/36	[LM]
HE...	Mewcha Gudebega (centre in 1964 of Kurieb sub-district)	11/39	[Ad]
HFE49	Mewker (Mewk'er) 13°57'/39°18' 1981 m Mewker, west of Haezen	13/39	[Gz]
HDU00	Meya 10°00'/39°24' 1925 m, south-west of Molale	10/39	[Gz]
HEM80	Meydatat 12°31'/39°21' 2946 m, west of Korem	12/39	[Gz]
JEA03	Meyiti (Meyit'i) 10°54'/40°03' 1380 m, south of Bati	10/40	[Gz]
HFF24	Meyku Mesehal (Meyk'u M., Meyk'u Meschal) 13°45'/39°43' 2110 m, south-west of Atsbi	13/39	[Gz]
H CJ65	Meyla 06°58'/37°07' 1793 m, south-west of Waka	06/37	[Gz]
JDA69	Meyu (Meyw) 08°39'/40°36' 1729 m	08/40	[Gz]

	south-east of Gelemso		
JDC35	Meyu 08°29'/42°06' 851 m	08/42	[Gz]
JDC73	Meyu (Meyumuluke, Mayu) 08°48'/41°59' 1319 m (centre in 1964 of Meyumuluke sub-district) Coordinates would give map code JDC74	08/41	[Gz Ad]
JDJ24	Meyu (Moyu) 09°14'/42°02' 1738 m south-west of Harar	09/42	[Gz]
JDC73	Meyumuluke sub-district (Meyumulki ..)(-1964-1997-) (centre in 1964 = Meyu) In 2003 Save the Children UK had for some time distributed relief food in the Meyumuluke area, and they also had a therapeutic feeding program for severely malnourished outpatients. [AddisTribune 2003/10/31]	08/41	[MS Ad]
JDA69	Meyw, see Meyu		
HFE99	Mezabir 14°24'/39°18' 1956 m, north-west of Adigrat Mezabir, cf Mesbir	14/39	[Gz]
GD...	Mezako, in Beni Shangul/?/ in the west Rob Gebeya, 'Wednesday market', used to be an important slave market for the Mezako area. Even when William Avenstrup was there in the 1920s with mining people, he found that one Ato Bogale had bought himself a slave. [W Avenstrup, (På jungelstier) På djungelstigar, 1956 p 115-116]	10/34	[x]
HEL43	Mezar Tafir (M. T'afir) 12°12'/38°46' 2449 m north-west of Lalibela	12/38	[Gz]
HDU20	Mezaweriya (Mezawerita) 10°12'/39°21' 2674 m west of Molale	10/39	[Gz]
HFF04c	Mezbahe (with rock-hewn church Maryam) This church is in the Dessa district, according to a communication by Ruth Plant in 1972. [Sauter 1976]	13/39	[x]
HFE86	Mezbir 14°22'/39°02' 2029 m, north-west of Inticho	14/39	[Gz]
HFE98	Mezbir (Mesaber) (mountain) 14°24'/39°12' 2148 m north of Inticho <i>mezega</i> (mäzäga) (A) black cotton soil	14/39	[Gz]
HFD35	Mezega (Mäzäga) 13°54'/37°58' district on the northern banks of Tekezze river	13/37	[n]
HFF72	Mezewele 14°12'/39°37' 2759 m south-east of Adigrat <i>mezeze</i> (mäzäzä) (T) 1. impose, attribute; 2. draw /sword/ from sheath; <i>mezzeze</i> (mäzzäzä) (T) to be long; <i>mezezo</i> (mäzäzo) (A) 1. chief of a small locality or a stable; 2. awkwardly tall man	14/39	[Gz]
HDM95c	Mezezo (Mäzäzo)	09/39	[LM n]
HDU04	Mezezo 09°59'/39°45' 2477 m (hill in Yifat), east of Sela Dingay in Menz awraja Centre in 1964 of Kewet wereda, with sub P.O. under Debre Birhan. The primary school in 1968 had 141 boys and 41 girls, with 4 teachers. An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970. [SIDA 1971]	09/39	[Gz Po Ad]
HD...	Mezezo sub-district (-1997-)	09/39	[n]
HEM51c	Mezgar Amba (recorded in 1868)	12/39	[18]
HEU76	Mezva (area)	13/39	[WO]

HDU30	Mezwarya (Mezuarria)	10/39	[+ WO]
HFK04	<p>Mezzaga (Mezzega, Mazega, Mazäga) (mountain) 14°30'/37°58' 1474 m, near map code HFD94 (historically recorded Muslim area) After advancing into Tigray, Imam Ahmääd around 1535 made his way to Mazäga, a Muslim territory to the west of Wälqayt. There he was welcomed by the local ruler Makattér and married his daughter. The chief died immediately afterwards, whereupon Ahmääd made his young son Nafi ruler of the territory, appointing his aunt as regent. The Turks after 1557 advanced into the Mäzäga lowlands, where many of them succumbed to malaria or other fever. The Turkish force was obliged to retreat. [Pankhurst 1997]</p>	14/37	[Gz WO Pa]
HFC03	Mezzaga Romodan (area)	13/36	[WO]