The primary school, in Gofa awraja, in 1968 had 109 boys and 31 girls in grades 1-5, with 3 teachers.

The primary school in 1968 had 133 boys and 35 girls in grade 1 (no other grade yet), with two teachers.

wichale (A) small monkey;

Wichale, Wochale, Wechalé Wuchale, name of an Ittu tribe of the eastern Oromo known from fighting with imperial forces in the 1620s, also a modern branch of the Arsi-Siqo Oromo living north-east of lake Ziway

At Utchali a thick inter-Trappean bed of shales with sandy lenses contains three thin (20-40 cm) lignite bands. The calorific values vary between 3900 and 6400 cal/g whilst the sulphur content is high. This deposit was worked by the Italians from 1937 to 1940, and they built a cable-railway from the mountain down to the main road.

"The coal mine is situated about 4 km from Uchale in the valley of the Waha Titu River, an affluent of the Dedora. The Waha Titu has eroded the volcanic rocks and coal-bearing strata of the district and thrust up the coal layers."

This district was exploited on a small scale by the Italian Army in 1937-1940. Exploration was started in 1937 with two drifts. Both are now destroyed and it is impossible to get in. On the basis of geological prospecting, two coal seams have been obtained, the upper one 25 cm thick and the lower one 30-40 cm thick. According to Usoni (1952), a third layer has also been found by mining, but its thickness is not known. According to Fontana (1938), the coal was analyzed in the laboratory of the Italian Army in Addis Abeba /details are cited in the book/. Megascopically, the coal seems to be of good quality even though it is of Tertiary age.

After the deposition of the coal, the lacustrine sediments were again covered by basaltic rocks. In this way, favourable conditions were according to Jelenc (1956) created for rapid carbonization because of high temperature and great pressure, and the coal thus possesses a relatively high calorific value. Geological conditions for the existence of a large coal basin are not favourable.

1889

When news of the death of Emperor Yohannes at Metemma in March 1889 reached Menilek and Taytu, the king and queen were at Wichale in Wello, a fief belonging to the queen. Also present in camp was Count Antonelli who had just delivered 5,000 Remington rifles. Menilek sent messages to the King of Italy through Antonelli. On 2 May 1889 Menilek signed a treaty at Wichale with Antonelli. Menilek signed as 'King of Kings of Ethiopia', though he had not yet been crowned.

[C Prouty, Empress Taytu .., 1986 p 61]
The Treaty of Uccialli (this Italian-derived spelling is the one most frequently seen in historical works) was signed on 2 May 1889 by Emperor Menilek and Count Pietro Antonelli. Menilek had his camp at the small town of Wichale on that occasion. The treaty was ratified by King Umberto I on 29 September 1889.

"Article III was in a sense the legal birth certificate of the Italian colony of Eritrea, because it defined for the first time in treaty form a boundary line between Ethiopia and a coastal area under foreign sovereignty."

[Rubenson 1964 p 11]

The later conflict about the discrepancy of interpretation between the Amharic and the Italian interpretation of Article XVII is here regarded as national (not local) history and is here only briefly mentioned. Italy maintained that Menilek was supposed to be under obligation to use the Italian government as his intermediary with other powers, Menilek said that the Amharic version meant that "it shall be possible for the King of Kings of Ethiopia to communicate with the kings of Europe with the assistance of the Italian government".

In the peace treaty signed on 26 October 1896 after the battle of Adwa the whole Treaty of Uccialli was annulled, and paragraph XVII had in practice never been applied in the meantime.

[Rubenson 1964 p 19-21]

1960s

The primary school, in Ambasel awraja, in 1968 had 219 boys and 115 girls, with 5 teachers.
The junior secondary school had 29 male and 13 female students in grades 7-8, with 4 teachers of which two foreign.

1970s

Wichale had a postal agent (sub-post office) under Dessie using spelling WOUCHALE on its postmark (-1973-).

When journalist Filseth visited in August 1973, he was told that it happened that people fell down in the street of Wichale from famine exhaustion and might even drown from rain because not having force to get up.

There was an Australian medical team under Dr D.N. Kirkman. At least 20 cases of smallpox had been observed in Wichale and more in the neighbourhood.

There was a mission station, with agronomist Lorns Hovdestad from Canada.

[News]

"My guides pointed out a large tree across a gorge a few hundred meters from the road as you enter Wuchale, under which the treaty was signed."

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/02/18]
(centre in 1964 = Sele)

GDD07 Wichgonyuni 08/33 [WO]
?? Wid Ben (visiting postman under Dessie) ../.. [Po]
H.... Wida (centre in 1964 of Midir Gebeta sub-district) 13/37? [Ad]
HE... Wido, see Lai Wido, Tach Wido
JCL62 Widthl 06/43 [WO]
HDM.. Wigir (district in Tegulet) 09/39 [n]

wiha, weha (A), waa (Sidamo), wi'a (Kambata) water

HEF53 Wiha Helo (Uaha Helo), see under Hayk 11/39 [+ Gu]
HEF52 Wiha Maryam (church) 11°19'/39°31', west of Hayk 11/39 [Gz]
JDN68c Wihi (Ui-hi) 10/40 [+ Gu]
HDL81 Wijiba 09°49'/38°32' 3002 m, west of Fiche (Italian fort/ruins nearby)
HDL85 Wijiba 09°47'/38°53' 2619 m, east of Fiche (with church), see under Debre Libanos
HEU Wijig 12°48'/39°36' 1840 m, near Maychew 12/39 [Gz]
HC... Wijigra, village in Awasa wereda 07/38? [n]

There is a megalithic site with patterns engraved on steles.

GCM76 Wika (Uica, Gobus), cf Weka 07/34 [+ WO]
HDL86 Wikir (Wik'ir, Wiqir) 09°48'/38°58' 2518 m (with church Mikael), east of Fiche

HDS78 Wikma (Wk'ma, Wq'ma) 10°40'/38°16' 1928 m north of Bichena

wikro (T?) excavated, rock-hewn?

HET86 Wikro (Wk'ro, Wq'ro, Uocrro) 13°24'/39°04' 1755 m, south of Abiy Adi 13/39 [Gz q WO]
HFE15 Wikro (Wkro) 13°38/ [+] x

HFE51 Wikro (Wk'ro, Wqrro) 14°06'/38°33' 2010 m 14/38 [Gz q]
HFE61 Wikro (Wk'ro, Wqkro) 14°07'/38°36' 2239 m (with two rock-hewn churches), west of Aksum see the churches under Nebelet

HFF22 Wikro (Wk'ro, Wqrro, Wqkro, Wukiro) 13°39/ [Gz q Ad x]
(Ugoro, Uogoro, Wogoro, Wuguro, Woghuro) 13/39 [Gu n]
Gz: 13°47'/39°36' = HFF22, 1972 m; MS: 13°30'/39°30' = HEU91 (with sub post office; rock-hewn church Cherkos nearby)
Centre at least in 1956-1980 of Hulet Awlalo awraja and in 1964 of Dirae wereda.

At the main road northwards, distance 829 km from Addis Abeba.
Within a radius of 10 km there are at km
4SE Sellasi Adgu (village) 2462 m
8SW Iyesus Awlalo (Jesus Aulalo) (village)
5W Korar (Qorar, Auza) (village) 2233 m
?? Abreha Atsbeha (local centre), see directly under its name
(David Buxton collected the following spellings: Agroo, Corou, Oucro, Ouqro, Ouco, Ouaqero, Oukero, Ouogro, Uogoro, Woghuro, Wogro, Waqro, Weqro, and he used the variety Wuqro himself.)
The Portuguese journey described by Alvares stayed at Wikro (written Agroo by him) on 11-13 August 1520. He describes the rock-hewn church though not quite correctly. [Beckingham & Huntingford vol I p 176-177]

1940s The Italian Francesco Baldassare with son/?/ Giovanni started a grain mill at Wikro in 1938, but it was abandoned because of the war in 1941.
The Weyane revolt in Tigray in 1943 was organized mainly by the young Blatta Haile Mariam Redda, who established his headquarters at Wokro. He had the support of the Orthodox clergy and he condemned Catholics, Protestants and others.


Wikro was recaptured by government troops on 17 October 1943.

[Gilkes 1975 p 180]

1950s Sub-province Governor of Hulet Awlalo awraja in 1959 was Dejazmach Beyene Tedla.

1960s "I had no political inclinations at the beginning of my army career -- but in 1964 I became involved in a curious program that was my first exposure to world politics. The Emperor had made a secret pact with the Israelis to train the Anya Nya (the Southern Sudanese Liberation Movement) on Ethiopian soil and then send them back to the Sudan to fight the Khartoum government. The Israelis recruited the guerrillas from the southernmost parts of the Sudan, brought them out through Uganda, and flew them to Ethiopia for training. My job was to pick up the recruits from the airport at Asmara in secret and drive them to Wukro in Tigray province, where Israeli officers and I trained them in guerrilla warfare. It was a highly secret affair."

[Dawit W Girgis, Ret tears, USA 1989 p 8]

1970s There was a petrol filling station of Shell (-1978-).


In July 1985 an incident with the resettlement programme was reported. An NGO had opened a new distribution point for famine relief at Wikro. The RRC had cooperated in organising the registration of about 1,000 new beneficiaries for the first distribution. When people began to arrive some were taken to resettlement transit camps. According to the NGO concerned the new distribution point had been used as 'bait' for involuntary resettlement.

[Jansson et al. 1987 p 67]

1990s Agazi was an important fighter who had his mother in Wukro, so the researcher and reporter Jenny Hammond went there in early 1991 to make interviews. "For all his heroic status I know little more about Agazi than that he had a military operation named after him. -- I am also interested in Agazi's mother on her own account -- Two young women fighters show us where to find her house in one of the back streets." "My first impression is that she is very ancient, but after a few minutes her erect posture and the humorous quizzical expression in her eyes make her seem much younger than her sixty-seven years. Her name is Kiros Kassa." She was married at the age of seven years. After ten years she was rejected for infertility by her husband, a secretary of Mengesha Seyoum. She became pregnant at once when she married the father of Agazi, although this marriage too ended when her husband became so sick his parents took him to Addis Abeba for medical care. Having three children to support, Kiros Kassa in Haile Selassie's time became one of the few policewomen in Mekele. She was 21 then but pretended to be 28. "She talks cheerfully about her own life, but when she moves on to Agazi, the tears start to trickle down her cheeks. -- We sit quietly until she is recovered enough to go on. His last year at school was in Asmara -- From there, he went to university and then to the field, to Dedebit, to start the revolution in Tigray." "He came back from Dedebit after four months and stayed three days at home in Wukro, even though the government was here and I was in the police. I went to buy clothes for him and then travelled with him all the way back to Shire in the west. His older brother
Mulugeta came with me. That was the last time I saw him.

Agazi was killed less than a year after the start of the rebellion. It was in another Wikro about 15 km from Aksum.

"Although I am crying ... I am his mother ... I am crying more for my daughter. She was killed in Aksum, for nothing, in the Red Terror. -- They killed her and threw her in the street. Her name was Tsedal." She was sixteen years old, and the girlfriend of the Derg cadre in Aksum shot her in her house.

[Hammond 1999 p 276-278]

Sheba Tannery SC was established in March 1993, rather by the EPRDF/TPLF.

Board members were W/ro Shishay H/Sellassie W/Sellassie, Tekle W/Gebriel Gezzae, Shewit G/Kristos Birru. Activities were to process hides and skins, make goods from them and sell on foreign and domestic markets.

[T M Vestal, Ethiopia: A post-cold war ..., USA 1999 p 216]

Populations about 16,400 in 1994.

"The one sizeable town between Adigrat and Mekele, Wukro has a relaxed if rather nondescript character and -- it's an obvious base from which to explore the surrounding area."

"There aren't that many hotels -- First choice is the Fasika Hotel, on a back street but signposted from the main road. -- The only other hotel that stands out is the Selam Pension, which is similar to the Fasika, but a little scruffier -- /there is a/ restaurant in the hotel between the post office and Shell Garage. There is a reasonable pastry shop opposite the very dirty looking Modern Snack Bar."

[Bradt 1995(1998) p 319-320 with town map sketch]

2000s

"The Muslim-run Selam Hotel -- is the best bet for men, but women can't stay there. The second-best (women and men allowed) is the Beheresege Hotel -- The smarter-looking Fasika Hotel is not recommended unless you're after a noisy, flea-ridden brothel. The Fikra Selam has a good restaurant."

[Lonely planet 2000 p 198]


C Monty, Ethiopie .., Paris 1968 p 76 painting displayed outside Medhane Alem.

**Wikro : Cherkos** (Cherqos, Tcherqos, K'irk'os)

The rock-hewn church is visible from the main road just north of the town, across the river. Unlike many of the other rock-hewn churches it has been easy to visit for a long time, and for many years (since the Napier expedition in 1868 which had a camp not far away) it was the only such church in Tigray known to the outside world. Still by the 1940s it was the only one that could be reached by a road for motorcars. Cherkos is different from other rock churches in having windows and door frames made of wood.

"Its plain façade, cut in reddish sandstone, overlooks the highway. The visitor who goes inside will be amazed at the rows of finely-shaped columns, arched vaults and elaborate friezes which adorn the interior."


"The church is certainly delightfully situated, amongst what appears to be almost a rock-garden, with candelabra euphoriba growing evrywhere. The western façade is stepped back, which gives it a curiously homely appearance as if it does not want to intrude. -- The Cherkos façade -- is much weathered and seems to be crumbling away in parts. It has been patched with bricks and stone. -- The interior is small, but very well cut and quite different in style from the churches of the Lalibela group. The barrel roofs and arches have all been covered with stucco and carved with geometrical patterns in deep relief. -- much of the stucco has fallen off. On either side of the main entrance, inside, two Greek crosses standing on shafts about ten feet high remain, curiously enough, intact. There is still a considerable amount of fresco work in the porch at the west end, but it is in dreadful condition and I counted at least three layers of superimposed plaster from different periods."

[B Playne, St. George for Ethiopia, London 1954 p 73-74]

There is an entrance porch with a square pillar in the centre. The roof of the porch
was raised considerably in 1958, and at the same time the floor of the church was
cemented.
The church is three-aisled or five-aisled depending upon how one describes the
intermediary supports in the transverse section. There are many Aksumite rock
details but little in the way of paintings. There is a barrel vault over the first central bay and a low
cupola over the third, and the other roofs are flat. The facade has been partially cut free-
standing from the rock.
The churchyard has a number of Italian tombs from the time of their occupation.
[Ruth Plant in Ethiopia Observer vol XIII 1970 no 3 p 212-213]
Il s'agit d'une église cruciforme semi-monolithe. Je renvoie le lecteur au Tome V (p.257)
des Annales d'Ethiopie pour les mentions et descriptions anciennes.
[Sauter 1976]
Paul Henze visited Wikro around 1970 and writes that Wikro was half Christian,
half Muslim:
"We had no difficulty driving right up to the gate -- but we had trouble finding someone
to let us inside. This church has a sheer front jutting out of a tannish-pink hillside and is
surrounded by a stone wall. At the south-eastern corner of the wall a monk in black smock
and round black cap was supervising the building of a new belfry. -- the square tower had
already risen to a height of 4 m -- He took us to see his cell, built against the rock on the
south side of the church. It was a simple square room with a sleeping-mat at the back and
a few pots in a corner. The holy pictures on the wall were European prints."
"The churchyard had several trees, including good specimens of pink-blooming
euphorbia, and a number of rather new tombs. The two-storeyed gate had recently been
rebuilt and roofed with corrugated tin. Outside, below the gate, was a large area of graves
and small round stone huts inhabited by nuns. -- The monk called our attention to the
church's bells. They hung from a tree below the new belfry. One was the transmission
housing of an old motor vehicle and the other looked as if it had originally been the drive-
wheel of an engine. He tapped them with a stone and both gave off clear tones."
"the entrance /of the church/ has a curious feature - a column in the very centre of the
entrance hall which blocks a direct view into the church from the door /B Lindahl: such a
column is a tradition seen in several rock churches, including also in Lalibela/. --
The basic ground plan is the same as at Abraha Atsbaha, though on a smaller scale, with
the giddus giddusan cut deep into the rock at the eastern side, a cupola in the ceiling
above it, and a cross carved into the central ceiling panel with carved decoration around
it. -- some of the ceiling carving was flaking off. There are good, clean Maltese crosses
cut into the tops of the pillars that flank the door beween the entry hall and the main body
of the church. The door is framed in sturdy wood and has a double window above. Most
of the pillars bear the marks of the sharp tools with which they were originally cut."[P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (USA 1977)A.A. 2001 p 71-74
with sketch map and plan]
"After s short walk and a nice welcome at the gate we circumnavigated the church. -- By
walking up the side you can climb on top of the church. The view from the top was great,
but quite reasonably we were not allowed to walk on the 'roof' of the church. After the
usual scramble to find the guy with the key, we were allowed to inspect the church's
interior for the customary 20 Birr each."
"The horrible metal doors which have been mounted on the wonderful old wooden frames
swung open to reveal a dank and murky interior. -- it would be quite wonderful to explore
these interiors with candlelight, but they are now all equipped with electric lights which is
much more practical. The unsightly wiring and glaring bulbs detracts from the ambience -
but it means you can see every nook and cranny."
"This is in fact three churches in one - with neighbouring holy of holies for Gabriel,
Mikael, and Mary. -- As so often in these places, the ambience is not only negatively
affected by the unsightly electrical wiring, it is also diminished by the old linoleum,
carpets and tacky modern prints of various religious figures. Fortunately the legitimate
and august splendour of the place overwhelms these modern intrusions."
A modern bell-tower stands in the grounds and there is a new gatehouse to the compound, as well as some other buildings. On top of the church is a decorative finial. There are apparently to *debalat* (tabots), dedicated to Gebriel and Mikael, in the side rooms off the *geddesseta geddusan*.

[John Graham in Addis Tribune 1999/10/15]


[John Graham in Addis Tribune 1999/10/15]

Beckingham & Huntingford, The Prester John .. vol I, Cambridge 1961 p 161 old drawings /reproduced from Lefebvre/;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;

D Buxton, The fountain .., London 1957 p 33 the rock-hewn church;


L Mosley, Haile Selassie .., London 1964 at p 256 Cherkos rock-hewn church;

G Gerster, Kirchen im Fels, Stuttgart 1968 p 131 plan of Cherkos, pl 179 interior, 180 fresco painting, 181 exterior front;
"Long straggling village" passed by Richard Burton on his way to Harar at the end of December 1854. He describes the Somali type of houses there and how the people lived in them.

The Burton party left on 29 December, riding round the northern side of the Wilensi table-mountain "down a lane fenced with fragrant dog roses".


"A hazardous engineering feat was accomplished then making the section which joins the craggy mountains of the Semien to the undulating highlands of the Uoghera. On the Uolcheffit Pass the workmen dangling over the abyss had to hew with their pickaxes little platforms into the hard and sheer basaltic rock before the miners could take over and insert their fuses. In the process many landslides occurred and many lives were lost."

[F Quaranta, Ethiopia .., London 1939 p 89-90]

1941
This stronghold was in early 1941 commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mario Gonella, "a tough and enterprising Alpini officer", with a garrison of about 5,000 men. General Nasi ordered the withdrawal to Wolkefit of all outlying garrisons in Simen, and this was carried out between 2 and 7 April.

[Shirreff 1995 p 169]

The first of the Italian outposts to fall in the renewed campaign against Gondar was Wolkefit on the north, following the end of the heavy rains. Wolkefit, at the summit of the escarpment, was formidable in its location. The approach road from the north had 99 hairpin turns on the way up on its northern slope. On top, a small number of defensive gun emplacements should have been able to indefinitely prevent any attacking force from reaching the pass at the top.

A Major Ringrose, with a strong well organized force of Patriots, was able to keep the mountain top fortress under continuing gun fire while the S.A.A.F. and the R.A.F. air forces kept the fortress under daily bombardment. This nerve wrecking pressure on the impregnable fortress resulted in a formal surrender on the 27th of September, without major resistance.

[R N Thompson, Liberation .., 1987 p 191]

Ringrose was distrustful of the locals but had a battalion of Indian infantry, the 3rd/14th Punjabis, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Shute, and a British 25-pounder field
battery, and he marched from Zaremma to Bosa about 16 km to the south-west of Wilkifit. It was planned to attack Wilkifit on 16 July. By that time a patriot force had reassembled under the command of Dejazmach Negash. Railton arrived at Bosa ahead of his company and on 14 July guided the Punjabi battalion a few kilometres up to Mortar Fort. From there B Company of the Punjabis was sent ahead to occupy Surprise Fort, not then held by the Italians and located some 7 km south-west of Wilkifit. It was a wet, misty day and visibility was poor. Sotto-Tenente Bastiani, who was on patrol with his banda, surprised the Punjabi company at Surprise Fort while they were having lunch, attacked and put them to flight. Shute was killed at this encounter. Major Furney, second in command of the Punjabis, brought up two more companies and recovered the colonel's body. Bastiani had got hold of documents revealing the British intention to attack on 16 July. At a conference it was decided to call off the attack and the Punjabis returned to Zaremma. To Railton the retreat and withdrawal were bitter disappointments. Ringrose, distrustful of his Ethiopians, had requested and been sent as his personal bodyguard a platoon from a recently arrived unit recruited in Palestine from Jewish and Arab Palestinians. On 21 July, the 100th day of the siege, Ringrose wrote to Gonella inviting him to surrender, but Gonella declined.

On 1 August Gonella led 700 Blackshirts supported by a mortar section against the British-held lower forts. These were of stone with thick walls, and the attacking white troops suffered a defeat. Ringrose sent up patriot assistance. The Patriots responded promptly and arrived at midday. Railton sent them round to cut off the Italians' retreat. The Italians had to abandon the attack and were hotly pursued. They left 24 dead and 12 prisoners were taken. The blockade of Wilkifit by C Company and the Patriots on the south and west was effective and, although the Italian garrison obtained some supplies by raids on villages and airdrops from Gondar (31 airdrops totalling 86,780 kg of supplies), they were running out of food.

An attack by the allied against Surprise Fort went in before dawn on 26 August and was a brilliant success. C Company made a noisy frontal attack while the bodyguard commander and 150 men slipped round the back and took the position by assault. Some 105 Italian prisoners were taken, and the attackers suffered 27 casualties, mainly from anti-personnel mines. On 18 September Gonella and Bastiani put in a surprise attack and were successful. Casualties were not heavy though the commander of the Punjabis was killed. On 23 September a fighter plane dropped on Gonella's headquarters General Nasi's farewell message from Gondar, conveying his admiration and gratitude to all ranks for tenacity and loyalty. On 25 September Gonella led a sortie against the Patriots, but in the same afternoon he sent emissaries to Ringrose to request an armistice to negotiate for surrender. Hostilities ceased at 2.00 p.m. on 26 September.

In the morning on 28 September Colonel Gonella marched out with the honours of war at the head of a representative contingent of his force, saluted by Brigadier James and a company of King's African Rifles. Ayalewu Birru was released to the British and 71 officers, 1560 national troops and 1450 colonial troops went into captivity. Italian casualties from 1 April to 27 September were 364 nationals and 1340 colonials killed, wounded, deserters or missing, a total of 1704. Anglo-Ethiopian casualties are not known accurately.

[Shirreff 1995 p 237-241, 244-245]

We climbed the Wolkefit pass - the most spectacular piece of road-building in Ethiopia, completed by the Italians at the cost of many lives. The road is here carried up the terrific, almost sheer northern face of a spur of the Simien mountains. It had been warm and sunny below. At the top we met patches of floating mist, it was bitterly cold, and later rain fell in torrents. We continued for some miles over the cold plateau, a fairly fertile and well-populated piece of country, and then began a long, gradual descent.

[D Buxton, Travels in Ethiopia, London (1949)1957 p 111]
1950s  "My experience of mountain roads in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America is pretty extensive, but I can recall nothing that approaches this as an engineering achievement. It was only possible because it was built as a military road by the Italians in the early days of their occupation of Ethiopia. For some inscrutable reason they never had the heart or fortitude to wreck it in 1941 with the trifling demolition charges that - in such country - would have been all that were necessary. It is some repayment that Ethiopia can now thus benefit from an evanescent and spiritless occupation."

[D Busk, The fountain of the sun, London 1957 p 91]

E. Lombardi, L'acqua dell Uolchefitt (Amara) e le sue possibili proprietà terapeutiche, in Bollettino della Società Italiana di Medicina, .., Asmara 1944, vol 4 no 1 p 133-137.

"wilo (A) full day = 12 hours
HCS53 Wilo 07°43'/37°48' 2512 m, north of Hosaina 07/37 [Gz]  
cf Welo, Wulo ..
HDK63 Wilo 09°37'/37°47' 2457 m, north-west of Kachisi 09/37 [Gz]
HDE74 Wilso 08°48'/38°51' 2133 m, south-east of Akaki 08/38 [Gz]
?? Witi Dora ..../.. [20]

Scientists and students had a camp there in mid-1975. They collected 99 fossils suggesting an age of about 2 million years for the fauna. Glenn Conroy also found two hominid fossils. Afar fighters happened to burst through the camp in pursuit of Issa, and there was gunfire around the camp for several days. [Kalb 2001 p 183-185]

HDU52 Win (Uin), see Gedoye
HER36 Winchi (area) 12/37 [WO]
HFE57 Winibo 14°05'/39°07' 1957 m, south-east of Aksum 14/39 [Gz]
HDK89 Wino 09°50'/38°20' 2518 m 09/38 [AA Gz]  
see under Gebre Guracha
HEC98 Wira Kidane Mihret (Ura K. M.) 11°41'/37°21' 11/37 [Gz x]

Paul Henze was at this church around 1970.  "After 15 minutes of hiking through coffee forest, we reached a thatched gate and entered a clearing, in the centre of which rose an imposing thatched church with a bamboo screen around its outer colonnade -- the Emperor had walked up the same trail three years before -- He had been so taken by the old church that he donated corrugated tin for a complete reroofing. We were shown this tin stacked -- No one knew when it would be put on. The thatch on the roof had been a first-class job -- There are more paintings at Ura than in Kebran Gabriel, but, taken together, they are not as impressive. -- The "memhir" was a handsome tall man with a very Caucasian face. The other monks were all quite young. -- Forty tabots from churches destroyed by Grañ were still kept in their "eqabet. This gave a special holiness to the the place. Lightning had never been known to strike here and snakes in the vicinity never bit human beings ... From the "eqabet they brought three crowns said to have belonged to Emperor Tewodros and Yohannes IV and to King Tekla-Haymanot of Gojjam. They had a good collection of parchment books." [Henze as below, p 261-262]

P B Henze, Ethiopian journeys, (reprint)A.A. 2001 pict 72 exterior of the church, pict 78 priest with large cross.

HCS67 Wirbarag, see Wulbareg
HDU72 Wire Ilu, see Were Ilu
HEF73 Wirgesa, see Wergesa
HDF93 Wirjine 09°01'/39°39' 1396 m 09/39 [Gz]
Wis (Vis)  
A Muslim trading town in northern Shewa, described in several sources as having an important market in the early 1500s. One merchant Corsali had a storehouse there and a plan, which never materialised, of printing books in Ethiopia.  
Imam Ahmäd's forces in the 1530s marched to Wis. Shihab ed-Din describes it as "a large town with a considerable market without equal in Abyssinia". He says that it was one in which transactions were carried out only in gold.  
[Panikhurst 1997]

HET17  
Wisakra (Wisak'ra, Wisaqra) 12/39  
12°46'/39°08' 1962 m, north of Sekota

HCC79  
Wisemo 06°07'/37°25' 1967 m  
west of southern lake Abaya  

wisha, wishsha (A) dog

??  
Wisha Seshigne (visiting postman under D. Birhan)  ./..  

??  
Wisha Tirs (Wusha Turus) (hill)  ./..  
"A hill near Ifag rose 1000 feet and made a conspicuous landmark called Wusha Turus, or Dog's Tooth."  
[Cheesman 1936]  

HCJ76  
Wishaye 06°59'/37°13' 2063 m, south-west of Waka  06/37  

The primary school in 1968 had 208 boys and 14 girls, with 4 teachers.

HDS23  
Wisho, see Yewish

HCP04  
Wishwish, see Wushwush

HDT87  
Wisil 10°45'/39°05' 1945 m  10/39  

Witchet, south of Mota

HDM41  
Wisso (Usso, M.) (area) 09/39  
09/39  
[+ WO]

HEE89  
Wist Amba (Wist' A.) 11°38'/39°19' 2557 m  11/39  
(with church Kidane Mihret)

HEL62  
Witaba (Wit'aba) 12°22'/38°36' 2498 m  12/38  

HDS94  
Witchet (Wit'ch'et) 10°48'/37°52' 3293 m  10/37  

Witchet, south of Mota

HDL51  
Witi 09°34'/39°32' 2871 m  09/39  
(with church Medhane Alem)

HDD26  
Witin (Wit'in) 08°21'/38°03' 1936 m  08/38  

Wiy 09°41'/38°28' 1872 m  09/38  

south-east of Tulu Milki

HE...  
Wiy Meda (Wiy Meda)  
11/38?  
[+ Ad]  

(winter in 1964 of Kemir Dengiya sub-district)  
wiyil leh:  wiyil leh (Som) with rhinoceros

JCK30  
Wiyehel (hills)  06/42  
[WO]

HET86  
Wkro, see Wikro & HFE51 HFE61 HFE69 HFF22 HFF73

wob:  woob (Som) yellow

HED23  
Wob (Uob) (area), see under Mota  11/37  
[+ WO]

HED23  
Wob M. (Uob M'aryam?/) (church), see under Mota  11/37  
[+ WO]

woba  
1. malaria; 2. shaft or length of bamboo;  
(O) plague, pestilence

HCT11  
Wobani (Uobani) (area) 1944 m  07/38  
[+ WO Gu]

HCP35  
Wobba (Uobba) 07°35'/36°11' 1825 m  07/36  
[+ WO Gu Gz]  
(village, local centre), north of Bonga, cf Oba  
The most noteworthy centre of Gera.  
[Guida 1938]
wober (Arabic) hyrax, rock rabbit, Procravia ..., Heterohyrax ..

Wobera, Wobara, a small society in eastern Gemu-Gofa

GDM12c Wobera (Uobera) 1933 m, cf Webera 09/34 [+ Gu]
HDL64c Woberri (Uoberri), cf Uoberri 09/38 [+ Gu]
HDL98 Wobi (Uobi) (area & centre) 09/39 [Ad WO]
(centre in 1964 of Dire sub-district)
HHT82 Wobo 10°42'/38°37' 2393 m, north of Ajibar 10/38 [18 Gz]

HDE92 Wochacha, see Wechecha
HES.. Wochana Berri (Uociana B.) (pass) 2960 m 13/38 [+ Gu]
Pass between the peaks of Amba Abier and Tcioa (Chowa).
[Guida 1938]
HED64c Wochano (Uociano) (village) 11/37 [+ Gu]
H... Woeche, in direction of Gore 08/35 [x]
1930s At some time in 1936 Dejazmach Tekle Wolde Hawaiat's force was surrounded by the Italians and there was a battle of six hours. Tekle himself and about 200 of his men succeeded to escape. Many were killed and some taken prisoner, among them Tekle's wife and daughter.
[L Bondestam, Feodalismen .., Sthlm 1975 p 67, based on Tesfay Abebe 1971]

HDK47 Wochodi (Uociodi, Mt.) (mountain area) 09/38 [+ WO]

woada, kinds of tree, (O) large wild fig tree, Ficus sycomorus;
(A) Mitragyna stipulosa, found in swamps in the SW of Ethiopia

HCU04 Woda (Uoda) (area) 3222 m 07/39 [+ WO]
HEL38 Wodavgyiye (Uodavghie) 12/39 [+ Gu]
JDE83 Wodda (Uodda) (area) 08/43 [+ WO]
JKD27 Wodda Abaret (Uodda Abaret) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
wooda arro: woada aro (O) fig tree lake?
JDE34 Wodda Arro (Uodda Arro) (area) 08/43 [+ WO]
JDL31 Wodda Dibihur (Uodda Dibihur) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
JDL30 Wodda Dibik (Uodda Dibich) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
wooda ena ..: -enna (Som) our; bakaal (Som) strong person;
Bakaal (Som) morning star, Venus
JKD49 Wodda Ena Bakal (Uodda Ena Bacal) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
JDL22 Wodda Feraweyna (Uodda Feraueina) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
wooda ferenji: ferenji, faranjii (Som) non-Islamic European person
JKD27 Wodda Ferenji (Uodda Ferenji) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
wooda gumar: gumaar (Som) 1. hard skin; 2. pubic region
JDE35 Wodda Gumar (Uodda Gumar) (area) 08/43 [+ WO]
JDE95 Wodda Gumar (Uodda Gumar) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
JKD49 Wodda Jiha (Uodda Giha) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
JDL32 Wodda Makakil (Uodda Macachil, U. Macahil) 09/43 [+ WO Gz]
09°20'/43°36', customs post at the border of Somalia
wooda mogoldera, strong and tall fig tree?
mogole (O) 1. strength; 2. part of the leg;
dera, dheeraa (O) tall, long
JKD46 Wodda Mogoldera (Uodda Mogoldera) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]
JKD36 Wodda Ulka (Uodda Ulca) (area) 1850 m 09/43 [+ WO]
JDL30 Wodda Walithor (Uodda Ualithor) (area) 09/43 [+ WO]

woode (O) bake, grill, toast

?? Wode, in the south-west, cf Wede ../.. [Mi]
A place not far from the Omo canyon. There occurs a rather ferriferous weathered rock which contains some breccious zones standing out of the terrain like small ridges. These
zones are intersected by iron and manganese oxides and apparently also by silica.

[Mineral 1966]

HCT80 Wodesha, see Wedesa

?? Wodmit, in Gojjam

25 people were killed on 27/? September 1958 when more than three gasha of land fell in a landslide towards the end of the rainy season. There were also other landslides in the neighbourhood due to heavy rains.

[News]

HBT86 Wodo (Uodo) (mountain) 05°20'/38°56' 1662/1792 m 05/38 [WO Gz]
 Coordinates would give map code HBT85

wodu (O) Christian apostle

HDD05 Wodye (Uodie) 08/38 [+ WO]

wof washa (A) bird's cave

HEE80c Wof Washa (north-west of Zor Amba) 11/38 [x]

HFC28 Wofargif, see under Adi Remet 13/37 [WO]

HDF03 Wofayka (Uofaica) 08°11'/39°40' 2662 m 08/39 [+ WO Gz]
 wofi (O) white and friable stone /pumice?/

HEM81 Wofela (place near lake, on map of 1868) 12/39 [18]
 same as Wofla below?

HCH11 Wofi (Uofi) 06/35 [+ WO]

HDL45 Wofi, see Woft

HEE46 Wofich 11°16'/39°01' 2763 m 11/39 [Gz]

HDS.. Wofit, "Place of Birds" 10/38 [x]
 at some 20 km north-west of Mertule Maryam in direction of Mota

HEM82 Wofla, see Wefla

HDL45 Wof (Wofi) 09°29'/38°57' 2639 m 09/38 [Gz AA]

JD... Wofaleh 09/41 [x]
 at two days' march from Dire Dawa in direction Addis Abeba
 F. von Kulmer made his camp there on 6 November 1907. It was an empty spot of ground, with a small pool of water and some grass around it so that the animals of the caravan could find some food. Hunting was not good there.
 [F von Kulmer, Im Reiche .., Leipzig 1910 p 135]
 wofu (O) to push, to urge on /mules/;
 wefu (A) the bird

HDK23 Wofu 09°14'/37°52' 1964 m, north of Ambo 09/37 [AA Gz]

HDK23 Wofu 09°19'/37°50' 1814 m, north of Ambo 09/37 [AA Gz]

HE... Wogadar 11/36 [x]
 At the Balarse stream somewhere between Dangila and lake Tana.
 Powell-Cotton passed there in April 1900.
 "At Wogadar is one of the most ancient monasteries in Abyssinia, which at one time sheltered many monks, but now the numbers have dwindled to six or eight. They dress in skins, go barefoot, and their clean-shaven heads are uncovered."
 Large droves of monkeys stayed in the rocks near the monastery and were not driven away, so the monks had to grow food both for themselves and for the monkeys. The outlaws respected them and did not rob their granaries. The monks served as mediators for the tribute which the local people had to pay to the robbers in order to be left in peace.
 [Powell-Cotton 1902 p 268]

JEN53 Wogare (Uogare) (mountain) 13°13'/40°02' 1116 m 13/40 [+ WO Gz]

HDM71 Wogda sub-district, see Wegda ..

HES51 Woged (Uoghed) (area) 13/37 [+ WO]

HES54 Woged (Uoghed) 13°10'/37°48' 2100 m 13/37 [Gz]
 north-east of Dabat

HES62 Woged (Uoghed) (area) 13/37 [+ WO]

HEC08 Wogel (Uoghel) (hill) 10/37 [+ WO]
When driving from the south to Debark one sees a lone volcanic peak which rises high above the undulating plateau. This is the Wogen mountain. There is cultivation to the mid-level on its slopes and scrubby vegetation, indicative of grazing, above.

[Trimingham, Islam in Ethiopia, 1952 p 63 note 2]

Gravestones bearing Arabic inscriptions have been discovered at Woger Hariba in Enderta, southern Tigray, one of which has a date corresponding to 6 Aug. 1006.

[Henze (1977)2001 p 159]
on a terrace to the north of a grassy plain

[Guida 1938]

**HEE94** Wokyeta Maryam (Uochieta Mariam) (church) 11/38 [+ WO]

**HCD99** Wolabo (Uolabo) 06°19'/38°22' 2328 m 06/38 [+ Gz]

**JB...** Woladeyi, cf Uoladdaie 04/42 [18]

**HCK64** Wolage, see Alge

_Wolamo_, ethnic group and language, see Welamo

**HCK52** Wolamo awraja, see Welayita awraja

**HCK52** Wolamo Soddo, see Soddo HCK52

_Wolane_, a dialect of eastern Gurage

**HDD17** Wolan (Uolane) (area), cf Welana 08/38 [+ WO]

**HCR94** Wolango (Uolango) (mountain) 2080 m 08/36 [+ WO]

Wolayta, see Welayta

_Wolayta_ as a name has in later time replaced Welamo, Wellamo in a similar way and for similar reason that the name Oromo has replace Galla.

**HCK52** Wolayta Soddo, see Soddo

**??** Wolde Ramis (in Harar province) ./../ [Mi]

Lead minerals occur in a small 5 km long valley (Ijabuna?) joining the Ramis river near Wolde Ramis.

[Mineral 1966]

**HFD12** Woldeba (Uoldeba, Waldaba, Waldibba, Waldiba) 13/37 [+ WO n Pa]

(Wäldeba, Waldeba, Weldeba, Woldeba) 13°42'/37°45'

Area in the south-eastern part of ancient Amhara country, with a famous monastery Mahbere Samuel. When Ahmed Grañ was chasing Lebne Dengel in the north and north-west in the late 1530s, he also devastated the monastery of Samuel.

[J Doresse 1957 vol II p 291]

The monastery of Wäldeba was attacked by 'Shanqella' in the 1690s. James Bruce says that they made "constant inroads" notably in Wäldeba and "destroyed many of its inhabitants".

[Pankhurst 1997]

In the 1700s a monk at Woldeba devised a cure for smallpox which became popular in Gondar. Something was written on a tin plate which was then washed off with a medicinal liquor and given to the patient to drink.

[James Bruce]

In January 1813 Pearce summed up "the kings now living in Abyssinia, one of them being Tekle Giyorgis, still in Waldeba."

[S Munro-Hay 2002 p 106]

Cardinal Massaia passed there in early 1851, coming from the Lamalmo pass, but he could not visit the famous monastery. He found the locality to be quite hot.

Gerhard Rohlfs, who visited Ethiopia in 1881, describes the Woldeba region as being "next to Debre Damo, Lalibela and Tekle Haymanot the most famous residence of the inhabitants of monasteries". He mentions that at this time about 1,000 monks were living in 17 communities or villages, and in an 18th one, which may not be entered by men, nuns lived.

1960s Continuing from Gondar for about 150 km, the small village of Chew Ber is reached. Only few houses cling to the right side of the road, from which the mountain side falls away steeply. From here arrangements can be made to visit the monasteries. A few kilometres before reaching Chew Ber village, the road, which till this point runs on the left side of the mountain ridge, cuts between two mountain walls to continue on the right side of the mountain. The summit before this division forms a perfect pyramid; on the other side a steep valley falls off from the road. Here a narrow path descends, almost indiscernible for the stranger, leading in about three hours by mule to the Woldeba
monasteries. One passes through long orchards of fruit and coffee trees. The different churches possess many manuscripts from the 1700s and remarkable wall paintings of the same period. Some of the churches may not be visited by women.

[O A Jäger, Antiquities ..., Stuttgart 1965 p 79-80]

2000s

This is a trip that can only be taken by foot and mule, and I /John Graham/ haven't made it there yet. The trip to the closest monastery is a nice, if somewhat long, day trip. Sara & Charles Sherlock and their children made the trip in April 1999. Woldebeba has one of the oldest teaching monasteries of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The most famous visitors were Mary, Joseph and Jesus, who are said to have come here during their sojourn in Egypt. There are many stories about the visit of the Holy family to Ethiopia, but the stop at Woldebeba is the most famous. While there, the Holy family received a divine message that it was time to return to Jerusalem, and they conveniently took a tunnel from Woldebeba directly back.

There are a series of monasteries, so the serious visitor can spend several days travelling deep into the Tekeze valley to see them. If you visit Woldebeba there is basic accommodation at nearby Sekwar Maryam, named after the famous visitor.

[John Graham in Addis Tribune 2000/12/22]
In modern time, Wolkayit is a commercial farming area in the far west of Tigray.
In September 1984, at a time of famine and following misunderstandings with the EPLF, the TPLF constructed its own supply line through Wolkayit to the Sudan.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994]

G. Ellero, Il Uolcait, in Rassegna di Studi Etiopici 7, 1948.

Wolkefit, see Wilkifit

A symmetrical cone with a large crater in basaltic lavas.

[Mohr]

Wollabo 05/39 [Mi]

Valley about 20 km west-south-west of Kibre Mengist.
In this valley chromite debris was found but serpentinite was not. Residual chromite deposits have no commercial value.
[Mineral 1966]

Wollana Creek is 11 km long and is a feeder placer of the Mormora river in Sidamo. It had been partly exploited for gold by handworkers. In the mid-1960s the placer was prospected and was found to be commercially interesting. 341 test pits were dug.
[Mineral 1966]

Wollo, Woollo, name of one of the main groups of the Oromo

Wollo (Uollo) (place and area) 06/38 [+ Gu WO]
see under Agere Selam

Wollo Sabola sub-district (centre in 1964 = Bursa) 06/38 [Ad]

Wolls (recorded in 1841) 09/39 [Ha]

Wolo (Uolo) (area), see under Debre Birhan 09/39 [+ WO]

Wolola Deyta (Uolola Deita) (area) 11/40 [+ WO]
see under Tendaho

Woloncomi, see Welenkomki

Wolta, see Shewa Gimira

Woltega (Uoltega) 08/35 [+ WO]

Woltu (Uoltu, Voltu) 07°04'/35°53' 1530, 2011 m 07/35 [+ WO Gz]
see under Shewa Gimira

Wolu, between lake Ziway and Asela 07/39? [x]
There are local people belonging to the Shune clan of the Arsi Oromo.

Womba 06°33'/36°47' 1702 m 06/36 [Gz]

Womba (lake), see Wombo

Womba (Uomba) 07/36 [+ WO]

Womba (Uomba) 06°49'/37°48' 1862 m, south-east of Soddo 06/37 [Gz]

Womba (Uomba, Oomba) 08°33'/38°51' 2719 m 08/38 [+ Gu Gz]
near Zikwala mountain

Womba (Uomba) 10/37 [+ WO]

Wamber (Wember?) ../.. [x]

In mid-1845 Arnaud d'Abbadie arrived to Asendabo /which one?/ but too late to reach his brother Antoine on his way to the south-west. Arnaud sought the protection of a powerful Mecha Oromo chief who housed him in Womber during the rainy season. He spent the
time in Womber learning Oromo language. It was a little difficult for him to get permission to leave and finally rejoin his brother. [3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1969 p 166]

HDP70 Wombera, see Debre Zeyit
HEM71 Womerat (Uomberat, Ùomberet) (mount. with pass) 12/39 [+ WO Gu Gz]
12°27'/39°28' 2528, 3160 m, west of Alamata, see under Korem
HEE81c Wombergye (Uomberghe) 11/38 [+ Gu]
HDF53 Womerima, see Wanbarma, Wemberma
HFF04 Womberta (Wonberta, Uomberta, Wenberta) 13/39 [x WO Gz +]
13°36'/39°50' 1789 m, area south of Atsbi
HFF04 Womberta sub-district (centre in 1964 = Haremerie) 13/39 [Ad]
HFF04 Womberta wereda (-1994-) 13/39 [n]
HEC16 Wombeta (Uombeta) (area) cf Gish Abay 10/37 [Ch WO]

HCJ72 **Wombo** (Uombo, Womba?, Shisha) 07/36 [x WO]
In a lake area in western Konta with one that Bieber named after himself, but he never saw Wombo. Locally the name is possibly Womba (for a village?) or Shisha for the lake. Wombo simply means lake in Ometi language.

Dr John Eriksson and Helmer Smeds were there in the early 1960s and the Ethiopians of their party were very reluctant to go there. They camped out of sight of the lake. It was wholly surrounded by acacia forest. On the following day, 5 February, three men with no provisions started to go down to the lake. The difference in altitude from the camp at 1700 m proved to be 600 m. A young village man who was intended to be guide disappeared. There was grass double the height of a man. Helmer and his follower Dokamo decided to return, without John noticing. They set fire to grass with the intention to guide him, but this fire became rather dangerous to John.

John Eriksson succeeded to reach the marshy shore of the lake, believing to be the first white man ever having been there. He saw thousands of birds, but at such distance that he could not determine species. He got so thirsty and exhausted on his way up to the camp that he seemed in danger of dying.

They finally discovered why local people refused to go near the lake. They thought that Setana (Satan) lives in the lakes, and even the domestic animals do not go there.

[J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Sthlm 1966 p 79-85]

?? Wona Badera, south of Angolala 09/39? [Ha]
In the 1840s it was the residence of Abegaz Marech, "with his feudal train of Abitchu".

[Harris vol II p 150]
"The governor, or, in fact, the king of all the Galla now dependent on Shoa, is Abogáz Marech -- At first a bitter enemy of Sáhela Selássie, this haughty warrior chief, renowned for his bravery, was finally gained over by bribes and by promises of distinction and advancement, which have actually been fulfilled. -- he contrives to keep in some sort of order the wild spirits over whom he presides."

[W C Harris, The highlands ..., vol III, London 1844 p 40]

HCK08 Wonago, see Wenago

?? Wonchet. ./. [x]
The Swedish BV missionary Anna-Lena Jönsson made a wide caravan trip in 1933/?. She also writers about Wonchet, a border river of the Were Ilu district. She also mentions Wonchet Af-af which locally seemed to have the name Micheg. and be a market place where the products of black wool were sold. The terrain was steep and it was very difficult country to travel in.

[A-L Röstin, Arvet i främlingars hand, Sthlm 1936 p 35-38]

HEC97c Woncheta Kidus Mikael 11/37 [+ Gu]
(Uoncheta Cuddus Micael) (church)

HDD74 Wonchi, see Wenchi
Woncho Dimma (in Sidamo)  
A copper show occurs near Woncho Dimma near the Shakiso-Dawa River road about 5 km before reaching the river (T. Fesah 1963). Copper shows are connected with epidosite and garnet. Malachite occurs around the garnet. The deposit is not considered to be commercially interesting.

[Mineral 1966]

Wondate (Uondate, Uondale) 12°03'39"019' 3235 m east of Lalibela

Wondera (in Welamo awraja)  
The primary school in 1968 had 173 boys and 3 girls in grades 1-5, with two teachers.

Wonjiye sub-district (centre in 1964 = Kunzila Giyorgis)  
wondiye got: got (A) hill

Wondiye Got (Uondie Got) 12°37' [+ WO]  

Wondo, see Wendo

Woneds (Uoneds) (mountains) 12°03'/40°06' 12°40' [+ WO]

Wonfeso (Uonfosc), see Tentari

Wongeto (Uongheto) 11/37 [+ WO]

Woni (Uoni) (area), cf Weni 07/34 [+ WO]

Wonjera (Uongera), see Jajura

Wonji, see Wenji

Wono 08/37 [LM]

Wopolo, see Wokolo

wora (O) greeting, equal /of the same people, spouse, etc/

Wora Jiro, see Were Jiru

woraba (Gurage) hyena /zoological names see under jibb/

Worab (Uorab), see under Sidisto 09/39 [+ WO]

cf Waraba, Weraba, Worraba

worabbo (O) antelope, hartebeest; (Som) hyena

Worabbo (Uorabbo), cf Warabo, Werabo 07/35 [+ Gu]

worabessa, woraablesa, orabeysa (O) spotted hyena,

Crocuta crocuta /see also jibb/

Worabesi Raratu (area) 03/39 [WO]

Worabeysa (Uorabeisa) (area) 09/42 [+ WO]

Worabile (Worabili, Uorrible) (area) 10/35 [+ 18 WO]

cf Werabile

pict

Gleichen 1898 p 73-74 travellers' camp.

worago: worega (O) votive gift

Worago (Uorago), see HD705 Werk Amba

Worakalu, see under Aira 09/35 [Mi]

Worancha (Worench) 06/38 [20 x]

about 25 km south-west of Arbegona

An (unconfirmed) report says that the Ethiopian air force bombed villages in Jamjam in March 1981:

"All life, including the vegetation, was burnt up in this large valley in the Worencha district of Sidamo province. Usually, 20-30,000 people live in this fertile and productive valley. Many people fled from the area as the rumour of the attack was heard. Thousands of people were killed in the attack."

[Mekuria Bulcha, Flight and integration, 1988 p 108]

In 1984 collaborating Swedish missions started a large forest planting project in the Worancha area, 450 km south of Addis Ababa. In 1988 over 700,000 trees were planted
and in 1989 the plan was to plant one million. The species most commonly planted were Eucalyptus globulus and E. robusta but also some Pinus sp. and Juniperus procera.

Several thousand people worked in the project.

[Svenska journalen 1989 no 3 p 18]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JCU20</th>
<th>Worarey (Uorarei)</th>
<th>07/44 [+ WO]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HC...</td>
<td>Woraše</td>
<td>05/37 [x]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A local 'spirit serving' woman Sue Bengere became Evangelical Christian. She was sent by the Norwegian mission as the first teacher in her former home village Woraše. Many years later, in the 1970s, Jorunn Hamre made a visit there together with Sue. Riding to there in rather virgin landscape they also had to cross a river. They entered a place Kashe where Sue still had relatives. They also saw the Kinta mountain. Sue proved to be a very convinced and forceful preacher.

[J Hamre, Tra trollkvinne ..., Oslo 1982 p 100, 191-194]

worche: worke (O) gold; worki (T?) land tenure by right of purchase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDE61c</th>
<th>Worche (Uorce)</th>
<th>08/38 [+ Gu]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDE84</td>
<td>Woreda, wereda (A) district</td>
<td>08/38 [+ WO]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HFE16</td>
<td>Worege (village in Temben)</td>
<td>13/39 [x]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Woremo, an Oromo tribe, see Weremo

| HDM..  | Worena wereda | 09/39 [x] |
| HDU72  | Woreyilu, see Were Ilu |

Worga, in Albaso east of lake Langano | 07/39? [x]

There are local people belonging to the Eldidu clan of the Arsi Oromo. In the late 1960s there was a Danish mission station, at two days' riding from Dodola, with a family of missionaries and nurse Edel Jørgensen. She was the one who started there and who worked for a whole year alone. Patients were Arussi and Sidamo, mostly the last-mentioned.

From around 1964 there were serious disturbances in the area. At one time several hundred rebels came to the Danish mission station at Worga and asked for treatment. Their leader kept his men under strict discipline, and they departed after treatment. He warned the Danes about the risk of staying, but even so they remained.

When a government officer was killed, the Danes were ordered to flee within an hour. Nurse Edel carried a small sick child with her. They took refuge in the Norwegian mission station at Gata, not far from Ganale Doria river.

Next morning a young local man went to see what had happened to the Worga station. Everything had been torn apart and spread on the ground, even the roofs and windows, and much property had disappeared. Nurse Edel was not permitted to return, so instead she went on leave to Denmark and took the Sidamo child with her.

[S Hunnestad, Sidamo i morgenlys, 1969 p 250-252]
wokra, worrka (A,O) kinds of large wild fig tree, such as Ficus vasta, F. dahro, F. sur

HCG18 Worka (Uorca) (area), cf Warka, Werka 06/35 [+ WO]
HCP17 Worka (Uorka) 1559 m 07/36 [+ WO]
HEH99 Workada (Uorcada) (area) 12/36 [+ WO]
HET28 Workadinu (Uorcadinu) 13/39 [LM WO]
HDA35 Workaye (Worqai) 08°25'/35°17' 1535 m 08/35 [Gz Ad]

worke (O) ensete plant

H... Worke, see Werke
HFE17 Worke Bet, see Werkibet
?? Worke Nasse, see Werke Nasse
H... Worko 08/38 [18]
HFE16 Worku Amba, see Werk Amba
woro (Gurage) python snake, Python sebae

HEK52c Woro (Uoro) (mountain) 12/37 [+ Gu]
HEK12 Worota, see Werota
HEC99c Worreta, see Werota

worraba (Uorraba), see Urabe

JEA63 Worrababu (Uorrababo) (area) 11/40 [+ WO]

HBL94 Worra (Uorra) (area) 10/39 [+ WO]
HEF35 Worra Bicho (Uorro Biccio) 11/39 [+ Gu]
HEF35 Worra Bicho (Uorra Bisciu) (area) 11/39 [+ WO]
HEC99c Worreta, see Werota

worro jarso: Warra Jarso, name of a Tulama Oromo tribe; jaarsa, jaarsa (O) old, respectable /man/

HDK96 Worro Jarso (Uorro-Giarso) (area) 09/38 [+ WO]
HEK12 Worrota, see Werota
worro jarso: Warra Jarso, name of a Tulama Oromo tribe; jaarsa, jaarsa (O) old, respectable /man/

HBK87 Worsiso (Uorsiso, D.) (area) cf Warsessa
wart mirre: mirre (O) plateau, table-land

JCT94 Wort Mirre (Uort Mirre) (area) 1155 m 08/43 [+ WO]

Village in the Arenna area straight south of Dodola, centre of awraja since 1989.

The Norwegian mission at Agere Selam had to some extent made itself known there. Later the Danish Evangelical Mission sent Gebre Selasse Bune there as evangelist. Ethel Petersen started a clinic at Worqa in 1963. Sven Aage Klarskov became the first head of the mission station. He and his wife Martha worked in Bale in 1958-1968. Ethel took over for a while after they had left. Nurse Nina Pedersen came in 1964. Bent and Lydia Christensen directed the station after Nina. They arrived in 1970 and left in 1977 when all the Danish missionaries had to abandon the field (they fled from Dodola on 14 July 1977). One of the local teacher, Tegene Wolde, then took over to be leader of the station and the district, and he was still at that post at least by 1989. He had been with the SIM in Adaba first before he became a member of the Mekane Yesus Church.

A local leader Negash Degefú in Dodola once sent two young Sidamo men to walk home to Worqa from the Bible school in Dodola. Their route was through Oromo country and they were killed. Negash had to feel very guilty that he had not given them money so that they could have gone with some truck or motorcar.

[T Salmelid, Kallets kamp i Bale, Oslo 1990, p 35, 28]
HE... Worteya sub-district (centre in 1964 = Jari Filwiha) 11/39 [Ad]
JCC04 Woruoro (Uoruro, Uaruoro) 05°27'/41°58' 353 m 05/41 [+ Gz]
HDS98 Worya sub-district (centre in 1964 = Mertle Maryam) 10/38 [Ad]
HEC37 Wosem (Uosem) (area) 11/37 [+ WO]
HC... Wosera (centre in 1964 of Wasera sub-district) woshi (O) rebel 07/37 [Ad]
HCK21 Wosho (Uoscio) (mountain) 06°32'/37°38' 2189 m west of northernmost lake Abaya 06/37 [+ WO Gz]
HCP04 Wosho, see Wushwush woshu (Gimir) kind of tree, Croton macrostachys
HCH15 Woska (Uosca) (area), cf Weska 06/36 [+ WO]
HCJ65 Wossi (Uossi) 06°57'/37°04' 1799 m south-west of Waka 06/37 [+ Gz]
HCH71 Wota, see Shewa Gimira
JDC48 Wotalche (Uotalce) (area) 08/42 [+ WO]
HCS03 Wotanna (Uotanna) 07°17'/37°49' 2610 m 07/37 [+ WO Gz]
HCK98 Wotati (Uotati) (area) 2212 m 07/38 [+ WO]
HEE77 Wotegye (Uoteghie), see under Bete Hor 11/39 [+ WO]
HFE05 Wotellako (Uotellaco) 13°37'/38°54' 1682 m west of Abiy Adi 13/38 [+ WO Gu]
JDJ31 Woter, see Weter wotet: wetet (wätät) (A) milk
HEC55c Wotet Abay 11/37 [LM]
HDM74 Woti (M. Uoti) 09°44'/39°44' 3190 m 09/39 x WO Gz
HEF03 Wottie (Uottie) 10°56'/39°40' 2450 m 10/39 [+ Gz] south of Kombolcha
HEH65 Wotta (Uotta) 12/36 [+ WO]
HEF72 Wouchale, see Wichale woya (O) big, better
HBL92 Woybi, see Web
HCJ29 Woyde sub-district (Woydie, Uoidie) 1909 m (centre in 1964 = Dawi), see under Bole 06/37 [+ Ad WO]
?? Woyu, not far from Kibre Mengist ../.. [+ x]
Ritual centre of the southern Guji groups Mati, Uraga and Hoku.
wub hamer: hamer (hamär) (A) ark; xamar (Som) 1. tamarind; 2. dark red colour;
Hamar, name of an ethnic group in the south-west of Ethiopia

HCB47 Wub Hamer, see Wib Hamer
HCB47 Wub Hamer wereda (Wib ..) (centre in 1964 = Gob) 05/36 [Ad]
HEM02 Wubete, see Weldiya
HE... Wubete 2112 m, in Yeju awraja (centre in 1964 of Guba Lafto wereda) 11/39? [Ad]
H.... Wuchache (mountain), see Wechecha? Wuchale, a branch of the Arsi-Siqo Oromo
HEF72 Wuchale, see Wichale
HFE63c Wuchate Golo (ancient quarry) 14/38 [Pa]
see under Aksum
wulbareg: Ulbarag, name of a group of Gurage speaking their own dialect Ulbaraj, by 1950 still considered to be mainly pagan [Trimingham]

1920s "Ubarak, a teeming open-air market where thousands of people congregated, and where a whole day was spent in trying to alleviate some of the all too evident misery of neglected trachomateous eyes and foul smelling ulcers. Then a long and precipitous climb led to Kambatta, --"

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 141]

wuli (O) agreement

Published online by the Nordic Africa Institute library | nai.uu.se/library 23 of 26
A small part of the Baka ethnic group, with their own settlement area.
[Ad E Jensen 1959 p 29]

HDS.. Wun 10/37 [x]
Village north/?/ of Dembecha. The hunter Powell-Cotton camped close to there in March 1900. To arrive to that camp his party had crossed the Gusar stream by a bridge and forded two other rivers where there were only footbridges. "Here I doctored several people for itch, a disease which seems very prevalent in this country: whole villages suffer from it/a kind of allergy?"
[Powell-Cotton 1902 p 220]

HEJ05 Wunde 11/37 [x]
A village near where the Little Abay flows into lake Tana. Powell-Cotton camped there in the beginning of May 1900. The area was well populated, but to the west outlaws had gradually driven the people away so that they had congregated in the south-west corner of the shore area.
[Powell-Cotton 1902 p 274]

?? Wurabe 11/37 [n]
A trading community along the main road from Butajira to Hosaina.

HF... Wurahot sub-district (centre in 1964 = Cheka) 14/39? [Ad]
HCS77 Wurbareg sub-district (centre in 1964 = Werabi) 07/38 [Ad x]
cf Urbarag, Werbarag, Wulbareg

wuruch (A) mountain land above 3,200 m altitude

HEF73 Wurgessa (Wurghessa, Wurgiesa), see Wergesa

HBK47 Wurre, G. (area) 04/38 [WO]
HBS30 Wurseso, G. (hill) 04/37 [WO]

?? Wurwita (in Borena) 13/37 [20]
With assistance from the International Lutheran Aid a dam was built there in 1996. It was 8 m deep when full and could supply three villages with water. The name of the Water Committee chairman was Kulele Galgalo. During the drought in 1999 there was only one metre depth of water left.
[Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 2000 no 1]

HDE72 Wuse (village) see under Sebeta 08/38 [x]

wush (western Eth) kind of tree, Croton macrostachys

?? Wusha Turus, see Wisha Tirs

HC... Wushayie sub-district (-1964-1997-) 07/37 [Ad n]
(centre in 1964 = Dalie)

HC... Wushayie wereda (centre in 1964 = Wushayie) 07/37 [Ad]

?? Wushkante 06/36? [n]
Within its local area in Gemu Gofa this village was one of the major receivers of emergency supplies dropped from the air in early 1977.
[Svenska vingar .., 1999 p 49]

HCP04 Wushwush (Wishwish, Gari) 07°18'/36°08' 2033 m 07/36 [Gz Ad]
(Wush Wush, Wosho? Wushé?), west of Bonga, with coffee farm
(centre in 1964 of Gimbo wereda)

1950s The Red Cross pilot and Air Force teacher Carl Gustaf von Rosen received the Wushwush farm as reward for his services to Ethiopia.
It was in 1956 that he received about 80 hectares (or over 200 hectares according to another source) "of jungle in an area that no Ethiopian was interested in". His son supervised cleaning. The farm was operated jointly by the von Rosen family and by Ivar thomsen (a man who had founded the Swedish-Ethiopian Co. in the 1940s) Count von Rosen took loans and said around 1970 that he had not gained any money at all from the farm so far.
1960s 
Operations started in 1961 and the harvest of coffee was 800 kg in the starting year but 4,000 kg in 1965.
Resident at the farm in late 1960 were Count Nils Gustaf von Rosen (b 1950 as son of Carl Gustaf) with wife Britt (b 1936?). Their post address was in Jimma which continued at least during 1965. By March 1966 the family had with them a son born in Sweden.
Nils Gustaf was an air technician and private pilot, but he could not become a commercial pilot because he needed to use eyeglasses.
When Ivar Thomsen died his part of the farm was taken over by his son Bertil Thomsen.

1970s
By 1971 there were about 100 employed at the farm, or about 300 persons living there including children. These families had their own housing, some land for domestic cultivation and keeping of animals. There was a clinic free of charge and a school for grades 1-2 (the nearest "real" school was at a distance of 6 kilometres).
Nils Gustaf went to Ethiopia in 1975 to fly "food bombing" for the Lutheran Aid. After an air crash he was away for six months but returned again.
[News + Tenaestelin(Sthlm) 1972 no 1 p 20-23 calling the farm Wosho]
In the early 1960s Dr John Eriksson went to Wushwush to see the government-owned coffee plantation administered by a German Mr Buchholz. There were 600,000 coffee trees in the farm. Mail could be received by two men walking for three days to Jimma, staying one day there and returning by walking for three days again.
Eriksson had trouble with the police at the market place who wanted to take his camera. He had shown his papers to the chief of police before and was now given excuse from him for the incident. Eriksson continued some 20 km eastwards to Bonga.
[J Eriksson, Okänt Etiopien, Sthlm 1966 p 97-98]

1980s
In late 1984 tenders were invited for prequalification to construct a tea processing factory at the state-owned Wush Wush tea estate in Kefa. George Williamson & Co. from the UK had made the drawings. The factory was expected to produce 1,200 tonnes of black tea annually.
[News]

1990s
The village is 92 km from Mizan Teferi. At 5 km from the village there is a 1240-hectare tea plantation, 2.3 km off the Mizan Teferi-Jimma road. It has a packaging factory and a guest lodge.
[Lonely planet 2000 p 274]

??
Wusha Turus, see Wisha Tirs

HDL54
Wusmani 09°34'/38°51' 2640 m 09/38 [AA Gz]

H....
Wutinyi (Wutigni) 08/37 [+ Ad]
(center in 1964 of Agemjai sub-district)

HFL17
Wutuh (Wut'uh) 14°36'/39°05' 1486 m 14/39 [Gz]
north of Inticho on the border of Eritrea

HEK..
Wuzava 12/37 [x]
In the 1950s, with the aid of funds from the Jewish Agency, Yona Bogala helped set up and run a teacher-training school in Asmara, which was later transferred to the village of Wuzava, near Ambober (Ambover), the largest Beta-Israel village. Two of the school buildings in Asmara were burnt down in 1958. The authorities refused to help the Falashas, who were forced to close the boarding school and send the students home. Around the same time, the Jewish Agency decided to cut off most of its aid to Falasha schools.
Under Yona's guidance the Beta-Israel, relying on their own meagre resources, set up a new central school in Ambover with teachers who had returned from Kfar Batya in Israel.
[L Rapoport, Redemption song, USA 1986 p 45]

JCG58
Wyndlawn (caves) 06/39 [18]
Arthur Donaldson Smith in 1894 named the underground caves of the Web river after his summer home Wyndlawn near Philadelphia. Of course this foreign-given name did not catch on, see Sof Omar.

Wyrambu (with sub-post office) ../.. [Po]
The spelling WYRAMBU is used on the postmark.