

yirba muda, damaged Nuxia tree?

irba (O) 1. kind of small tree, Nuxia congesta; 2. stick for stirring food;

muda (O) 1. defect, imperfection; 2. butter used for women's make up;

mudda (O) girth, strap keeping a saddle or load on the back of an animal

HCE83 **Yirba Muda** (Y. Mudda, Irba Moda, I. Muda, Yirba) 06/38 [Gz WO It Br]

(Y. Moda, Irra Moda, Abba Muda)

Gz: 06°12'/38°42' 2492 m; MS: 06°01'/38°43' = HCE63, 2597 m

in Jemjem awraja, at 57 km from Kibre Mengist

1930s In an area inhabited by Jemjem and groups of Amhara.

[Guida 1938]

1960s The primary school in 1968 had 106 boys and 24 girls

in grades 1-4, with 3 teachers.

In the 1970s with Norwegian mission station of the NLM.

1990s "There is at least one basic hotel (painted yellow). Irba Muda is ringed by cultivation, but it's all pristine forest and lush highland meadow beyond a radius of one kilometre or so."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

HCE48 Yirbora, see Irbora

HCD88 Yirega Cheffe, see Yirga Chefe

yirga (A) "let it remain", royal decree allowing the holders to retain the land they already hold

HFk14 Yirga 14°38'/37°55' 1347 m, near border of Eritrea 14/37 [Gz]

yirga alem (A) "may the world stay as it is"

HC... Yirga Alem, in Kefa awraja 07/36? [Ad]

Sudan Interior Mission school in 1968 had 31 boys and 2 girls

in grades 1-2, with two male teachers (Ethiopian).

HCL40 **Yirga Alem** (Yirgalem, Irgalem, Yrgalem, Dalle) 06/38 [Gz Po WO Gu]

(Yergalem, Jergaalam, Irgaalem, Irg Alem, Agraria?) 06/38 [x]

Gz: 06°45'/38°25' 1777 m; distance 315 km from A.A.

MS: 06°40'/38°15' 1759 m

MS coordinates would give map code HCK38

about 10 km to the south-west.

With post office.

Centre at least 1964-1980 of Sidama awraja.

1930s When a German ethnological expedition passed southwards in late November 1934 they rented from Elias Papassinos a not yet quite completed house as simple lodging. The Greek would also send supplies to them 'in the field'. They made a courtesy call on Fitawrari Ademma (Adama). At his *gibbi* was a radio telegraph station which could only be used by officials. Market was held every five days, but shops of Greeks and Armenians were open every weekday. The Germans bought animals and started a caravan from Yirga Alem.

[Jensen 1936 p 60-72]

1935 When the Germans returned northwards in March 1935, they found that a lot of mail for them had been deposited with Papassinos but that he had never forwarded any of it.

[Jensen p 266-268]

The town was estimated to have a population of 6,000-7,000 around 1935. It had replaced Agere Selam as administrative centre of Sidamo. Ras Desta Damtew was governor of Sidamo and Borena from 1932 (but he represented Ethiopia in Washington in 1933). He was assisted by Fitawrai Adama as administrator and by Nagadras Sahle as director general of customs.

By 1935 the road from Addis Abeba was ready and Yirga Alem was served by 15 lorries.

There was a telephone station and a post office which received mail from Wellamo on Wednesdays and dispatched mail by the same road on Monday mornings.

There was a Catholic mission led by Père Exupère and a Protestant mission of the Sudan Interior Mission at least since 1933.

There was a medical doctor Chachka.
 Importers-exporters Seferian et Cie traded particularly in salt.
 Importers-exporters in general were Papassinos Frères.
 General merchants listed by Adrien Zervos were
 Costas Kapoyanopoulos
 D. Missailidis
 Maison Karam (agent Ed. Ashkar)
 Cost. Dellis
 Jean Pogharian
 G. Economides
 V. Kalvoda
 Akberally Djiwar
 P. Tatitcheff
 Some person Youssef had plantations near Yirga Alem.

[Zervos 1936 p 390-391]

Dr Hylander's group of the Swedish Red Cross ambulance on their way to the southern front made a brief stay in Yirga Alem where they met Ras Desta and his wife Princess Tenanyewerk. The ambulance departed on 6 December 1935 southwards. They were escorted by one Balambaras Siyoum, with three 'decrepit' government motorcars, photo on page 105. /The Norwegian Ambulance for the same front did not leave Oslo in their home country until the following day./

[F Hylander, I detta tecken ..., Sthlm 1936 p 50-53]

1936 After the Swedish ambulance had been bombed by the Italians, two airplanes started from Addis Abeba on 2 January 1936 to fly wounded Swedes from Negele. The planes were piloted by von Rosen and Weber. They landed in Yirga Alem for refueling. Weber refused to continue to near the war front, and von Rosen left alone for Negele.

A couple of weeks later when von Rosen flew with Abba Hanna and the Swedish consul Hanner on board, to look for where the retreating Swedish ambulance was, the Italians shot so much at the plane that after spending a night at a small place, pilot Carl Gustaf von Rosen continued alone to Yirga Alem.

[Svenska vingar ..., Sthlm 1999 p 9]

On 14 October 1935 the Norwegian Red Cross decided to send an ambulance to Ethiopia. Five men were recruited, surgeon Gunnar Ulland, doctor Johannes Kvittingen, diakon David Westborg, marine sergeant Asbjørn Alsterberg and 'globetrotter' Kåre Gulbrandsen. Dr Ulland, head of the Norwegian Ambulance, was very surprised when he was asked to fly down to Yirga Alem on 29 January with von Rosen's airplane while the rest of the ambulance would follow in lorries. He felt offended when Dr Lambie insisted on going with the same small plane, meaning that Dr Ulland could take with him almost nothing of his medical equipment. They landed near dusk on the field, a couple of kilometres outside the town, which was used as landing ground. They were met by four members of the bombed Swedish ambulance, and these four were to be taken to Addis Abeba on the following day. They were Dr Norup, Dr Smith, Pastor Svensson and the former legionnaire Allander who was very ill. After dinner outdoors in motorcar headlights, Ulland slept in the only available hotel, run by a Greek. At breakfast in the hotel he met the Belgian military adviser, Lieutenant Frère, who complained that Ras Desta did not follow his advice and that Desta's army had become scattered in all directions. When riding through the main street to the mission station a couple of kilometres from the hotel, Ulland saw red crosses painted at several houses and did not immediately understand that such houses were those of prostitutes (in Gulbrandsen's book they are called black crosses)..

Ulland started medical work at the mission station. His first patient was a balambaras. Some patients built huts of branches in the forest around the station. Everyone was eager to have an injection, so it happened that Ulland gave injections containing only water. Four days after Dr Ulland's arrival the lorries with the rest of the ambulance also came to Yirga Alem. Ulland decided on a site over 3 km north of the town for their camp,

sufficiently far away considering the risk of Italian air attacks. Princess Tenagnewerq, seconded by Abba Hanna, wanted the camp to be to the south, near to her own premises, but Ulland after inspecting the area refused to place his ambulance there. At the camp they made no camouflage but spread a large Red Cross flag 14 x 14 m on the ground. Gulbransen was sent back with the four lorries to fetch the remaining equipment, and this gave opportunity for the /mostly/ American missionaries to go to the capital. Only Devers, Mitchell and Smith remained. Mr Smith was an optimist and humorist. He had false teeth and used to take them out to astonish the local people. In Addis Abeba Gulbransen had to acquire enough of the coins *besa* and *tamun*, the only usable means of payment in the south.

Doctor Kvittingen arranged for a well to be dug, with good water, and he had brought a pump from Belgium. There was also plenty of rain already in February.

Most patients were afraid of surgical operations. The Ethiopian assistant Densa helped with narcosis. The Norwegians were trying through the Princess to ask her husband Ras Desta to be permitted to move nearer to the front.

[G Ulland, Under Genferkorset .., Oslo 1936 p 25-40]

Bombing at some distance on 9 March was the first direct signs of war experienced by the Norwegians. The patients who could move mostly scattered into the forest.

It was a surprise that about 300 Tigrayans arrived who had deserted from the Italian forces. They were well armed and equipped. The local Ethiopians were somewhat suspicious of them - were they even sent by the Italians? - so all shooting in Yirga Alem was forbidden, something that also prevented the ambulance from acquiring food by hunting (but many shots were heard despite the order).

One Captain Taylor of the British Legation, who came to collect information, thought concerning the ambulance that it would be good to have a surgical base hospital at quite some distance from the front.

After bombing with mustard gas on 19 March, the ambulance had 51 patients damaged by gas. They collected metal pieces from the bombs and used one as gong-gong. Princess Tenagnewerq came to see the patients, was upset and cried, and asked for doctors to the front immediately. On 24 March Kvittingen and Gulbransen departed towards the south with 18 mule loads of equipment.

There remained much to do at the original camp. Ras Desta's sister Beletesh was operated for a serious peritonitis while Tenagnewerq and Abba Hanna watched.

After the princesses and Abba Hanna had been taken by air to Addis Abeba, Grasmach Welde Giyorgis arrived to be the local governor. Ulland found him intolerant and kept as much as possible to Negadras Sahle for his questions.

At Easter the Norwegians received mail from home, the first letters in seven weeks and the most recent being four weeks old. Ulland's group of the ambulance departed southwards on 23 April with 50 pack animals and 25 porters. Just before Italian planes had dropped sheets telling that the Italians had occupied Dessie and would soon enter Addis Abeba. A mission physician Roberts had arrived from the west and took over the patients and much of the material. The Norwegians had treated over 2,000 patients and carried out over 100 surgical operations before they left.

[Ulland 1936 p 46-60 + K Gulbransen (1956)1957 p 206-208, 224-232]]

Young missionaries Mitchell and Devers were worried for their relatives in Addis Abeba because of a letter they received in early May. They set off to go to the capital, but after two days their caravan was attacked on 9 May and the missionaries killed. Rumour that Addis Abeba had been occupied started in Yirga Alem on 11 May, through what the Belgian Mr Bleys had heard on his radio. On 22 May a three-engine Italian airplane passed so low over the ambulance camp that their flag on the ground was blown several metres away. They dropped a little bag containing a letter from the Swedish consul Knut Hanner to the Swedish and Norwegian ambulances, advising them to show where they could be found and to hand themselves over to the Italians.

The attitude in the town against white people, especially from the 300 Tigrayans, became increasingly hostile. The white people other than the ambulance, 9 Greeks and

Armenians, sought refuge at the coffee plantation of Mr Bleys, some 60 km north of Yirga Alem and a little south of Shashemene. Hubert Bleys and another Belgian Colaris on 14 June were arrested - unfairly - for espionage and the radio receiver was confiscated so there were no more news. The nine refugees were forced to go back to town and open their shops again. Gulbransen had difficulties to be allowed to leave the town, and finally he did so /at some date between 18 and 28 June/ without mules and without escort.

[Ulland 1936 p 93-97]

Yirga Alem was hit by Italian poison gas bombs on 17, 19, and 31 March 1936.

[Sbacchi 1997 p 175]

Negadras Sahle more and more lost his grip on the situation. He let out 200 life-time convicts from the prison. He told the missionaries that Gebre Mariam with 6,000 men had come to town and was camping near the *gibbi*. When Gulbransen wanted to go southwards to the Norwegian ambulance, Welde Giyorgis (representing Ras Desta), did not provide any animals for him. Gulbransen tried to threaten Welde Giyorgis with revenge, because he had whipped an 18-year young man practically dead, probably not for real theft but rather as part of a conflict with a big man.

There was a Catholic mission station at Bera where Padre Ambroise had remained.

Robbers came to him and asked for money. When he unlocked his cash-box he took out, not money but a revolver, and shot the nearest robber. He was brought to the gallows in the town square, but a robber was also later seen hanging about 50 m from the mission station.

An Italian letter signed General Magliocco was dropped at the ambulance site. It said that if they felt endangered they should lay on the ground a square of white cloth. Welde Giyorgis happened to come riding at the same time, so Gulbransen kicked away the square he had laid out. Soon after he asked the Ethiopian military leaders to come to the camp. Meeting Welde Giyorgis, Fitawrari Desta and Grazmach Gebrai he persuaded them to promise not to shot at single low-flying planes that came to drop messages.

By mid-June there was increasing plundering and unrest. Kenyazmach Tsegai was the one who supervised the catching and punishing of criminals. "In the town square there was always some one hanging in the five gallows."

On 18 June Dr Ulland succeeded to phone Gulbransen from Agere Selam and asked him to join them. Grazmach Redda would bring the travel pass. From the ambulance camp they saw those arrested at Wendo being led past - Bleys, Colaris and the nine Greeks and Armenians. Gulbransen heard later that the last-mentioned were set free, but that Bleys and Colaris were hanged half an hour later.

Gulbransen and Smith were unexpectedly really given some mules by Welde Giyorgis so they rapidly left, meeting with the rest of the Norwegian ambulance in Dilla (and Smith soon returning, see below).

[K Gulbransen, (Oslo 1956) Jag sökte äventyret, 1957 p 206-208, 224-232, 240-259]

The Swedish Red Cross ambulance on its retreat spent a couple of weeks 28 June - 13 July at Yirga Alem and were not permitted to move northwards through Arussi. The tall man Smith, a missionary from New Zealand employed for the Ethiopian Red Cross, told them that the roads were unsafe and that they had better wait. The Vice-Governor also did not allow them to leave.

[K Johansson, På äventyr ..., Sthlm 1936, p 176-190]

Smith had returned from Negele and been ordered by his chief, Dr Lambie, to remain in Yirga Alem. There was a robust house at his station where the Swedes could stay. (Mr Smith had tested the walls by shooting at them.)

The Italians had not bombed the station but flying low they had dropped letters with questions addressed to Mr Smith. He did not answer them. The Swedes put up one of their large tents and treated patients, up to 140 per day.

Mr Smith had worked for about three years in Ethiopia and knew Oromo language well. At an early stage he got some of his information about the war from some Belgian coffee plantation men at some distance north of the town. These Belgians had a small radio receiver. After the Italians had entered Addis Abeba there were lots of telegrams from

there.

In Yirga Alem there was at the time a force of about 300 Tigrayans used as a kind of city guard or police force.

The Swedish ambulance had exhausted their medicines, partly by sending to the Norwegian ambulance, and they sold off some general equipment. Mr Smith wanted to leave together with the Swedes, but it took some time before the Ethiopian authorities permitted it and included him in the travel pass. All doors of the mission station were sealed with evidence that they had been closed by Mr Smith himself. Negadras Sahle handed over some quite valuable presents of horns and skins. Their caravan started in the morning of 13 July in bright sunshine. They had worked out a plan for going towards Kenya and to meet with the Norwegian ambulance on the way.

[G Agge, *Med Röda Korset* ..., Sthlm 1936 p 163, 165, 169, 174 and partly same author in F Hylander, *I detta tecken*, Sthlm 1936 p 295-305]

1937 Viceroy Rodolfo Graziani on 7 January 1937 flew to Yirga Alem to move his headquarters to there and direct personally the final attack on Ras Desta and against the continued resistance of Dejazmach Gebre Mariam.

[Sbacchi 1997 p 175]

Post office of the Italians was opened 24 February 1937 (or 1 March?).

Its cancellations first read IRGALEM*GALLA E SIDAMA but from 1 November 1937 the name used by the Italian administration was changed to DALLE*GALLA E SIDAMA as they wanted to counteract Amhara-given names in favour of old local names.

[Philatelic source]

The roads Yirga Alem-Shashemene 71 km and Yirga Alem-Wendo 22 km were listed by the Italians in 1938 as "piste mediocri".

1940s "We /the British forces in May 1941/ passed a fairly recently-built Italian settlement called Dalle. We had a fleeting glimpse of a row of attractive villas, with well-planned gardens, fragrant with the scent of roses and flowering shrubs. I liked what I saw of Dalle in spite of its newness. There was a rural peace and charm in its green setting on the banks of a cascading stream that bounded down a hillside."

[MacDonald 1957 p 204]

"A pleasant, straggling village afflicted with a sultry climate."

[David Buxton]

Ras Abebe Aregay (1905-1960), most known as resistance leader against the Italians, was Governor General of Sidamo 1941-1942.

After the liberation, the Ethiopian post office was opened on 5 June 1943.

Doctor Åke Holm (b 1912), who as a young man had been with the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance in 1935-36, worked as head of the provincial hospital in Yirga Alem 1946-1947. There were also other Swedish medical staff at this hospital in a period about 1946-1952.

Norsk Luthersk Misjinsamband, NLM, who had to abandon their mission in the Far East, wanted to open Evangelical mission at Dilla and Yirga Alem instead. In an audience with the Emperor on 13 February 1948 they got a positive answer from him. By the end of 1948 there were already 12 NLM missionaries in Ethiopia, of which seven were experienced from mission in China.

For the Yirga Alem station in 1948 arrived Magnar Magerøy (b 1914) and nurse Ellen Agnes Magerøy (b 1915), nurse Elisa Sunde (b 1911) who had been in Manchuria, and Kristine Svendsen (b 1914) educated as teacher. Elisa became the first nurse at the Norwegian clinic, together with Elina Rønningstad (later married Kirkengren). The name of the first doctor was Lende. He was succeeded by Dr Magnus Tausjø, who first served in Nekemte and then held the position in Yirga Alem for eleven years, being also provincial medical officer.

1949 During 1949 arrived Kristine Skjeslien (b 1913) educated as teacher and who had been in China, and Brynhild Sagberg (b 1917) educated as teacher and partly placed at Dilla. The Yirga Alem station of Norsk Luthersk Misjons-

samband was started in February 1949.

The hospital had one doctor and 50 beds in 1949.

The Mission had been promised to rent a small site and buy an existing local house, but when Magerøy arrived, there were still people living in that house. The first night he slept in the trailer of his car under a large tree on the site. Later it took quite some time to get the house in order. In the beginning one room served for all purposes, except that the kitchen stove had its own roof outside. The officials seemed to be clearly against the mission and police made various difficulties. At a conference, probably at Easter of that year, it was forbidden to take photos, access roads and a road to the river for water were blocked, and all the missionaries were called to present their passports again. The persecution of the Evangelicals was not only in the town but also in the region.

Yirga Alem in 1949 was a town with tall eucalyptus trees along the main street. Order had already been given that all roofs along the main street must be of sheet metal, because of the danger of fire.

1950s The Norwegian mission started a school as soon as possible. In 1950 a teacher school was also added, with 12 students from southern Ethiopia and Kristine Skjeslien as its first teacher. Ato Pawlos preached at meetings. The first meeting was attended by 12 people, but by Easter there were 25-30. They could not play their organ, because it had been damaged during transport.

Mrs Ellen /Agnes/ Magerøy started to help as a midwife and medical nurse.

[S Hunnestad, Sidamo i morgenlys, Norway 1969 p 86-101]

Even the Norwegian National Day was celebrated with festivities on 17 May 1950.

During 1952 arrived to NLM in Yirga Alem nurse Magli Gaare (b 1911) and she had earlier been in Manchuria. The NLM had a clinic before the hospital was built.

During 1953 arrived Aasta Oddlaug Moldsvor (b 1922) educated as teacher.

During 1954 arrived Ingebjørg Heimdal (died 1974), and Bjørn (b 1920) and Malena (b 1919) Østby who had arrived to Ethiopia in 1950 were not employed by NLM until 1954 and then stationed in Yirga Alem. In February 1954 there was the first death within NLM when the Magerøy family lost a little son aged 2 years and 20 days. The Magerøy family also had the children Kjellfrid, Knut and Paula (Five years later, in 1959, Knut died during an operation in Addis Abeba.)

[S Hunnestad, Ved åpne grenser, Oslo 1974 p 93-99]

1955 In 1955 a public address system was installed in the central square in Yirga Alem (and in other towns), used for receiving transmission from Radio Addis Ababa and re-broadcasting it.

The German traveller Hans Jenny was around 1955 arrested for taking photos at the market of Yirga Alem. The question was settled when the matter was brought to the police commander in the town, who was a British Colonel Stone.

[H Jenny, Äthiopien .., Stuttgart 1957 p 184-185]

Ras Mengesha Seyum (b 1927) was Governor General of Sidamo 1955-1958.

An agreement was made with the Ministry of Public Health /when?/ according to which the NLM would operate a hospital in Yirga Alem with one doctor and two nurses.

During 1955 arrived to the Norwegian mission David Elias Andersson (b 1924).

Others present there in January 1955 were Dr Højetvet and nurse Ingebjørg.

Amare Mamo, who grew up in Dilla and Wendo, attended the two-year course for teachers at the Norwegian mission in Yirga Alem in the 1950s. He then served as teacher in several places and later became important for production of publications from the mission.

At the start of a school term the pupils had to have payment for the school fee with them. At one occasion the headmaster had to buy 40 eggs and a cock, because that was the kind of payment they brought.

[S Hunnestad 1969 p 73-74, 92]

1956 During 1956 arrived nurse Åshild Austeid (b 1927), Odd Bertelsen, and Eirik Kløve (b 1923) & Ragnhild Kløve (b 1929) of which Eirik was educated as trade school teacher

having arrived to Ethiopia in 1953 were not employed by NLM until 1956 and became stationed in Yirga Alem.

During 1956-1961 the Norwegian mission in Sidamo was obviously persecuted by the local authorities until a new Governor General was appointed in Yirga Alem. From 1956 for 1½ years NLM had to stay away from the hospitals in Negele and Yirga Alem.

- 1957 Around 1957 there was no telephone wire line to Yirga Alem but a radio station for telecommunications.
During 1957 arrived nurse Marit Wold (b 1928), married to Arne Wold who came to Ethiopia already in 1953. Jorunn Hamre (b 1931) arrived in 1959 and was later transferred to Agere Maryam.
- 1958 The Emperor in May 1958 inaugurated a telephone exchange, radio station, and hospital. A branch office of the Ethiopian Development Bank opened in the town in the same year.
By 1958 Yirga Alem was one of 27 places in Ethiopia ranked as First Class Township.
- 1959 Provincial Governor General of Sidamo in 1959 was Dejazmach Bekele Beyene. Provincial Director of Sidamo Teklay Gizat was Fitawrari Shiferaw Sahle, and Secretary General was Grazmach Alemayehu Kitata. Town officer at that time was Ato Adane Areta.
Provincial chief of police was Lt.Col. Tadesse Gashaw and deputy chief was Lt. Col. Hailu W. Gabriel.
Sub-province Governor of Sidamo awraja was Fitawrari Tessema Shawairkabihi. (Families Lindahl and Irgens on an excursion camped in the NLM compound on 3-4 May 1959 and thought that the Norwegian male missionaries looked very robust, with muscular arms folded over their chests.)
- 1960 A new telephone landline between Yirga Alem and Addis Abeba was completed in late 1960. By then a branch of the electric authority EELPA had started operation at Yirga Alem.
Norwegian Lutheran Mission school had 203 boys and 78 girls in grades 3-6, with 7 male and 3 female teachers (all Ethiopian).
Hager Sebeket church school had 137 boys and 77 girls in grades 1-5, with 7 male teachers.
Ras Desta Junior Secondary School in 1960 had 65 male students and no female.
Ras Andargachew Mesai (b. circa 1902) was Governor General of Sidamo 1961-1964. The post used the spelling YERGA-ALEM around 1963.
In 1960 arrived doctor Johannes (b 1928) and nurse Aslaug (b 1927) Olafsson, and they were from Iceland and sent by Islandsk Misjonssamband to work with the NLM.
Haktor & Ruth Thorsen came around September 1960 to NLM.
- 1961 In 1961 arrived nurse Kari Krossøy (b 1930), and Tobias (b 1937) & Gunvor (b 1932) Salmelid who later worked for a period in Agere Maryam.
In 1962 arrived Olav Ingvar Sæverås (b 1935) & Auf Sæverås (b 1937 in China). The average daily traffic on the Shashemene side in 1963 was 33 buses, 17 cars, and 44 trucks. Ditto on the Wendo side was 35 buses, 14 cars, and 38 trucks.
There were 29 resident Arab traders in the town in 1964 (but see below that almost none of them had a telephone).
In 1964 trade school teacher Roy Stanley Bredvei (b 1925) and children's nurse Marte Helene Bredvei (b 1926) became employed by the NLM and stationed in Yirga Alem but they had arrived to Ethiopia already in 1951 and he was born in China. New in 1964 were Alf Torleiv (b 1925) & Karen (b 1924) Løvås.
- 1965 Surveys of the Central Statistical Office in the mid-1960s found that of the town population of Yirga Alem ten years of age and older, there were 3,510 men of which 51.6% literate and 3,600 women of which 10.8% literate.
Statistics of CSO for 1965 say that there were 1,040 owned, 1,430 rented, and

140 unspecified dwellings. Of these 430 used piped water, 1,590 water from wells and 550 from streams.

In 1965 arrived nurse Marit Sandal (b 1931) to the Norwegian mission. The fourth General Assembly of the Mekane Yesus Church (EECMY) was held in Yirga Alem in January. It was the first time they met outside Addis Abeba and the first time they discussed the relationship between Church and Mission.

[Sæverås 1974 p 132]

1966 New in 1966 were civil engineer Thor Pederstad (b 1939) & wife Solveig (b 1939). On 12 January 1966 King Olav of Norway together with the Crown Prince of Ethiopia visited the new 100-bed Yirga Alem hospital, to which a contribution of Eth\$ 1 million had been given by Norway. The King laid a cornerstone. The Norwegians saw the hospital as part of the mission work and employed a special hospital evangelist by name Taddese.

[S Hunnestad 1969 p 105-124]

When the King arrived, he first visited the old hospital and met Dr Otto Arne Pedersen and other Norwegians. After the ceremonies, the King received two silver-framed elephant tusks as gift. Minister Abebe Retta was present as representative of the Ministry of Public Health. The hospital buildings were designed by the architect R. Skjefstad. Doctor Arne Høgetveit and nurse Ruth Havn were among those who worked at /which?/ hospital. Nurse Ruth worked for five years in Yirga Alem but also in Negele and Agere Selam.

[Norwegian newspapers]

The road was not asphalted for the last 60 km before Yirga Alem, But improvements of that part were made before the visit of the King. Many of the missionaries had the Norwegian national dress which they could wear for the occasion. 30 school girls had been taught to sing the national anthem 'Ja vi elsker' in its Norwegian language.

The Norwegian medical staff whom the King met at the old hospital were Dr Otto Arne Pedersen, Dr Trygve Ødegaard and nurses Berta Aanestad, Ingeborg Kverme and Olga Byrknes. Missionary Roy Bredvei was the one who guided the King during his tour of the premises.

[Med Kongen .., Oslo 1966 p 15-17, 53-64, 70-71, 74]

NLM had a junior secondary school receiving students also from the other mission stations. It had boarding facilities for 200 students. Together with the primary school the mission had 415 pupils. Grade 2 students could happen to be as old as 16 years. Kristine Skjeslien was headmaster of the education. The students went home to their families every weekend to fetch food for the week. Apart from English it was not permitted to teach in any other language than Amharic, and the Bible in local language was also available only in Amharic. At the dwellings of the missionaries there were planted coffee and banana plants.

In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Yirga Alem. In the 1960s it was one of few Ethiopian places having a co-operative under the Ministry of Community Development.

An elementary school building constructed with assistance from Sweden through ESBU was completed by 1966. Sweden-operated ESIBT constructed a brick kiln at Yirga Alem around 1966. The kiln was handed over to be run by the Municipality but it did not function very well.

[ESIBT News vol II 1967 no 2 p 14]

1967 Of 67 telephone numbers in 1967 about 30 were for officials and public units, one each for Sidamo Provincial Hospital and Yirgalem Hospital, one for Ras Desta Secondary School, one for Total petrol and none for any mission (the Norwegians phoned from the hospital?). Numbers on personal names were about 22 on Christian-type Ethiopian names and only 4 on Muslim-type names. Foreign-type were only for two Kapoyanopoulos. New arrivals to the Norwegian mission in 1967 were Osvald Hindenes (b 1942) & teacher-educated wife Jorunn (b 1942), further doctor Øivind Solberg (b 1937) & teacher-educated wife Liv Karin (b 1940)

- 1968 According to the Central Statistical Office in 1968, the population of Yirga Alem was 10,727 and 25% of the active population were engaged in sales and 15% in farming. Mother tongue was stated to be 42% Amharic, 11.5% Tigrinya (!), 9% Oromo, 8% Gurage, 28% other. At that time not quite 40% of the inhabitants were born in town. The Emperor inaugurated the Norway-assisted hospital on 14 March 1968, and by then it was said to have 120 beds. Norway was represented by its ambassador Anker. On 21 March (being in Shashemene on that day) the Emperor announced that the capital of Sidamo Province would be moved from Yirga Alem to Awasa. Ras Desta primary school in 1968 had 772 boys and 427 girls, with 28 male teachers (of which one foreign) and 2 female. Yirga Alem Sidetegna primary school, in Sidamo awraja, in 1968 had 311 boys and 201 girls in grades 1-5, with 5 male and 2 female teachers. Ras Desta secondary school had 56 students in grade 12 who sat for school leaving certificate in 1968, and 9 of them passed. NLM Teacher Training had 14 male students and 1 female, all in the 2nd year. The NLM operated a Dresser School which by the late 1960s had 14 male and 2 female students. Teachers were doctors Tausjø, Ødegård, Høgetveit and nurses Olga, Bertha and Marit. The teaching was in English, which the students had some difficulty to understand. Once a patient going to give birth was flown from Gidole to the sandy plain being the landing field 6-7 km outside Yirga Alem. The Norwegian medical staff also made visits to the prison in the town and were well received there. Mrs Marte Bredvei could drive her car directly inside through the gate to the prison for women. The evangelist Taddesse used to be present and talk to prisoners. This Taddesse, who grew up in the Addis Abeba area, had himself been a prisoner for seven years. He had once taken something poisonous to cure an illness, but this made him completely hysterical and raging. He was found after some days in a forest near the body of a killed man. Taddesse could not remember whether he had done this or not, but he was sentenced as a killer.
[S Hunnestad, Sidamo i morgenlys, 1969 p 135-170]
Nurse Ruth Havn worked for five years in the Yirga Alem hospital in the 1960s. New arrivals to the Norwegian mission in 1968 were nurse Tone Høgetveit (b 1942), and three teacher-educated Eldbjørg Kaldestad (b 1941), Brita Skumsnes (b 1939) and Jorunn Sørbø (b 1940). Sent by the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Mission to work together with NLM was Ritva Olkkola (b 1942) with a theological degree.
- 1969 It was said that students demonstrated in 1969 by carrying a coffin and saying that the governor, General Esaiyas, was dead and was in the coffin.
[A Pleijel et al., Ethiopia ..., Sthlm 1971 p 55-56]
Arrivals to the Norwegian mission in 1969 were nurse Oddny Frøyland (b 1939) and Sverre Naustvik (b 1944) & wife nurse Henny (b 1944). By then 50,000-70,000 outpatients were treated each year. In January 1969 the hospital staff were 2 Norwegian physicians, 4 Norwegian nurses and some 70 Ethiopians. Working hours were defined for the Ethiopians but not for the Norwegians, so one nurse said she worked 70 hours a week. The need for medical care was "frightening". All food was prepared at the hospital itself. The hospital was regarded to have the best X-ray equipment in Ethiopia. About 1,500 cases of malaria were treated every month. The maternity section had 12 beds.
[Study visit by Hjördis Freeman]
- 1970 According to Urban Survey, Second Round 1969-1970 of the CSO. Yirga Aelm inhabitants were 68.0% "Abyssinians", 10.4% indigenous population, 21.6% others. New to NLM in 1970 was nurse Elsa Nes (b 1941).
- 1971 Arrivals during 1971 were nurse Gunhild Lid (b 1946), Gustav Johan Loland (b 1945) & wife nurse Bjørg Elisabeth (b 1943), nurse Randi Sæterøy (b 1940), Asbjørn Vegge (b 1946), and nurse Tuulikki Turunen (b 1938) sent by the Finnish mission.

The 'Minimum Package Project' for agricultural development listed that they had given credit for fertilizer /etc/ to owner/cultivators in a number of 119 in year 1971 and 208 in year 1972.

- 1972 Arrivals during 1972 were nurse Kristi Helleve (b 1939), teacher-educated Anlaug /Marit/ Lavik (b 1944), nurse Irene Lende (b 1943 in China), Thore Oustorp (b 1942) with a theological degree & wife nurse Bjørg Elisabeth (b 1944), nurse Reidun Taranger (b 1945), nurse Anna Kristine Tveita (b 1944), teacher-educated Bjørg Aandal (b 1947) who married Asbjørn Vegge, see 1971 above, nurse Hilikka Hares (b 1944), Maija Hytönen (b 1946), Ahti Peltonen (b 1945) with a theological degree & wife Eeva (b 1944) with specialized teacher education. The four last-mentioned were sent by the Finnish mission.
- 1973 New to NLM in 1973 were Oddmund Gravdal (b 1947) & wife nurse Reidun (b 1950), teacher Malvin Lomheim (b 1943) & wife nurse Helga (b 1945), Per-Helge Myren (b 1947) & wife nurse Åse Marie (b 1950), teacher-educated Jonas Thor Thorisson (b 1944) & teacher-educated wife Ingibjörg (b 1948) sent by the Iceland mission, teacher-educated Marjatta Airaksinen (b 1939) and nurse Maija Härtila (b 1942), the two last-mentioned from the Finnish mission, possibly also some more Norwegian during the second half of the year.
- At its Eighth General Assembly held in Yirga Alem in 1973, the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus passed a resolution requesting land reform in Ethiopia - a reform which was in fact effectuated a couple of years later, by a new government.
[A brief history of the Mekane Yesus Church, 1980 p 59, 68]
Spelling used by the post office was YIRGALEM around 1975.
There were petrol filling stations of Agip, Shell, Total (-1978-).
- 1980s The Ghidabo thermal bath (-1982-) had no restaurant or even telephone.
Population about 16,000 in 1984.
Odd Åge Ågedal attended a normal Wednesday meeting in the NLM mission church which could hold 700 people, and he wrote that it was completely full, mostly with students from the mission schools. The meeting lasted for four hours.
[... men de kan ikke vente, Oslo 1988 p 56]
- 1990s Population about 24,200 in 1994.
- 2000s Population about 29,700 in 2001.
- texts K. Pettersen, Etiopia, Dronningen av Sabas land, Oslo 1967
p 46-63 about the town at the time of the visit by the King of Norway;
Girma W/Senbet, The history of Yirgalem town; B.A. thesis A.A. Univ. 1984.
- picts G Agge, Med Röda Korset ..., Sthlm 1936 p 153 S.I.M. station;
F Hylander, I detta tecken, Sthlm 1936 p 297 an official: Captain Achaggari,
p 301 the American mission station;
K Johansson, På äventyr ..., Sthlm 1936 p 183 plan of Mr Smith's compound;
Svenskmannagärning, Sthlm 1936 p 16 market area, 70 main street;
G Ulland, Under Genferkorset ..., Oslo 1936 p 24 main street, 25 exterior of gibbi,
32-33 ten photos of Norwegian ambulance camp 3 km outside the town,
40-41 work of the ambulance, 48-49 views from a distance of the camp,
56-57 patients and others;
Gli annali ..., anno III vol I /Roma 1940/ p 692-693[8]
gymnastics exercises at school for Ethiopian children;
Med kongen til misjonsfeltet ..., Oslo 1966 p 48-49[3-8] eleven photos
of people at visit of the King of Norway, 64-65[1-4] eight more photos,
some from the hospital, 72-73[1-5] ten photos from ceremonial laying
of cornerstone for the new hospital;
K Pettersen, Etiopia, Oslo 1967 p 33 Giyorgis church, 48-49 ditto priests;
S Hunnestad, Sidamo i morgenlys, Oslo 1969 p 208-209[8, 11]
school headmaster, interiors of the hospital.

yirga chefe: *chaffe* (O) 1. meadow, outdoor assembly place;

2. kind of tall swamp grass, used for covering roofs;
cheffe (ch'äffe) (A) lush grassy land being slightly marshy
- HCD88 **Yirga Chefe** (Yerga Chefe, Y. Cheffie, Irriga Shafi) 06/38 [Gz Po WO]
 (Y. Ch'efe, Yirega Cheffe, Chefe) 06°10'/38°12' 1880/1919 m
 Yirga Chefe (Yrga Chafe), east of lake Abaya 40 km south of Dilla
 Coordinates would give map code HCD87, distance 395 km from A.A.
 Earlier named Finchoa (Finchawa).
 Departmental post office under Shashemene.
 Centre in 1964 of Yirga Chefe wereda.
 There are in general volcanic rocks.
 [Mineral 1936]
- 1941 Yirga Chefe was captured on 27 April 1941 by the Allies. Here the road was so bad that it took ten days to travel 80 km, making the transport of supplies almost impossible. As a result, two battalions returned to Yabelo with the motor transport vehicles, while one battalion continued the advance northward carrying the ammunition and food supplies by foot and mule pack.
 [R N Thompson 1987 p 176]
- 1950s A wet processing plant for coffee was established in 1956.
- 1960s The telephone line from Mojo to Yirga Chefe was in operation by 1964.
 In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Yirga Chefe.
 Population 4,094 as counted in 1967.
 The primary school, in Derassa awraja, in 1968 had 522 boys and 88 girls, with 8 teachers.
 A church school had 53 boys and 23 girls in grades 1-2, with one male teacher.
- 1970s There was a petrol filling station of Agip (-1978-).
- 1980s Population about 8,300 in 1984.
- 1990s Population about 11,600 in 1994.
- 2000s Population about 14,200 in 2001.
 Hotel Lesion has 32 beds.
- HCD88 Yirga Chefe sub-district? (-1997-) 06/38 [n]
- HCD88 Yirga Chefe wereda (-1997-) 06/38 [n]
 There are megalithic sites containing steles.
- yirga dejen: *dejen* (däjän) (A) rear guard
- HDB71 Yirga Dejen 08°50'/35°48' 1831 m, south of Gimbi 08/35 [Gz]
 In Nole Kaba wereda. There was a health station (-1965-) without a building of its own, and only one hotel.
- HCF85 Yirga Muda (Yirba M.) 06°10'/39°50' 06/39 [MS Ad]
 in Jemjem awraja, not the same as Yirba Muda above?
- JDK08 Yiriyele (Karireh) 09°03'/43°19' 1624 m 09/43 [Gz]
 near map code JDD99
- HDM.? Yirmata Ager (with church Abo) 09/39? [x]
 Yirmata Ager, in Bulga/Kasim wereda
- GCS86 Yiryir 08/33 [WO]
- JDA99 Yisako (Yisak'o, Yisaqo) 08°58'/40°40' 2108 m 08/40 [Gz q]
 north-west of Bedesa
- HED50 Yisakor 11°21'/37°34' 2149 m, east of Debre May 11/37 [Gz]
 yishak: *Abba Yishaq* (Issak, Gerima), one of the "Nine Saints" of the 6th century
- HES02 Yishak Dever Giyorgis (Isac D. Georgis) 12/37 [+ WO]
- HDU45 Yisirdo 10°24'/39°52' 1809 m 10/39 [Gz]
- ?? Yismala (Ismala), in Agew Midir 11/36 [x]
 The Yismala market was important for coffee in the 1800s.

HEC83	Yismala Giyorgis (Y. Giorgis, Y. Geyorgis) (Ismala Ghiorghis, I. Gheorghis, Ismala) 11°36'/36°57' 2002/2072, 2300 m (centre in 1964 of Achefer wereda) Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 8S Laabela (Laavela) (on hilltop) 9SE Zibist (village) 7SW Jankit Maryam (Gianchit Mariam) (church) 10SW Shambila Mikael (Sciambila Micael) (village) 10SW Sena (Debre Sina, Sambillo) (mountain area) 2461 m 6W Guisale (village) 6NW Jahana (Giahana) (with church Giyorgis) 1899/2008/2123 m 6NW Dembuala (with church) 8NW Bakkaa (Baccaa) (with church Medhane Alem) 8N Kwala Maryam (Quala Mariam) (church) 1NE Aonaraghen (with church) 2NE Ambeshin (Ambescin) (river valley) At the north-east base of mountains Zibist and Debre Sina.	11/36 11/36	[MS WO] [Gu]
1930s	<i>Vice Residenza</i> , telegraph, infirmary. [Guida 1938]		
pict	Gli annali dell'Africa Italiana, Roma 1938 anno I vol II p 606-607[2] church.		
HDL70	Yita (Yit'a) 09°45'/38°29' 2506 m south-east of Tulu Milki	09/38	[AA Gz]
HED87	Yitaha (Yit'aha) 11°39'/38°11' 2929 m south-east of Debre Tabor	11/38	[Gz]
HED98	Yitba 11°44'/38°16' 3415 m south-east of Debre Tabor	11/38	[Gz]
HDT08	Yizeny 10°02'/39°12' 1635 m	10/39	[Gz]
??	Ylansser was hit by Italian poison gas bombs in February 1936.	../..	[It]
HEC68	Yoadi Giyorgis (Ioadi Gheorghis) (church on plateau of amba)	11/37	[+ It]
HEC44	Yoboden Amnri (Iovoden Amnri) (church) see under Dangila	11/37	[+ It]
HDR88	Yofoda Giyorgis, see Shememel yogere maru: <i>maru</i> (O) swirl, roll, wind		
JDH92	Yogere Maru (Ioghere Maru) (area) 820 m	09/40	[+ WO]
HE...	Yohannes Ketema (centre in 1964 of Metemma wereda)	12/36	[Ad]
HEA64	Yokaka (Iocaca) (area)	11/35	[+ WO]
JEH19	Yokibata (Iochibata) (area)	11/41	[+ WO]
HDM.?	Yolat (with church Debir Maryam) in Bulga/Kasim wereda yoll: <i>yool</i> (Som) bottom, base, centre; origin	09/39?	[x]
HEE28	Yoll, see Ioll, cf Yewel		
HEL95?	Yonatan, see under Sedeb	12/38	[x]
HDN06	Yongi (Ionghi Superiore, Upper I.) 09°59'/35°19' 1076 m	09/35	[+ WO Gz]
HDN07	Yongi (Ionghi) (area) 10°01'/35°21' 911 m Coordinates would give map code HDN06 yonnis: <i>Yoonis</i> (Som), name corresponding to John	10/35	[+ WO Gz]
JDJ73	Yonnis (Ionnis) 09°46'/41°52' 969 m north of Dire Dawa at the railway	09/41	[Gz Gu]
KDB21	Yoobaros (area)	08/45	[WO]

KDB22	Yoobbur (area)	08/45	[WO]
HEM41	Yoramba, see Zoramba		
HDA97	Youbdo, see Yubdo		
JC...	Yoube	06/44	[MS]
JCM47	Yoube (seasonal waterhole) between Kebri Dehar and Werder	06/41	[WO 20]
??	Yowera (mountain in Wello) 3611 m	../..	[Ad]
HCD88	Yrga Chafe, see Yirga Chefe		
HCK49	Yrgalem, see Yirga Alem		
JCK72	Yuah (area) <i>yubdo</i> (O) kind of shrub or small tree with large flower-heads, <i>Protea gagedi</i>	07/42	[WO]
HBK29	Yubdo (Iubdo) (mount.) 03°52'/38°21' 1404, 1959 m	03/38	[Gz WO]
HDA87	Yubdo (Iubdo, Jubdo, Youbdo), mining centre Gz: 08°57'/35°27' 1525 m; MS: 08°53'/35°30' = HDA87, 1750 m Gz coordinates would give map code HDA97. A middle point of the mining area is also at HDA87 and 08°56'/35°29'. Centre in 1964 of Yubdo wereda. Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 5E Badda (village) 7E Arbi (village) 6SE Lege Bagudu (Laga B.) (area) 9S Lucho (Tulu Lucio) (hill) 4SW Kalderini (Calderini) (village) 10SW Lalochile (village) 9W Boti (village) 2NW (Dimma, iron ore site, see ditto directly) 7NW Abba Sombi (village) ? Koppe (Coppe) (gold mine) The most important mining centre of Wellega.	08/35	[Gz Ad Gu Te]
geol	Chlorite schists are abundant in the region of Yubdo; the chlorite is sometimes substituted by clinocllore, whilst the commonest accessory minerals include magnetite, epidote and plagioclase. In the Yubdo region a very large granitic mass occurs in immediate proximity to the diorites of that locality. The granite is generally a biotite granite, but some exposures show hornblende also present. Mineralogically the rock is composed of microcline, a plagioclase varying between albite and oligoclase, and quartz with myrmekite generally present. Accessories, in order of abundance, are biotite, ilmenite (altering to leucoxene), titanite, muscovite (rarely, less abundant than biotite), and garnet. In the hornblende granite epidote may also be present as an accessory, whilst the plagioclase is more calcic than in the biotite granite with a composition of up to 30% An, indicating a smooth passage into the quartz diorites of the region. In the alkali feldspar perthitic and anti perthitic structures are commonly developed. Near Yubdo, a syenite intimately associated with diorite and granodiorite is composed of microcline with subordinate oligoclase-andesine; common accessories are muscovite and biotite, less common are quartz, magnetite, zircon, epidote, and diopside altering to amphibole. Three examples of pegmatites from Yubdo have the following compositions: perthite and quartz; very large quartz crystals, with oligoclase-andesine, and biotite more common than muscovite; albite, with subordinate microcline, rare quartz and muscovite. [P A Mohr, Geology 1961 p 21, 29, 35] The main localities for platinum-group metals are the Yubdo ultra-basic succession in Wellega where also nickel and chromium minerals were noted. Some traces of chromite have been found in the pitting at the Yubdo mines during prospecting for platinum.		

Olive-green chrysotile occurs on serpentinites in the dumps of the Yubdo mines. The chrysotile asbestos forms nests near the surface. The fibres are 0.5-4.0 cm long. The terrain between Yubdo and Nejo consists principally of metamorphic crystalline schists and gneisses with some Pre-Cambrian granites and granodiorites. A reconnaissance flight over the area was made in 1955 and no abnormal radioactivity was noted.

Two tectonic units, a northern one between Golliso and Dimma and a southern one from Torban to Gordona, are separated by a large peridotite massif emplaced in the central part near Yubdo.

Magnetite ore occurs north of Yubdo. The richest magnetite-haematite deposit found by prospectors of the Ministry of Mines until 1965 is at Gordona south-southeast of Yubdo near the Birbir river.

Examination of a polished sample from the Yubdo deposit revealed a rather porous, coarse-grained ore of martitized magnetite (details of this analysis on page 287 of the book *Mineral ..* cited here).

Chemical analysis in the laboratory of the Ministry of Mines in 1963 found 70.9% of iron in Yubdo samples.

A platinum deposit is situated near the middle part of the Birbir river. Geographical coordinates of the middle point of the mining area are about 8°56'N and 35°28'45"E. The platinum mining area is to the west of the Birbir and east of the village of Yubdo.

The occurrences of syenite are sparse in Ethiopia. Near Yubdo a syenite is associated with diorite and granodiorite. Large dioritic intrusions are developed near Yubdo.

The total reserves of silicified limonites between Yubdo and Aira have been estimated at 800,000 metric tons.

The deposits of residual limonites of lateritic origin do not have any economical value, as they are too small in size.

[Mineral 1966]

- 1900s Alberto Prasso obtained a concession in 1905 for prospecting for gold. He formed a French company, though mostly with Italian capital. Platinum was mentioned by an early Russian mission, directed by Kurmakov, but it is not known exactly where their samples were taken. Platinum at Yubdo was discovered by O. Dibaba and A. Zappa. Later A. Prasso sent samples of the black platinum-containing sand to Europe for chemical analysis.
- 1910s Lij Iyasu visited Yubdo in 1905 Eth.Cal. (1912-13 Greg.Cal.) to see how gold was extracted there.
- 1920s Zappa and Prasso got a concession for exploitation from the Ethiopian Government in 1924 but developed only a small production. Later Prasso transferred part of his rights to two British companies, Birbir Ltd and Yubdo Mining Company. In 1924-25 the Government also gave a concession for exploitation in the south-western part of the platinum area to Fitawrari Deressa. The Deressa Workeneh company operated to the west of the Prasso concession. Syndicat d'études des mines en Ethiopie was established in February 1926 with financing by Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas. After some studies was formed Société Minière des Concessions Prasso en Abyssinie. Exploitation under this name continued up to 1932. [Mineral 1966 + Guida 1938]
- 1930s On the last of December 1929 five mining-related expeditions left Addis Abeba. One of them had as its purpose to transport equipment to Yubdo for increased production. In 1932-1933 exploitation was operated by Birbir Mines Ltd with headquarters in London. They are reported to have lost £27,000. A second British Company, Western Abyssinian Mining Syndicate, exploited the Yubdo area until the Italian occupation. In 1935-1936 the existing companies were transformed into one Italian-French and one Italian-British company, both with a major Italian share and with G.G. Borghese as president. [Mineral 1966 + Guida 1938]
- Intensive mining of platinum at Yubdo was carried out 1926-1938. The platiniferous ore

was concentrated magnetically after washing the birbirite with powerful water jets. The year of highest production was 1932 with over 230 kg of platinum. In 1938 production was 110 kg.

[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 236]

Money transport to pay for wages and expenses at Yubdo had to be with the heavy silver coins, at one time around 1930 each month as much as 60,000 M.T. taler which needed 30 pack mules. Caravans needed 12-15 days from Addis Abeba. Telegrams to Yubdo had to be sent to Gambela and carried by a runner from there.

[H Juell, Etiopia, Oslo 1935 p 123, 187, 236]

A list of 18 concessions in Yubdo in 1935 is given by Adrien Zervos page 402.

[Zervos 1936]

At the height of operations as many as 23,000 workers were employed.

[G A Lipsky 1962 p 263]

During the Italian time around 1938 the populated place Yubdo had about 2,000 inhabitants of which about 50 Europeans. The Europeans lived in a group of barracks. In a wide enclosure were the buildings of the mining concessions, with huts for the local workers arranged in regular lines.

Residenza, telegraph, outpatients clinic.

[Guida 1938]

Post office of the Italians was opened 21 March 1939.

Its cancellations read IUBDO*GALLA E SIDAMA.

Società Miniere di Platino d'Etiopia had its headquarters at Yubdo and carried out comprehensive prospecting.

[F Quaranta 1939 p 67-68]

1940s By 1940 there was a network of water canals to serve the ground sluicing operations for concentration of the platinum. Capacity of water could be one cubic metre per minute in the rainy season and one fifth of that in the dry season.

L. Usoni wrote /unpublished/ reports for the Italian occupation government in 1940.

He estimated a total reserve of 2,000-4,000 kg of platinum and other precious metals in the wider Yubdo area.

Following the liberation in 1941 a part of the area, with a surface of 30 sq km, was made state property. Production dwindled. The ten-year output from Yubdo of platinum-group concentrates was as follows:

1926-1935 1310 kg

1936-1945 485

1946-1955 52

1956-1965 54

Production in 1958, still by hand-washing, was estimated to be 5.6 kg worth Eth\$39 million.

1950s Better maps were produced around 1955 and Danilo A. Jelenc of the Ministry of Mines explored twelve pits and wrote a geological report (Yubdo Platinum Deposit, 1956). An abbreviation of its contents can be found in D.A. Jelenc, Mineral occurrences of Ethiopia, A.A. 1966, particularly on pages 303-317. Eleven samples from Yubdo were analyzed in Ljubljana in 1956 and showed total platinum content from 0.0341 to 0.3262 grams per cubic metre.

1960s Systematic prospecting directed by the Ministry of Mines started in 1961. Large-scale work was carried out on the south and north slopes of the excavated area. In 1961-1963 there were about 200 workers employed in prospecting and about 300 in production. Energy from an old steam plant was very expensive to use, but energy from hydro-electric power stations was not yet available.

[Mineral 1966 with brief citations from many pages given above]

Around 1964 Yubdo was a rather small village and not a town. The surrounding fields had largely been dug up in search of metals. The red soil was mainly used for grazing.

There was a health station (-1965-) and a mining clinic.

The primary school, in Gimbi awraja, in 1968 had 239 boys and 27 girls,

with 5 teachers.

1970s The output of platinum during 1966-1975 was 73.3 kg.
 1980s By the 1980s Yubdo was the only active platinum mine in Ethiopia. According to Molley 1959, Augustithis 1965 and UNDP 1971, the platinum is associated with ultramafic complexes, and more specifically with alteration products of ultramafic rocks. [7th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1984 p 621]

2000s In 2004 it was officially stated that resources of platinum at Yubdo amount to 12.5 tons /which is much more than some early estimates/. [Facts about Ethiopia p 93]

texts E. Dahlstrom, Report on the Yubdo platinum mines, Addis Ababa 1947;
 P. Comucci, Le rocce della regione di Jubdo (Africa Orientale), Accad. Nazion. Lincei, Roma 1948;
 D.A. Jelenc, Yubdo platinum deposit, *in* Eth. Geog. Journal 4(1966) no 1 p 17-29 with geological sketch maps and seven references.

picts L'industria in A.O.I., Roma 1939 p 160[4] mining for platinum, 162[3] two photos from a distance of the excavations;
 Eth. Geog. Journal 1(1963) no 2 p 8 dilapidated building of power generator out of use by the 1960s.

Yubdo : Koppe (Kope, Kappe)

The Koppe river bed has indicated 0.9 grams of platinum per cubic metre at its middle course in pyroxenite bedrock and 1.3 grams at its upper course in dunite bedrock. Olivinite occurs along the river.

[Mineral 1966]

Yubdo : Lalokile (Lalokelle, Lalo Kilie)

Lege Karsa (Laga Karsa), which lies south-southwest of Lalokile has been worked for gold.

[Mineral 1966]

The primary school, in Kelem awraja, in 1968 had 366 boys and 15 girls in grades 1-5, with 2 (!) teachers.

Yubdo : Lege Bagudu (Laga B.)

The Lege Baguda area is located 4-8 km south-east of Yubdo acc. to Usoni (1952).

In the Pre-Cambrian region, composed of dioritic gneiss, are found quartz inclusions, rich in gold; the reserves, however, are small.

The surface is covered by debris of white, glassy, fissured quartz, which do not seem to be *in situ* and do not seem to be much mineralized. Some debris contain pyrite, others contain haematite and muscovite. Much dendritic manganese oxide is to be seen, as well as many needles of tourmaline.

The largest quartz lens is made of the same type of quartz as mentioned above but is much more cavated and richer in tourmaline. Blocks of pyritiferous quartz are scattered over the ground. At the foot of the ridge there is a lens, steeply inclined. A vein crossing north of Adit has a length of about 60 m in dioritic gneiss. Its grade is found to be a very thin vein. At the point of intersection of the larger vein the grade of gold is seven grams per metric ton.

[Mineral 1966 p 210]

HDD97	Yubdo 09°02'/38°12' 2170 m, see under Ginchi	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDA87	Yubdo sub-district? (-1997-)	08/35	[n]
HCP42c	Yubo (Iubo) (small village)	07/35	[+ Gu]
HDL00	Yubo 09°06'/38°27' 2453 m, see under Genet	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDE21	Yug Hun (Iug Hun, Jug Hun, Iu Hun) 08°20'/43°30' 1116 m	08/43	[+ WO Gz]
??	Yukro (visiting postman under Jimma)	../..	[Po]
??	Yukro Waje (visiting postman under Jimma)	../..	[Po]
??	Yusa (Yousa), in the Harar region	../..	[x]

"At the operation at Yousa (Hararghe) on 31 July 1983, /an/ army truck with a full load of

provisions and over fifteen army personnel was destroyed."
[Oromo Liberation Front, July 1984]
HDE83 Yuyu 08°52'/38°42' 2287 m 08/38 [Gz]
between Sebeta and Akaki