

- Debre Tabor*, Mount Tabor of the Bible, (figuratively:) the Transfiguration
- HEK05 **Debre Tabor** (Debra T., old name Samara) 11/38 [Gz Pa WO Gu]  
 MS: 11°51'/38°05' = HEK06, 2945 m at the gibbi  
 Gz: 11°51'/38°01' = HEK05, 2706 m  
 Distance 666 km from Addis Abeba.  
 Centre in 1964 of Debre Tabor awraja and Farta wereda and Debre Tabor sub-district.  
 Within a radius of 10 km there are at km  
 7E Hiruy (Waher, Uaher) (village) 2628 m  
 8E Amija (Amigia)  
 10SE Meken Kenia (village)  
 10SE Semana Giyorgis (S. Ghiorghis) (village)  
 10SE Amejera Abbo (Ameggera Abbo) (village)  
 2S Fahart (area)  
 7SW Grariya Giyorgis (Graria Georgis) (village)  
 7SW Amba Maryam (A. Mariam) (with church)  
 6NW Aringo (village) 2515/2574 m  
 5N Limado (hill)  
 5?NE Gafat (historical place, cf under its own name)  
 8NE Guntur (village)  
 ?NE Samara (former *ketema*) 2706/2782 m  
 ?? Anchim (Anchem) (battle site)  
 ?? Tala Levasi 2558 m
- Debre Tabor is situated in an amphitheatre of hills. It bears the name of the nearby mountain, which in early medieval times was called Debre Tabor for its resemblance to Mount Tabor in Palestine. On top of the mountain is the Yesus Church, famous for its wood-carvings. The wall paintings are modern.  
 [Jäger 1965 p 75]
- 1500s The name is known for the first time from the reign of Lebne Dengel, before 1540.
- 1700s In the last quarter of the 1700s, a man by the name of Ali Gwangul emerged as a powerful figure. He initiated what came to be known as the Yejju dynasty. From their base in Debre Tabor, successive members of this dynasty controlled the throne for about 80 years.  
 [Bahru Zewde 1991 p 11]
- 1800s Debre Tabor was founded by Ras Gugsa Marsa, who was ruler of Begemdir circa 1803-1825. It was intended as a mountain fortress. According to legend a monk told Ras Gugsa that he had to find a leopardess and build his residence at the place where he killed her. "Ras Gugsa undoubtedly represented the unity of the Ethiopian state, such as it was, more than anyone else during the first quarter of the century, and even after his death Debre Tabor remained the leading political centre."  
 [Rubenson 1976 p 35]
- 1825 Ras Gugsa died at Debre Tabor in 1825 and was buried on 25 May (11 Genbot) on a Monday, at the Iyasu church near the palace, "and the period of his domination was twenty-seven years." His successors Imam, Marye and Dori were also buried there, as well as his nephew Ras Ali Alula. They were Oromo nobility. As memorial for them there is a small monument with a Gondar-style cupola.  
 Near the church was the palace with two fenced-in compounds. Ali Alula ("Ali the Little") received a succession of foreign delegations there. A rock is still nowadays pointed out as his seat, *wember*, when acting as a judge.  
 [Äthiopien 1999 p 318 + Mathew 1947 p 154]
- 1830s When Ras Marye fell in the battle of Debre Abay, he was succeeded by his brother Ras Dori, who died in June 1831 after four months' rule. The chiefs and generals at Debre Tabor elected Dori's 12-13 year old nephew Ali as their chief. Ali's father Alula was dead. A council was appointed to guide Ali in state affairs, but in fact it was his mother Menen who took the lead in the political matters of the following decade.  
 [S Rubenson, King of kings ..., 1966 p 22]

After the battle of Mai Islamai at the end of 1830, Dori on returning homeward fell sick and was only just able to arrive at Debre Tabor, where he died, after a reign of only three months.

[Mansfield Parkyns vol II p 117]

E. Combes and M. Tamisier on their way southwards reached Debre Tabor on 21 August 1835. There they met Ras Ali. He urged the young Frenchmen to stay with him and promised them women, horses and lands. They were, however, determined to reject even the most magnificent propositions. By a stratagem, they succeeded in leaving Debre Tabor on 22 September.

Combes and Tamisier returned to Debre Tabor in early 1836. "They found the capital much damaged by warfare, its population only a fraction of its former self. Nonetheless they met a learned man with a large library of books 'translated from Arabic and Indian'. The two wasted money there /on prostitutes?/ and were obliged to borrow 10 Maria Theresa dollars from the leading merchant of the city, Kidane Maryam, who exacted a rate of interest of ten per cent per month -- the normal rate in the place."

[3rd Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1969 p 184, 186]

Dufey proceeded to Debre Tabor after he and Aubert, agents of the French firm Étienne Rolland et Cie at Alexandria, had concluded some commercial agreements at Adwa in January 1838.

[Rubenson 1976 p 73]

1842 In late 1841 Birru Goshu joined forces with Wibe, and together they marched on Debre Tabor. Ras Ali seemed both unprepared and unwilling to fight and when the battle took place on 7 February 1842, it was a very confused event. Ali's army was first defeated, and he fled to safety. Later in the day, one of Ali's relatives and vassals, Birru Aligaz, managed to rally some of the Oromo and capture Wibe and his entourage. Birru Goshu saw what was happening and escaped to Gojjam. It took several days before Ali was found and could return to his capital. With the assistance of Abba Selama, Wibe quickly and unexpectedly negotiated his own release and the restoration of his lands.

The battle of Debre Tabor is significant because of what it reveals about the political situation at the time. Wibe's primary goal was to defeat and depose Ras Ali and take his position. Although the Tigrean chiefs were far from loyal to Wibe, they were divided against each other, and Wibe had nothing to fear from them as long as his campaign was successful. Ali was in a much more difficult position. Birru Goshu openly defied him. Wibe's attempt to make his campaign a crusade against Islam failed badly.

[S Rubenson, The survival ..., 1976 p 93-94]

"The abun's cooperation helped Wibe to recruit soldiers and to attract the assistance of Gojam's Biru Goshu. When the battle came, outside Debre Tabor, Ras Ali and his Oromo allies made a poor showing against the firearms arrayed against them but won anyway thanks to a series of botched events and missed opportunities by his adversaries."

[Marcus 1994 p 58]

On 6 February 1842 the united army of Wibe (Wibe) and Birru Goshu fought Ras Ali's army near Debre Tabor. Ras Ali had nearly 30,000 soldiers, mostly Oromo, and was supported by Dejazmach Merso and "at the last minute" by Birru Aligaz.

[Abir 1968 p 112 with more details]

1848 Rochet d'Héricourt, on a mission from the French Ministry of Commerce, came to Debre Tabor at the end of October 1848. The Catholic missionary Massaia also passed Debre Tabor for the first time in 1848 and met the wife of Ras Ali, a daughter of Dejazmach Wibe.

[Abir p 130 + Massaja vol I p 183]

Rochet d'Héricourt's visit to Gondar and Debre Tabor took place after the rains of 1848 at the height of Kasa's second rebellion /the future Tewodros/. His attempts to establish equally good relations with both sides were bound to fail, and there are no indications that he managed to interest Ras Ali in any commercial treaty.

Consul Plowden bypassed the territory under Kasa's control and arrived safely at Debre Tabor with the gifts from the British government. Ali was delighted with the presents and

- tried to reward the consul by giving him two villages in exchange.  
[Rubenson 1976 p 129-130]
- 1849 In 1849 Plowden arrived in Debre Tabor with a rather lengthy agreement which he wanted to negotiate with Ras Ali. After putting off all discussions for almost a year, Ali finally agreed to listen to the reading of the draft, but talking to others and yawning at the same time.  
[Rubenson 1966 p 63]  
The Ras showed no interest in a treaty. After more than eight months, spent largely following the Ras on a campaign, Plowden and Bell finally got Ali's signature to the treaty of 2 November 1849. He saw it as an unnecessary attempt to secure protection for British merchants at Gondar. It was not possible to get a proper signature of the emperor at Gondar. The first copy of the treaty was stolen from Plowden, and so it was only on 1 March 1852 that Ali received the ratification.  
[S Rubenson, The survival ..., 1976 p 131]
- 1850s Shortly after the battle of Takusa in April 1853, Kassa marched southwards to Debre Tabor, but in the meantime Ras Ali had moved down to the plains of Ayshal. After burning Debre Tabor, Kassa followed Ali to Korata.  
[Abir p 139]  
On 19 April 1855 the royal camp of Nigus Tewodros was reached by missionaries Dr J.L. Krapf (b.1810) and J. Martin Flad (b.1831). They were given a warm welcome by Abune Selama, but found out that the nigus was interested in technical expertise so they did not obtain any permission for a religious mission.  
[Arén 1978 p 88-89]  
Kassa (the future Tewodros II) defeated Ras Ali near Debre Tabor in 1852. Ras Ali's capital was burnt by Dejazmach Kassa. Ras Ali tried to retake the place but was defeated again in 1854.  
When Protestant missionaries of the St. Chrischona mission arrived in 1855, Tewodros let them build a settlement at Gafat, about a one-hour walk from Debre Tabor [see section on D.T.: Gafat below].  
[Äthiopien 1999 p 318]  
In November 1857 Tewodros was concentrating his forces at Debre Tabor for a campaign in Gojjam.  
[Rubenson 1966 p 75]
- 1860s After one week's rest at Debre Tabor in the rainy season of 1860, Tewodros was off again, to fight the rebels Tesemma and Gared.  
[S Rubenson, King of kings ..., 1966 p 79]  
A few days before Easter 1860 arrived a missionary Henry Aaron Stern (b.1820) who intended to work among the Felasha. He was received in audience by Nigus Tewodros and the Abun, was given permission to work and went to Jenda north of Lake Tana.  
[Arén 1978]  
The explorer Guglielmo Lejean (1828-1871) arrived from Metemma to Debre Tabor on 1 January 1863, together with the young English missionary Henry Dufton and the doctor Lagarde. He was well received by Emperor Tewodros and visited the Europeans working for him at Gafat. From 10 February 1863 he accompanied Tewodros on a punitive expedition in Gojjam.  
In March 1863 Lejean was not permitted to go to Massawa. He was briefly put in chains (the first European Tewodros treated in such way) and was told to stay at Gafat, though he could visit other places. Called to Gondar he was expelled from Ethiopia by Tewodros on 18 November 1863.  
[G Puglisi, Chi è? ..., Asmara 1952]  
The European prisoners who had been moved from Mekdela to Korata and put on trial at Zege were kept in a prison at Debre Tabor from June 1866. In July they were moved back to Mekdela again, with the exception of the Frenchman Bardel and the German artisans.
- 1867 Tewodros stayed at Debre Tabor usually only in periods of rainy season. The famous mortar Sevastopol was cast at Gafat on 21 September 1867.

Tewodros started from Debre Tabor on 11 October 1867, ten days before the first British troops of the Napier expedition landed at the coast. It was with those ten days only that he beat them to Mekdela, although the distance to be covered was almost three times as great.

[Rubenson 1976 p 261]

In October 1867, Emperor Tewodros II evacuated and burnt Debre Tabor, his capital (except the Medhane Alem church built by himself). He took with him all the new guns and mortars and then slowly made his way to Mekdela, blasting a road to there where he arrived in March 1868. In the yard of Medhane Alem still nowadays lies a bell made so big that it could not be hung in place. During the Italian occupation a bell tower was built, but it was destroyed by lightning.

[Rubenson 1966 + Äthiopien 1999 p 319-320]

Tewodros had destroyed a church built by Dejzasmach Wibe and took from there, for his own church of Medhane Alem, a bell which had arrived in 1844 as a gift to Wibe from Pope Gregory XVI. A tower for the new site of this bell was not built, and Cardinal Massaia mentions that Catholic missionaries saw it on the ground in 1879 at Debre Tabor. Imnete Maryam Gibretu wrote on 7 October 1860 that "Qwareña Kasa /Kasa of Kwara = Tewodros/ is at Debre Tabor, having released Dejjach Wibe and married his daughter."

[Acta aethiopica II p 129]

Asseggaheñ wrote on 21 September 1867 that Tewodros was at Debre Tabor then /on the day when the big canon was cast/. [ditto II p 331]

Imnete Maryam Gibrete wrote on 3 October 1867: "The king brought together the altars of Mother Mary and Child Mary and placed them in an enclosure in Debre Tabor. [Acta aethiopica II p 335]

1870s Around 1870?: Ras Adal of Debre Tabor who had first been placed as ruler in Gojjam by Wagshum Gobaze was firmly established in that province. He had assumed the title of Negus with the coronation name of Tekle Haymanot, thereby founding a royal line of considerable subsequent importance.

[Greenfield 1965 p 89]

Emperor Yohannes IV (1868-1889) often resided in Debre Tabor.

The Heruy Giyorgis church was built in the time of Yohannes.

[Äthiopien 1999]

Yohannes IV wrote a letter to Wilhelm Schimper from Debre Tabor on 20 September 1873 and to Charles Gordon from there on 18 June 1877.

[Acta aethiopica III p 165, 279]

The French consul De Sarzec, with the Italian Carlo Piaggia as caravan leader, arrived to Debre Tabor on 24 November 1873, but king Yohannes had departed from Gojjam on a campaign against Ras Adal.

[G Puglisi, Chi è? .. Asmara 1952 p 237]

Negus Menilek with his troops stayed for a month at Debre Tabor in early 1877.

Gustavo Bianchi wrote that Debre Tabor in the late 1870s was not the name of a village or a town but of a small area at a hill, with a church and a few huts.

[G Bianchi 1896 p 136 foot note]

1879 In January 1879 a personal envoy of Colonel Gordon in Khartoum, W. Winstanley, met Emperor Yohannes at Debre Tabor. As an Egyptian official, Gordon adopted a tough approach toward Ethiopian territorial demands at the Red Sea coast. Winstanley had been authorised only to make the same concessions already offered to Ras Alula early in 1877.

[Ehrlich 1996 p 24]

On 2 May 1879 Emperor Yohannes wrote a letter to Queen Victoria, another to Lord Napier and one to his consul in England.

On 23 May 1879 Giacomo Naretti accompanied Italian explorers (Bianchi, Ferrari, Legnani, Vigoni) on an official visit to Yohannes IV. Matteucci presented the Emperor with gifts from the *Società di Esplorazione Commerciale in Africa*, consisting of hand guns, camping equipment and various everyday goods and samples of Italian industrial products. The Italian group left on 21 June. The Emperor sent two lion cubs as presents to

King Umberto. Two Swedish missionaries /Per Carlsson and Anders Svensson/ had also travelled with Naretti from Adwa to request permission to preach the Gospel. Yohannes rebuked them for not converting his Jewish and Muslim subjects instead of preaching to Christians, and he ordered the missionaries to return at once to Adwa.

Yohannes requested of Naretti to build the church of Giyorgis in Debre Tabor.

After the Italians had left and returned to Massawa, A. Mitzakis visited Debre Tabor. He was Greek vice-consul in Suez, and he proposed that he should be nominated to represent all foreigners in Ethiopia, something the Emperor refused. He did not even accept a treaty of commerce between Greece and Ethiopia.

Toward the end of 1879 Cardinal Massaia with followers arrived at Debre Tabor.

Yohannes made it clear to them that they must leave Ethiopia. Naretti and Bianchi did not dare to be seen together with the Catholic cardinal.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 914-196]

General Gordon then arrived himself, travelling via Massawa and bringing his uniform as an Egyptian field marshal and the Sudan throne. On his arrival to Debre Tabor on 27 October 1879 he was admitted to the king, who sat upon a raised dais, with the *echege* and Ras Arya /Araya Sellasie/, an uncle of Yohannes, on the ground on his left. Gordon later wrote an unfavourable description: "The king is a man of some forty-five years, a sour, ill-favoured looking being. He never looks you in the face, but when you look away he glares at you like a tiger. He never smiles -- The king has taken /from the Egyptians/ some nine thousand Remingtons and twenty-five cannon, but he is getting short of ammunition."

Among the foreigners, discovered by Gordon at Debre Tabor, were the Greek consul from Suez, and three Italians, one of whom, Naretti, had been with the emperor for eight years and a half.

At dawn on 28 October Gordon was called to an audience in the large conical-roofed, thatched house that the ruler used as his reception chamber. Yohannes "recounted his griefs against Egypt at a tedious length" and made many and large demands.

After some stiff comments as to the decision resting with the khedive, Gordon asked what would happen if the demands were not met. "I shall then know that you hate me, and I shall fight you."

Gordon was invited to accompany Yohannes on a two-day trip to some hot baths, but he refused. In the final audience on 8 November he was given a letter for the khedive in which Yohannes refers to eight sovereigns of Europe if any peace should be mediated. On his way back to Egypt Gordon was detained for some time at Chas Amba.

[D Mathew, Ethiopia ..., London 1947 p 212-214]

At Easter 1879 the expulsion of Catholic missionaries from Shewa was ordered by Emperor Yohannes. He informed Menilek by letter that he "wished to use the missionaries as his ambassadors in Europe." But when the group arrived in Debre Tabor on 6 August 1879 all illusions disappeared.

The emperor ordered the 72-year-old Massaja together with Gonzague and Taurin to return to Europe immediately after the rainy season; and following the most difficult route via Metemma, instead of Massawa. The emperor's uncle, Ras Araya Sellasie, did all he could to ease their harrowing journey, so that by October they were safely at Metemma.

[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 58]

Welde-Mikael Solomon was the last hereditary ruler to hold power in the Mereb Mellash (in what later was named Eritrea). Ras Alula arrested Welde Mikael and his sons in 1879 and brought them to Adwa. In December 1879, Emperor Yohannes ordered Alula and Welde-Mikael to Debre Tabor for a hearing. Welde-Mikael was condemned and was put on Amba Salama with his sons.

[Ehrlich p 25]

1880s

Three explorers Gustavo Bianchi, Pietro Antonelli and Antonio Cecchi arrived from Dembecha to Samera (D. Tabor) and were admitted to meet Emperor Yohannes on 5 January 1881. The Emperor received them rather coldly as they had not been able to bring gifts for him. The explorers stayed some days more and could see the festivities

when Ras Adal was crowned Negus of Gojjam.

[A Ribera, Vita di Antonio Cecchi, Firenze 1940 p 133-134]

Ras Alula and Ras Gebre-Kidane accompanied Emperor Yohannes on an expedition to western Wello before returning in January 1883 to Debre Tabor.

[Ehrlich p 36]

An Italian diplomatic mission with Giovanni Branchi, Bianchi, Colaci, Salimbeni, Diana, and Monari, arrived to Debre Tabor on 25 May 1883, were received by Yohannes on 27 May, stayed during the rainy season and departed on 1 October. Emperor Yohannes did not sign any treaty but promised to support Gustavo Bianchi in an expedition to find a road between Assab and the highlands. Bianchi already knew much about the country.

[G Puglisi, Chi è? ..1952 + A Ribera, Vita di Antonio Cecchi, Firenze 1940 p 188]

A member of the Bianchi expedition on 15 June 1883 wrote a letter from Samara (as the town was also called then). It took four months for the letter to reach Massawa carried by messenger. Only six letters from the Bianchi expedition are known by philatelists to have been preserved.

[Philatelic source]

The British diplomat Gerald Portal together with Major Beech and the Egyptian Ahmed Effendi Iahmi arrived in November 1887 and stayed for twelve days at Debre Tabor.

[Puglisi 1952]

In February 1888 Emperor Yohannes from Adwa ordered Menilek to march northward. Menilek slowly led his army to Debre Tabor on 8 March 1888 and then proceeded toward Gondar. Menilek did not really like to obey orders from Yohannes.

[Ehrlich 1996 p 129]

Tekle Haymanot suffered a heavy defeat against the Sudanese Mahdists in March 1888 at Sar Wiha, along the north-east shore of lake Tana.

Menilek of Shewa arrived at Debre Tabor about 10 March, but the Mahdists had retired to Metemma. The king would have pursued them, but his troops were suffering from illness, particularly malaria. None the less, his presence had produced the desired result, and north-western Ethiopia was again secure for the moment.

[Marcus, Menelik II, (1975)1995 p 101]

Emperor Yohannes left Mekele on 7 July 1888 heading, under heavy rains, for Debre Tabor and Gojjam, there to fight the weakest of his rivals, Negus Tekle Haymanot.

[Ehrlich p 130]

After 1880, Debre Tabor was still an important market on the caravan track connecting Gondar with Lalibela. It was estimated (by Alamanni) that at the Debre Tabor market there were sold around 1890 annually 70,000 oxen, 8,000 cows, 14,000 goats, and 8,000 sheep.

1900s Sheik Zakaryas, who preached Christianity (see Sekota), was active also in Debre Tabor. Emperor Menilek issued a proclamation permitting Zakaryas to preach in any Muslim area, and Menilek granted him 100 rifles and 4,000 M.T.thalers.

[13th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies I 1997 p 132]

1920s Ras Gugsa Wele (governor of Begemdir 1918-1930) was there in 1926 when Cheesman arrived to Dangila as British consul. "Ras Gugsa had a passion for building new churches. He spent all his spare time and money on building them round Debre Tabor, where there were already plenty of churches for the people's needs, and it seemed to me his resources would have been better expended on the many old churches in Bagemdir that were badly in need of repair. I was invited to see his latest architectural effort, the church of Inatu Mariam -- Ras Gugsa's end came suddenly three years after this, for he became involved in a foolish revolution against the Central Ethiopian Government."

In January 1927, Cheesman needed an official permit from Debre Tabor before he could cross the Abay just to see the Tis Isat waterfalls better and take photos on the left bank. (Provincial boundaries were strictly guarded at that time.)

[Cheesman 1936]

The Swedish EFS missionaries Per and Valborg Stjärne visited the town in late April 1928 and also met the Ras there.

The Seventh Day Adventists in 1928/?, mediated by Ras Kassa, obtained permission to establish a hospital at Debre Tabor, on a large piece of land and with 30,000 thaler provided by the Ethiopian government. Missionaries taking the initiative were G. Gudmundsen, Dr A. Andersen, Pastor J. Strahle and cashier C. Pedersen. Ras Kassa provided an extra 10,000 thaler for a building particularly for poor patients. Missionary Gudmundsen led a caravan from Addis Abeba to Debre Tabor with materials and equipment. They arrived to Debre Tabor on a day after market-day and saw that a multitude of destitute beggars had gathered. The Governor, Dejazmach Wond-Wossen Kassa, had just finished court proceedings. He invited Gudmundsen for a dinner of European type in his palace.

Gudmundsen supervised the building work for two years and seven buildings were constructed. 88 donkeys, 45 mules and 4 camels were used for transports during the building time. It took 8 days to fetch lime. The answer to a telegram to Addis Abeba might be delayed 40 days. An 'express' messenger to the capital needed at least 4 weeks. Erik Palm took over as leader of the mission station when its buildings had been completed.

[G Gudmundsen, Fjorton år ..., Sthlm 1936 p 161-169]

Young Jembere Hailu, his uncle Aleqa Alemu and three other painters in 1929 were asked by the governor to paint the church of Enatitu Maryam. They worked until 1930 when they were interrupted by the rebellion led by Ras Gugsa. Jembere was 17 years old by then and returned to his parents, but he already had sufficient reputation to continue a career as an artist.

[12th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1994 p 3171-372]

1930 Ras Gugsa was defeated and killed at the battle of Anchim, just outside Debre Tabor, on 31 March 1930.

"The new Minister of War, Dejaz Mulugueta -- marched north /in January 1930/ -- He took five cannon and seven machine-guns; and then moved on to the plains of Anchim near the Beghemder border. Meanwhile Ras Gugsa Wule was concentrating at Debra Tabor an army 35,000 strong, and utterly devoted.

Their devotion was slightly shaken by the Imperial Proclamation of Yekatit 17 (24 February) issued by the Empress and the Negus, declaring Ras Gugsa Wule a rebel. --"

"On 28 March the army of Beghemder crossed the border and moved south towards Shoa. It met with a novel experience. Three biplanes flew over and released on the marching army thousands of copies of the Imperial and Episcopal proclamations; --"

"Three days later battle was joined on the plains of Anchim. Wondossen, the eldest son of Ras Kassa, led the Shoan advance guard. Ayalew Birru commanded the right and Fitaurari Fikremariam, Commander of the Wollo troops, led the left. In the rear were the more aged generals --"

"The battle began with a more dramatic appearance of the biplanes, which flew over the Beghemder army at nine o'clock lobbing small bombs and hand grenades. The armies closed, and for four hours were locked in struggle. The heroes of the day on the Shoan side were Wondossen Kassa and Ayalew Birru. The men of Gondar began to desert. Shortly after midday Ras Gugsa Wule was surrounded and called to surrender. He refused and died fighting. His second-in-command, Fitaurai Shumye, continued until he was captured in the late afternoon. The Raya Galla, on whose help Ras Gugsa Wule had been counting, arrived a day late. Dejaz Birru Wolde Gabriel and the army of Sidamo entered Debra Tabor unopposed. The death of the leader meant, as always in Ethiopia, the end of the campaign."

[Mockler 1984 p 11]

"We will never forget a night spent in our tents at Debra Tabor, when it seemed as if hundreds of mad hyenas surrounded our camp. -- It was like a bad dream lasting all night, but our muleteers kept good watch of our precious mule herd and of my big black horse, and not one was lost, although two or more animals were eaten in the outskirts of the city near by. -- /In 1943 the Sudan Interior Mission station was still closed./" [T A Lambie, Boot and saddle ..., USA 1943 p 151]

1930s When the Bank of Ethiopia was created in 1931 it got a branch office with two employees at Debre Tabor.

The *receveur* of the post office was Oukabai Kifle around 1931.

In 1933/?/ Cheesman had a non-violent encounter with men of the robber chief Shiguti "who had been a terror to the neighbourhood for several years and was paralysing trade on the Sudan route". The Ethiopian government captured Shiguti and took him to Debre Tabor, from where an Ethiopian airplane conveyed him to Addis Abeba. "The pilot insisted that his passenger should be bound hand and foot before he would start, and also borrowed a pistol. Shiguti was tried for highway robbery and on several charges of murder. When asked how many men he had killed he replied that he could remember nine and had forgotten the rest. He was hanged on Intoto."

After the death of Ras Gugsa, Bagemdir was placed under the rule of Ras Kasa, who appointed his son Dejazmach Wend Bewesen as governor in residence at Debre Tabor.

Consul Cheesman was received by one of his officials, Grazmach Abebe.

"There is no group that can be identified with the descendants of the Portuguese -- I have noticed that the faces of some women in Debra Tabor bear a resemblance to Portuguese features."

[Cheesman 1936]

The Swedish BV missionary Anna-Lena Röstin visited Debre Tabor about this time and was received by Governor Wend Bewesen, a tall man with his name meaning 'man at the border carrying on for his relatives'. Anna-Lena happened to be there on the day when an airplane was supposed to fetch the robber Shogot (Shiguti) as told by Cheesman above, but at the first approach the pilot refused to land on that day and returned.

Anna-Lena could not find the important fort or castle reputed to exist in Debre Tabor and the Governor received her in a room not larger than 3 x 3 metres. There was, however, the usual big *aderash* for serving banquets to soldiers. The wide field Jan Meda was used for horse racing and parades.

A little outside the town are two huge stone heaps. Legend says that Queen Gudith after battles counted her surviving Falasha army by ordering each soldier to carry a stone and lay it down at this place.

[A-L Röstin, *Arvet i främlingars hand*, Sthlm 1936 p 263-275]

The Swedish geologist Erik Nilsson made research east of lake Tana in 1933. His caravan was apprehended at Debre Tabor in a somewhat dramatic way. The end of the story was that the chief of customs himself was put in chains.

[E Nilsson *in Ymer* (Sweden) 1934 no 3 p 198-200]

The Seventh Day Adventist Mission opened a station in Debre Tabor in 1932, after a two-year construction time (see above).

At the time of the Italian attack in 1935, the station was staffed by Erik Palm and his wife, from Sweden, and by Alb. Hessel, from Germany.

The Norwegian Gunnar Fagereng with wife spent 14 years in Eritrea and Ethiopia, towards the end of that period two years at Debre Tabor. Hessel and the Stadin couple were expelled as soon as the Italians had occupied Debre Tabor.

[Mission sources]

1936 The Swedish doctor Harald Nyström accompanied the about 500 troops of Dejazmach Ayalew who arrived to Debre Tabor on 8 April 1936. At the Adventist mission station he met the Swede Erik Palm and his Norwegian wife, and a German Herr Hessel. The site of the station was 35 hectares fenced in with barbed wire. The hospital could take 25-30 in-patients. There were three family dwellings, a school and a chapel, a garden, and a park with thousands of eucalyptus trees. There was equipment for electric light, and Palm had a radio receiver. As the school building was empty at this time, the Bank of Abyssinia hired space there.

The local population around Debre Tabor were no friends of Asfaw and Yewond Wossen. On 14 April Dejazmach Ayalew (and Dr Nyström) left Debre Tabor, permitting Asfaw Wossen to travel with them.



[H Nyström, *Med S:t Giorghis ...*, Sthlm 1937 p 162-165]

"On /24 April 1936/ -- two battalions from Starace's column, the 'Mussolini' Blackshirt Battalion and the 111th Native, put in a surprise attack that met with no resistance at all. Ras Kassa and Dejaz Ayalew Birru had been reported there, but Ras Kassa was many miles away and Dejaz Ayalew Birru had left as the Italians approached."

[Mockler 1984 p 129]

Debre Tabor was occupied by the detachment from Bahir Dar on 28 April.

A week later arrived Muhammed Imam as messenger from Gasparini, the governor of Eritrea. Dejazmach Ayalew was persuaded to surrender. Dr Nyström was called there a month later and started from the countryside on 24 May and arrived on the 28. There were two Italian battalions with Major Ugolini as their commander.

The missionaries of the Adventist Mission were transported to Gondar on the first day of the occupation and expelled via Asmara, and the Italians started using the mission station buildings

Dr Nyström had to wait for three weeks in Debre Tabor with nothing to do, except assisting Ugolini as interpreter.

Debre Tabor was visited by General Pirzio Biroli, 'governor of all the Amara'. Biroli took Nyström to Gondar, and a couple of days later he was evacuated from there by air and in roundabout ways returned to Sweden.

[Nyström as above p 168-171, 178]

1937 Telegraph office opened in January 1937. Post office of the Italians was opened officially in August 1936 but in real operation on 5 March 1937. Its cancellations read DEBRA TABOR \* AMARA.

"Serious though unconnected incidents began to occur in regions which had been considered not so much pacified as naturally peaceful. In the last days of August /1937/ there were almost simultaneous but apparently uncoordinated attacks by *shifita* on garrisons near Debra Tabor and near Bahr Dar."

[Mockler 1984 p 183]

1938 About 9000 inhabitants, with *Commissariato del Beghemedèr*, post, telegraph, infirmary, *spacci*.

Local buildings made of stone. Higher up in dominating position and enclosed by a wall the *ex-gibbi* with post office, school, prison, etc. The *Commissariato* later used the buildings of the former "Swedish" /? Adventist?/ mission, surrounded by eucalyptus. A motor road led to the market, held on Mondays and famous for its mules. On a summit of altitude 3068 m is the church Debre Tabor from which the town is named. This round church in masonry was built by the Italian Naretti.

[Guida 1938]

The Italians built a road from Gondar via Debre Tabor to Dessie. The first mosque was constructed, wells were dug, and eucalyptus planting extended. [Prouty 1981]

Lazzaro Romanini had a farm at Debre Tabor from 1938 and some commercial activity there. He became a prisoner of war in 1941.

[G Puglisi, *Chi è? ...*, Asmara 1952]

1941 March 1941: "Bill McLean and his sergeants from the Scots Greys were to go north, with No.6 Op Centre - 180 men - to join Fitaurari Birru and Simonds. This combined force should then break away from Bahr Dar and head boldly into the interior towards Debra Tabor where Colonel Angelini and a strong garrison guarded the road between Gondar and Dessie."

[Mockler 1984 p 355]

"Debra Tabor stood on the road almost half-way between General Nasi at Gondar and General Frusci at Dessie, linking two of the three remaining Italian 'redoubts'. Colonel Angelini its commander had orders to hold it at all costs. Simonds and Fitaurari Birru had reached the area on 1 April with their personal bodyguards and with two Op Centres, led by the dashing young cavalry subalterns McLean and Pilkington. McLean dashed to great effect. Helped by 200 men of Dagnew Tessema, he ambushed various Italian columns, blowing up lorries and killing 100 *banda* - despite counter-attacks by Farello's *banda* in

which several dozen were killed on both sides." [Mockler 1984 p 375]

"Thanks to Wingate's strategic foresight the escape route for the 10,000 Italian troops in Dessie northwest towards Debra Tabor and Gondar had already been cut. Simonds with Fitaurari Birru and Beghemder Force had arrived near Debra Tabor at the end of March, and had been joined there by Lieutenant Neil McLean to take over No 2 Operational Centre. Debra Tabor was -- well fortified with a seven-mile perimeter, and garrisoned by 6000 men commanded by Colonel Ignazio Angelini.

Between 1 and 10 April Simonds booby trapped the road on each side of Debra Tabor while he and Birru contacted chiefs. On 11 April he set up an ambush at Limado, a hill three miles north of Debra Tabor, which led to a sharp action with an Italian supply column from Gondar. McLean, with Sergeants Morrow and King and 90 men from No 2 Centre and an energetic local patriot leader, Fitaurari Danyo, and 100 men, took up an ambush position on the road, which was mined, and prepared a bridge for demolition -- The Italians spotted the ambush, debussed, and attacked King's platoon. -- Italian reinforcements arrived from Debra Tabor and McLean ordered his force to withdraw to Limado. Sergeant King, with great gallantry, ran forward and detonated the explosives on the bridge with his pistol and the bridge blew up. He was badly injured and captured /and died soon after/. --

This was a substantial action in which the Italians lost one truck destroyed, 15 *ascari* killed and five wounded, and the Allies one British non-commissioned officer and 13 other ranks killed and 13 wounded. -- The result was that no further attempts were made by the Italians to run convoys from Gondar into Debra Tabor. --

Leaving McLean in charge at Debra Tabor, Simonds went south, contacted Patriots and drove hostile *banda* off the Dessie road."

[Shirreff 1995 p 165-166]

"While Wingate and Gideon Force were operating /March-April 1941/ before Debre Markos, /Major Tony/ Simonds and /Fitawrari Wolde Gabriel/ -- moved to Debre Tabor to contact local chiefs and cut the road north and south -- With Simonds was Ato Getahun Tesemma, one of the original officers of Mission 101 --"

[Shirreff 1995 p 156]

5 May 1941 when in A.A. the Emperor returned, Colonel Angelini in Debre Tabor was besieged by Simonds and Fitawrari Birru. "Cut off at Debra Tabor, Colonel Angelini surrendered to McLean and Pilkington and Fitaurari Birru." [Mockler 1984 p 379, 382] On 17 May Boustead and Simonds planned a joint attack on the Italian positions. News arrived of Aosta's surrender at Amba Alagi on 19 May, but Colonel Angelini still declined to surrender.

"Then Simonds was ordered to report to Cairo for 'other duties', and on 20 May Boustead was ordered to hand over operations to the senior subaltern, Pilkington -- Simonds recorded laconically, 'Abandonment did untold harm and discouraged patriots.' -- This left Pilkington with his combined No 5/10 Centre, McLean with No 2, Welsh with No 6, Birru, Danyo and some Patriots to continue the siege, but patriot support dwindled and many left to cultivate their land." [Shirreff p 223]

Pilkington's letters home give a good picture of the daily activities of the Northern Force at Debra Tabor. "Pilkington was encamped north of Debra Tabor astride the Gondar road with McLean watching the Ifaq road to the west and Birru and the Patriots behind him. The Centre troops and Patriots carried out frequent night raids on the Italian positions, on one of which on the night of 21/22 May Sergeant MacDonald was captured. There followed a courteous correspondence between Pilkington and Colonel Angelini -- Pilkington also corresponded with Birru, addressing him as 'Your Excellency', treating him with great respect, keeping him informed of the situation and suggesting moves for the Patriots --" [Shirreff p 230]

"Simonds had persuaded Platt's staff to lay on an air strike on Debra Tabor on 12 June and on the strength of this Pilkington invited Angelini to surrender, which he declined -- Pilkington was disappointed with the patriot effort, 'Dej. Belai never stood at all. Danyo did better and certainly fought for a bit,' -- He also did not think much of the air strike. --

Major Dougal Douglas -- arrived with 2000 Shoans under Fitaurari Haupte Selassie and 800 Wollo Galla. The Shoans were part of Ababa Aregai's army -- Platt had decided that the capture of Debra Tabor was operationally necessary and it was thought that Angelini would be more likely to surrender to regular troops. Legs Force was sent from the 5th Indian Division still at Dessie -- and arrived on 16 June. Two attempts were made to mount joint night attacks on the Italian defences with the Shoans supported by air strikes. The first was abortive because of bad weather, and in the second, on the night of 23/24 June, the Shoans declined to take part, their leader -- being unimpressed with the scale of RAF support. The planes had to fly 300 miles from Asmara and could not linger over the target because of Nasi's two fighters at Gondar."

"In the event no further attack was necessary. While Pilkington maintained the pressure, negotiations opened with Angelini, and, despite a last minute intervention by Nasi who sent a Caproni on 2 July with supplies and a message to Angelini urging him to continue resistance, surrender terms were agreed and the garrison marched out on 6 July past a guard of honour."

[Shirreff 1995 p 231-232]

On 3 July 1941 the eastern approach to Gondar was cut off, particularly when a mixed British force captured Debre Tabor taking more than 4,000 troops and a full complement of motor transport. Then, with the rains heavily upon them, this front also fell silent.

[R N Thompson 1987 p 190]

Mussolini was indignant that so little was done to defend the Italian empire. When Debre Tabor surrendered there were only two killed and four wounded out of 4,000 men on the Italian side.

1945 The artist Mulugeta Engeda Dinget (1945-1986) was born in Debre Tabor. He graduated from the Art School in Addis Abeba in 1965.

[Eth. Artists p 164-165]

The hospital had one doctor and 50 beds in 1949.

1950s Rainfall 1368 mm was recorded for the year 1952.

The researcher Simoons made a study to compare the weekly Saturday market and the daily markets in Debre Tabor. On 2 November 1953 he found 50 types of goods in the weekly market. Almost half of these had been seen in the daily market a few days earlier. On the whole it was foods and firewood that were sold in the daily market.

Most of the domestic goods brought to market originated in villages within three days journey to Debre Tabor, but salt, coffee, spices and cotton came from greater distance.

Long-distance traders with mule and donkey caravans often camped in a large grassy field not far from the centre of the town. Their animals grazed in the fields nearby by day, but they were tied and guarded at night "for hyenas are especially numerous and bold at Debre Tabor."

Debre Tabor could be reached by motor road in the Italian time, but by mid-1950s the bridges destroyed by war had not yet been repaired. There were more than twenty fords to cross between Gondar and Debre Tabor. Such fords are shallow in the dry season, with rocky and solid bottoms so that the approaches are more difficult than the ford itself to cross. Goods were not generally transported by truck to Debre Tabor in the 1950s.

Concerning cultivation, potatoes are a little larger in the Debre Tabor area than what is common in Ethiopia. Donkeys from Debre Tabor are also a little larger and stronger than average.. Some Amhara, though not growing tobacco for industry, had begun to use green tobacco leaves as an animal medicine and as a substitute for *gesho* in making beer.

[F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia ..., Madison/USA 1960, mostly p 197-200]

Around 1953: "The direct route from Gondar via Dabra Tabor to our next destination, Dessie, would have been about /265 km/, but this stretch was so frequented by bands of rebels that it was judged impassable for a small column such as ours. [The expedition of Paul Hartlmeier had nine members, all Germans mostly from Munich.] So we made a detour, driving -- northwards to Adowa by the way we had come and then turning southwards. The whole journey took us ten days.

[Hartlmaier, Golden Lion (1953)1956 p (134)114]

In March 1958 there were special vaccinations because of epidemic smallpox. By this time Debre Tabor was one of 27 places in Ethiopia ranked as First Class Township.

Sub-prov. Governor of Debre Tabor awraja in 1959 was Dejazmach Molla Mesesha.

- 1960 Among those who passed 8th-grade examination in 1960 were 15 students at Atse Tewodros junior secondary school and 2 students at the Adventist Mission school.
- 1965 At the Adventist Mission school there worked in 1965 the young Swedish teacher Yvonne Johansson (b 1944).
- 1966 In 1966 it was decided that a contractor would be engaged to design a master plan for Debre Tabor.
- 1967 Population as counted in 1967 was 6,942. There were only three telephone numbers by then, none of them private. Margot Spånghagen worked at the hospital of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission.
- 1968 The Adventist Mission primary school in 1968 had 69 boys and 61 girls, with 6 male teachers and one female (all Ethiopians).  
Atse Tewodros Secondary School in 1968 had 82 male and 40 female students in grade 7-8, with 4 teachers of which 2 foreign.  
The Adventist Mission Sec. School at the same time had 49 male and 30 female students in grade 7-8, with one teacher (foreign).  
The Church Mission to Jews had 3 male and 2 female students in grade 7, with one teacher (foreign).  
"Soon after 3 we reached /23 February 1967/ a mountain-top where a large church, surrounded by ancient oleasters, indicated that we had left the forested wilds. From here I could see many blue-gums on another, higher mountain-top, beyond a wide valley, and I guessed correctly that these marked Debre Tabor."  
"Below Debre Tabor the mountainside was crudely irrigated, which is unusual -- From the edge of Debre Tabor delighted children escorted us up a long, rough 'street', between stalls displaying the usual limited array of goods, to the main 'square' where two Peace Corps boys promptly appeared and invited me to be their guest. Debre Tabor is the most isolated Peace Corps post in Ethiopia, so I didn't hesitate to accept this invitation --"  
"However, I soon discovered that my acceptance had created an International Situation. Days ago the Governor-General had telephoned from Gondar and arranged for my entertainment here, and the local Governor was all set to receive me. -- I compromised, and when my knee had been tightly bandaged I hobbled off to the Governor's house, split a bottle of *tej* with him and had supper there. He is a kindly man, who understood my predicament and settled for entertaining Jock /the mule/ instead of me."  
24 February: "Debre Tabor was an Italian outpost, so the Governor's quarters, the police barracks and the school are ugly, one-storey concrete buildings at the edge of the town. -- On my way back from the Governor's house I called at the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission, which -- runs a large school and a hospital. -- to qualify for all the advantages offered by this school a number of locals do become temporary Seventh-Day Adventists. I don't expect to find twin souls in missionary compounds, but the ideals of this contingent completely unnerved me. After listening for some fifteen minutes to an earnest young woman I took out my cigarettes and said automatically 'Do you mind if I smoke?' The air froze. My hostess looked at me as though I had uttered an obscenity. Then she said, 'We never permit habit-forming drugs here' - and went on to explain that tea is a sinful stimulant. Whereupon I looked at my watch -- and retreated in disorder."  
25 February: "This morning I did a test walk to the local 'famous church'. It stands on a high mountain -- The church was locked and in the nearby settlement no one would volunteer to open it. -- Beside the enclosure, on the highest point of the broad summit, stand the overgrown ruins of one of those Italian stone forts which were constructed on many hilltops to repel Patriot raids."  
"-- as this is one of the province's most important market centres 3,000 outsiders sometimes attend the Saturday market. Debre Tabor is also renowned for the number of its hyenas, the largeness of its donkeys and the potency of its *araki* --"

- [Dervla Murphy 1969 p 194-199]
- 1975 "A group of local landlords and their followers took over Debre Tabor -- in September 1975, killing the provincial governor and impartially evicting a Chinese road-building team and missionaries of the Seventh Day Adventist Church who ran a local hospital. In these Christian areas, the landlords' argument that the military government was dominated by Moslems was persuasive in gaining peasant support "
- [M & D Ottaway 1978 p 88]
- Bezabeh Gebre (43) was born in Debre Tabor and was buried there in September. He was killed as being Governor of Begemdir for the Derg government since January. [Eth.Herald 1975-09-25]
- Sleshi Tebedge was a Zemecha student in August 1975 when he started to assist John Kalb in searching fossils in the Afar area, and he became something of a specialist himself. He was born in Debre Tabor as the son of a pastor of a Seventh Day Adventist Church. The family later moved to Addis Abeba. Sleshi had practised playing organ and piano in the church. He failed several university courses because he refused to take exams on Saturday, the Adventists' sabbath. In the late 1970s Sleshi had a scholarship to study vertebrate palaeontology at the University of Texas at Austin and in 1980 completed a Master's thesis there.
- [J Kalb 2001 p 194, 212, 231-234, 277, 314-315]
- 1978 Around 1978 there was a post office and a petrol filling station of Shell. Spelling used by the post office was DEBRE TABOR (-1974-75-).
- 1980s Population circa 15,300 in 1984.
- In late December 1989, EPRDF forces captured Debre Tabor, to be driven out by the army a month later.
- "The TPLF claims to have killed or wounded more than 8,000 government troops when it captured the town of Debre Tabor in late December 1989. There has been no independent confirmation of the TPLF claims." [News]
- 1990 Around 20 January 1990 ENA news agency said that government forces had recaptured Debre Tabor. The clandestine radio of the TPLF claimed a major victory in battles near Debre Tabor on 22-24 January 1990. The radio said that EPRDF had killed 3,914 government troops and captured 270.
- A few days later the town was retaken by government troops. TPLF, however, announced the recapture of Debre Tabor from government forces after a three-day battle in late February. [News]
- 25 January 1990 near Debre Tabor 15 were killed by bombing while sheltering in a storm drain under a road.
- 1991 13 February 1991 two were killed and ten wounded in an air raid on Debre Tabor. The British researcher/author Jenny Hammond on 16 March 1991 interviewed Hawudtu Ambiu, chairman of the Debre Tabor shengo, and Genet Araya, a woman fighter in a battlefield medical team.
- [Hammond 1999 p 449]
- "For much of the time in Debre Tabor, I am left to my own devices. At about four in the afternoon, Aklilu turns up and suggests a walk. The "walk" turns out to be a visit to two hospitals. --
- The hospital is pleasantly and spaciouly designed with a number of single-story buildings laid out among grass and trees. A gentle young man -- tells us that all the qualified medical staff abandoned the hospital when the Front captured the area a year ago. At the moment, he is in charge although he is only a senior nurse trained by the Front. The only other staff are a number of 'barefoot doctors,' who are all fighters recruited from the peasants -- "
- "There is a chronic water shortage in Debre Tabor. Inside the buildings, the wards, clinics, and offices are so filthy it would be hard to believe we were in a hospital at all but for the numbers of ragged moaning patients -- As well as swirls of dirt on walls and floor, food remains under the beds attract flies and the air is thick with the smell of urine and feces."

"It is only a short walk to the Front's field hospital, which was set up here because of Debre Tabor's closeness to the front line over the last year. It is temporarily housed on the fringe of the town in huts and cottages vacated by Dergue Party members or rented from peasants. -- Gebre Livanos, a surgeon and old colleague of Aklilu's, comes to greet us and show me around -- swept as clean as possible and meticulously tidy compared to either the civilian hospital or the hotel. Compared with ordinary hospitals, this field hospital is set up to be mobile -- but it functions in partnership with the even more mobile surgical and medical teams, which work on the battlefield itself. They provide emergency treatment on the spot and are responsible for bringing the wounded here to the field hospital."

[Hammond 1999 p 369, 370]

"In one house, there are two operating theaters. Both rooms are small -- One is for major surgery, and in the circumstances is extraordinarily professional and hygienic. The walls are lined with clean sheeting and on a length of linoleum unrolled on the floor stand the (folding) operating table, the teater lights and anesthetic equipment. The second theater, for minor operations, is just a normal scruffy room --"

"Aklilu seems so at home here. For ten years he was first a medical worker, then a field surgeon, and finally overall head of the Health Department. Gebre Livanos is the chief surgeon as Saba was in Gondar. All these field surgeons have been trained up on the spot over the last sixteen years from the most promising personnel available." --

"Gurges turns up at the hotel with another woman fighter in the medical corps, Roman. She is on her way to another field hospital between here and Woldia to teach a refresher course to nurses. -- Gurges and her husband, Kasai, a doctor who teaches medicine, are renting a room from a peasant family. In the next room, the mother of the house is weaving strands of dried grasses into a basket. -- Gurges is in the early stages of pregnancy and gets very tired. Later, she comes back to the hotel with me and we share the flearidden bed for a couple of hours' nap."

[Hammond p 372, 373]

1994 Population circa 22,500 in 1994, an increase of 7,000 in ten years' time.

1990s "An historic settlement dating back to the early eighteenth century, Debre Tabor is situated in the spectacular mountaineous country that lies east of Lake Tana. --

Founded by Ras Gugsa Mersa, the Oromo ruler of Begemder region, it was successively the seat of government of three of his sons and later of his famous grandson Ali Alula -- The town in later years became the capital of the renowned Emperor Tewodros II -- His successor, Emperor Yohannes IV (1872-1889), also resided for a time at Debre Tabor before making his capital at Makale.

Places to see in and around the town include the ruins of the old palace; the old church of Debre Tabor, which gave its name to the settlement; in addition, the fine, late nineteenth-century church of Heruy Giyorgis, which was founded by Emperor Yohannes and contains drums, crosses, and other artefacts dating from his time." [Camerapix 1995]

"The great remaining mark of Ras Gugsa Mursa in the church of Iyesus on one of the hills bordering Debre Tabor. This is a magnificent old stone church, with a wide circular stone wall and a large circular stone church within. -- The wall of the church has one main gate, which has signs of having been rebuilt much more recently than the original stonework. -- The church grounds are marked by a number of fairly large stone burial chambers, an old one associated with 'big Gugsa' and a more recent square one of about two stories associated with 'little Gugsa'. -- The church of Maryam is quite unremarkable except for its association with Emperor Tewodros. -- When I asked the priest at the Church of St. Mary about the connection with Tewodros he didn't want to talk about it. Even today acknowledging that Tewodros did something for the church seems to be taboo.

Beneath the church on the hill near the Goha Hotel is a large pile of rocks. So what? The story goes that the rocks were brought from Checheho, a mountainous pass about 80 km east of Debre Tabor. More interesting is how the rocks were brought - which was by soldiers who lined the route to Checheho and passed the rocks hand to hand to Debre Tabor. This would have taken a lot of soldiers. After passing enough rocks to build the

church and the wall around it, the soldiers returned to Debre Tabor, the story goes, and each carried one rock with them. The rocks were deposited below the church, and formed the mound which remains to this day. With the help of a civil engineering friend we did a rough calculation of the number of rocks in the pile, which is about 4 metres high, 16 long and 8 wide. With great mathematical precision, we took into account the slope of the hill, the size of the rocks, and the estimated space between the rocks and came up with the approximate figure of 270,000 rocks. Tewodros was estimated to have had 60,000 troops at his height - so you decide." [J Graham, AddisTribune 1999/10/01]

"Dear fellow Graham: -- When I was in Ethiopia last year, as I am from that town, I went to Debre Tabor for a short visit of my families and found the town's breakdown of its infrastructure and the poorness of the dwellers very disturbing. I hope your report may give to some responsible gov't officials a different view for this town's revival --"

[Admasu M Kebede, residing in USA, 6 Oct 1999]

"I am working in the National Urban Planning Institute -- as an expert in the study of history of urban centers. Currently the Institute is preparing a Master Plan for Debre Tabor in which I am assigned to study the historical aspect. -- For your easy reference I am willing to provide you both primary and secondary data --"

[Solomon Kebede 19 Oct 1999]

In a newspaper survey in March 1996 of cases when foreigners had been attacked in Ethiopia the following was included:

"Two British tourists were abducted around Debre Tabor and later released by armed opposition groups that are believed to be active in the area."

With airport in 1998 but no scheduled regular flights?

Unpaved runway, length about 1250 m.

2000s Debre Tabor is located in South Gonder Zone, Amhara Regional National State.

A primary school was inaugurated in September 2000 by the Canadian ambassador.

"The school was reconstructed at a cost of over 400,000 birr out of which the Canada Fund Local Initiatives contributed 230,000 birr." [AddisTribune news]

"Today just ruins of the old palace remain along with the old churches of Debre Tabor and the 19th-century Heruy Giyorgis. -- if you're passing through on your way to Weldiya, it's worth a leg-stretch."

[Lonely planet 2000 p 172]

Population about 27,600 in 2001.

A new library at the Dagmawi Tewodros II Secondary School was inaugurated on 19 October 2001. The British Embassy had donated 251,444 Birr towards books, teaching aids, and also library furniture.

[AddisTribune 2002/11/01]

picts T Waldmeier 1869 p 53 town with church at top,

reproduced in *Ethiopia engraved* 1988 p 48;

G Massaia 1885-95 vol XI p 73 gibbi of Yohannes IV,

reproduced in *Ethiopia engraved* 1988 p 88;

Bianchi 1896 p 140 surrounding landscape;

Jorden runt, Sthlm Sept 1934 p 471 a chief's residence;

A Frangipani, L'Equivoco., Milano 1935 p 224 view & Ras Gugsä;

G Gudmundsen, 14 år bland .., Sthlm 1936 p 169

Seventh Day Adventist mission station;

Gli annali .., anno III vol I /Roma 1940/ p 692-693[5]

physical training for Eth. school children in a field;

O A Jäger, Aethiopische Miniaturen, Berlin 1957,

colour photos from manuscripts: pl 3 Yohannes, from Betlehem

church, 6 Annunciation ditto, 9 Flight to Egypt ditto,

10 another from Mahedere Maryam church, 12 Crucifixion, from

Betlehem church, 15 Zyriakus ditto;

S Pankhurst, A cultural history of Ethiopia, p 698-99, plate CLV, a church;

J Leroy, Ethiopian painting, (1964) London 1967 pl XII

Crucifixion, from a gospel in Betlehem church;  
F J Simoons, Northwest Ethiopia, USA 1960 fig 5 town seen from  
afar as a grove of eucalyptus, fig 10 outside the Iyesus church,  
fig 34 two-storey stone house of a priest at Wogeda Iyesus near  
Debre Tabor, fig 37 ploughed field with boulders, fig 78 sawing  
of salt block at the market into smaller pieces, fig 82 wood  
section at the daily market.

**Debre Tabor: Anchim** (Ankim)

(spelling Aychem used by Gebru Tareke in 1991)

- 1930 "Aviation was in particular decisive at the battle of Anchem, in March 1930. In that engagement Zawditu's ex-husband, Ras Gugsa Walé, the ruler of Bagémdér -- was defeated and killed."  
[Pankhurst, *The Ethiopians*, 1998 p 214]  
"Ras Gugsa Wolie had long disliked the Negus Tafari. He was the estranged husband of Zauditu -- and thus commanded the support of the north where he held the governor generalship of Gondar and Begemidir. -- in March 1930 he raised his standard : his feudal retainers who owed him military service flocked to him. -- Seyoum Mangasha -- was not easily drawn to join Ras Gugsa -- Leul-Ras Kassa watched these dramatic events but did not commit himself either way, neither did Leul-Ras Hailu of Gojjam,"  
"Stating that he merely intended to make his submission to the new *negus*, Ras Gugsa edged his 10,000 men supported by ten machine-guns and two field-guns nearer and nearer to Shewa. -- the Negus Tafari sent Dejazmach Mulugeta north to Dessie -- He led a somewhat larger force than Ras Gugsa's and had thirty machine-guns and five field-pieces in support. Also aeroplanes purchased by Tafari only six months previously buzzed to and fro carrying messages between Addis Ababa and Dessie. The two French pilots, M. Maillet and M. Corriger, brought the Minister of War reconnaissance news -- He ordered a rapid and successful outflanking march. Bombs were hurled from the planes after leaflets, signed by the recently arrived Archbishop Cyril, had been dropped, testifying that Tafari was supported by the Christian Church -- The battle took place at Ankim on March 31, 1930, and lasted from early morning almost to midday, when Ras Gugsa received a sword wound on the forehead. He fell and was cut to pieces. In the resultant confusion his army disintegrated."

[Greenfield p 162]

**Debre Tabor: Gafat**

- 1860s The Evangelical missionaries were granted a piece of land by Nigus Tewodros. They opened a school and a large workshop for technical training. Missionaries and students lived together like a big family. They read the Bible in Amarinya but attended Orthodox services. Debtera Zenneb (later known as scribe and chronicler of Tewodros) became their first evangelist.  
Martin Flad and other missionaries to the Felasha together with their converts returned to Gafat in 1862 when they had to abandon the special Felasha stations.  
The young Mikael Aragawi (1850-1931) helped in revising Bible translations.  
Around 1866 Tewodros forced the missionaries at Gafat to try to manufacture cannon for him. J. Martin Flad was sent with a letter from Tewodros to Queen Victoria in London. He returned to his wife Pauline and children at Debre Tabor on 2 May 1867. All were removed from Gafat to Debre Tabor in 1867.

[Arén 1978 p 93-96]

Missionaries from Württemberg were Waldmeier, Kienzle, Bender, Mayer, Salmüller and Hall.

[F Wencker-Wildberg 1935 p 17]

- 1990s "To get to Gafat we drove about 2 km east from the centre of Debre Tabor. There is a dirt road turnoff heading north from the western side of a flat plain -- Although the dirt road is badly eroded in spots, we managed to follow it for about 2 km along the side of the plain and through to some hills beyond and across a stream. We parked next to a terraced



eucalyptus grove, and after asking directions from an old farmer we traipsed across fields for a kilometre."

"The story of the missionaries is well known in Gafat, and we quickly found a relatively young farmer who was well informed. Apart from taking us to the recognizable stone walls which he called the foundries, he was able to point out the hill on which he said the missionaries resided. Across the way is another hill, on which he says the soldiers guarding the missionaries were camped. He also pointed out the direction from which the Emperor Tewodros rode in about 5 kilometres over the hills to inspect the progress of the missionaries, a daily occurrence --

There is not much left, which is unsurprising given that the events occurred over 130 years ago, but there is more physical evidence of the reign of Tewodros here than in Debre Tabor itself. The place had been relatively undisturbed, obviously not a major centre after the missionaries were taken by Tewodros to /Mekdela/ in 1868."

[John Graham, AddisTribune 1999/10/08]

#### **Debre Tabor : Samera** (Samara)

On a hill above Debre Tabor and Gafat was Samera, the residence of Emperor Yohannes which he established a few years after Teodros's death in 1868.

The fencing wall around the *gebbi* was about four metres high. There was a single entrance, with higher masonry and a platform for guards, with a thatched roof over it.

1879

When the Italian expedition led by Matteucci arrived there on 20 May 1879, no one met them outside and they had to wait half an hour before they were introduced inside. Three large round houses in line after each other were the principal buildings of the Emperor's residence. They had diameters of some 20 m and heights of perhaps 15 m to the top of the conical roofs. They were constructed according to the local tradition.

With Giacomo Naretti as intermediary, they were first received by Bajiron Lautie. They entered the first building, and inside they saw four Egyptian guns taken by the Emperor from the Egyptians. There was also a large bed of the *angereb* type. Outside, many people were moving around.

The second building was the reception hall for audiences and court sessions, but there were also some horses and mules of the Emperor. The Italians were received in the third building, which was also the Emperor's bedroom. He was leaning on a small but exquisitely covered bed, with a revolver to his side and his *shamma* covering the lower part of his face. Ras Alula was present, and he served as interpreter. The Emperor saw Naretti again for the first time in two years but he showed no interest. It was a cool audience and the visitors soon left.

[G Bianchi, Alla terra dei Galla, Milano 1896 p 66-71, 74-76]

Concerning the negative atmosphere it was said afterwards that the Emperor had judged a rebel a few hours earlier, that Naretti had not sent message of the arrival of the Italians sufficient time in advance, and that two Swedish missionaries /Per Carlsson and Anders Svensson/ had joined Matteucci's caravan without permission from the Emperor.

There was a house for the Naretti family within the residence area, and two houses for the expedition were under construction. In the meantime, the Emperor lent them a tent and provided food. Two days later there was a second audience when the Italians handed over their presents.

[Bianchi as above p 77-78]

At a dinner given by the Emperor, the guests were the five members of the Italian expedition from Milano and the two brothers Naretti. Present was also Maderakal, the 'dragoman' of the Emperor who had been brought to Europe as a child by Lefevbre and who could speak French. He had a tendency for drinking, had not acquired European culture, and was not much appreciated by the Emperor.

After a while Dr Matteucci abandoned the idea that they would be able to travel to Shewa. The Naretti family remained at Samera when the expedition members left on 21 June 1879 to return via Gondar and Adwa.

[Bianchi p 111, 114]

Gustavo Bianchi remained alone from the Italian group in Ethiopia and arrived back to

Samera in heavy rain in the night of 28 June. He stayed there during the rainy season, only with a couple of excursions to lake Tana and the Abay river.

Bianchi felt much observed and did not dare to meet cardinal Massaia in person, but they exchanged letters by means of messengers. Before Massaia left for Metemma his messenger reported orally to Bianchi about the few Italians who were in Shewa and in the south-west.

[Bianchi p 119-126, 134-140]

Mitzakis, Greek vice-consul at Suez, arrived at Samera on 24 August 1879 with an escort of more than one hundred soldiers sent by Emperor Yohannes to meet him. Ethiopia had no *abuna* for the time being, and it was said that Mitzakis offered to bring a Greek patriarch. Mitzakis became acquainted with Bianchi and in early October proposed that the two would make an excursion together to Korata at lake Tana. After a twelve-day excursion they returned on 19 October.

Emperor Yohannes with some 8,000 men made an excursion to the thermal bath of Wenzagay (Uenzeghie) and returned to Samera on 6 November. Colonel Gordon Pasha had arrived at Samera on 27 October and was waiting to negotiate with the Emperor peace with Egypt. The brothers Naretti went to meet him, and Bianchi and Mitzakis joined them. They were also present when Gordon approached the residence of the Emperor for the first time along a road lined by thousands of Ethiopian soldiers. There was a salute five times by cannon caught from the Egyptians to greet the representative of the Khedive.

[Bianchi p 141-144, 155-157]

At this first audience the Emperor invited Gordon to accompany him to the thermal bath of Wenzagay. Gordon was annoyed at this proposal because he had come for the very much more important question concerning peace.

Giacomo Naretti was displeased that he was not invited to accompany the Emperor. Instead he was ordered to saw the timber for a church at Samera.

8 November 1879 was set as the date for negotiations with Gordon. In the morning, however, Consul Mitzakis stayed so long with the Emperor that it passed the appointed time. Gordon felt slighted and left the audience very soon, intending to return via Metemma. The Emperor sent a bag with some thousand taler intended for Gordon's soldiers, but this gift was not accepted and Gordon said that his men were paid by their employer.

[Bianchi p 157-162]

Bianchi had asked for an audience for himself concerning permission to travel via Shewa and try to find Cecchi and Chiarini. Maderakal was interpreter (and bribed with twenty taler). The brothers Naretti were also present, and Giacomo Naretti was in reality very much opposed to Bianchi's travel to Shewa. However, the Emperor's consent was obtained and date of departure was set for 25 November. Consul Mitzakis left Samera on that day, dressed like an Ethiopian. Bianchi had to wait until the following day and left Samera on 26 November 1879. He travelled by way of Mekdela.

[G Bianchi, *Alla terra dei Galla*, Milano 1896 p 165-168]

1881

After many travel adventures in southern Ethiopia, Cecchi, Bianchi, Antonelli and a representative of Ras Adal by name Dereshi arrived at Samera on 5 January 1881.

Emperor Yohannes received them rather coolly, in a newly erected rectangular building, because promised gifts from Italy via Massawa and letter from the King of Italy had not arrived.

Cecchi was questioned much by high officers of the Emperor about the countries in the south-west and what it would take to conquer them. On 15 January arrived Ras Adal for the ceremony of his coronation as *negus*. He was renamed Tekle Haymanot. It was said that he was accompanied by 15,000 persons. The three Italians succeeded to meet him and offer their congratulations. Menilek arrived four days later. After the festivities, Cecchi and Antonelli on 6 February left for Shewa accompanying Menilek. Gustavo Bianchi left Samera on 3 February to return to Italy via Massawa.

[A Cecchi, vol II, 1885 p 582-589 + Bianchi 1896 p 623-629]

- 1930s About one hour by mule to the north-east of Debre Tabor. There was once a temporary capital of Yohannes IV, on the slope of a hill. In the 1930s there was only a small group of huts left.  
[Guida 1938]
- HEK03 **Debre Tabor awraja** 11°45'/37°50' 11/38 [Ad Gz]  
(centre at least 1959-1980 = Debre Tabor)
- 1936 The Patriots began their resistance in Debre Tabor after a plot to kill Major Agolini was revealed on 29 June 1936. Kenyazmach Ejegu Ayalew of Dera acted as informer to Agolini. He rounded up people who plotted against him and sent them into prison, but after some time they were released. Among those released were Kenyazmach Tadesse Yimam, Fitawrari Atenafu Aleme and Balambaras Gulente. They left for their own districts, found their weapons and started Patriot actions.  
[Ethiopia Observer vol XII 1969 no 2 p 89-90]
- 1941 In July 1941 the Patriot guerrillas near Debre Tabor were led by Abebe Selassie and could be counted by thousands. There was also a company of Punjabis and a squadron of Skinner's horse.  
Propaganda leaflets in Amharic and Tigrinya were distributed. On 4 July the *askaris* en masse demanded their release and were accordingly disarmed and disbanded. Fitawrari Birru Woldegiorgis was the Patriot leader who received the surrender of Debre Tabor.  
[Allen + Di Lauro + Birkby + Mrs Sandford + Greenfield]
- HE... Debre Tekle Haymanot 12/37 [Ad]  
(centre in 1964 of Tach Dehuch sub-district)
- HES86 Debre Tiun, see Debre Tsiyon
- ?? Debre Tsebah Emmanuel (in Gojjam) ../. [x]  
The Emperor visited the monastery in May 1959.
- ?? **Debre Tsehay** (at which location?)  
"The queen gave to the priests of Debre Tsehay much land. First, she gave them a good territory called Bajana, which was formerly inhabited by Galla. -- Then the king and queen held an audience and summoned the priests and gave to each of them a portion of land. -- Also they gave the land called Chela for the rewarding of those who bring water --," [according to the Annals of Iyasu II and Iyo'as]
- HCC60 **Debre Tsehay** (Argenne) (locality) 06°02'/36°39' 06/36 [Ad Gz x]  
(centre in 1964 of Ouba Debre Tsehay wereda)  
east of the Omo river, south of Bulki  
Around 1920 the headman Shelo in Argenne called together all chieftains and traditional priests with Ari language and told them that he "had found a new god", or rather a goddess by name Ako. There were rituals under a large sycomore tree, and a cow was supposed to have been buried alive so that only the horns were visible. A special plant was to be brought and planted in many places. However, the new faith did not really take roots and disappeared after a while. Shelo himself is said to have been shot by the Amhara officials.  
[W Schulz-Weidner *in* Altvölker Süd-Äthiopiens, 1959 p 135-136]
- HEC55 Debre Tsehay (Devratai, Dibcan, Dib Kan) 11/37 [Gz WO Ch Gu]  
(Debecam, Debrakoni)  
11°23'/37°05' 1993/2070 m (village with church)
- HEL18 **Debre Tsehay** (Salit) 11°56'/39°12' 2304 m 11/39 [Ad Gz]  
25 km SSW of Lalibela  
(centre in -1959-1964- of Lasta awraja & of Tilas Firi sub-district).  
Sub-province Governor of Lasta awraja in 1959 was Fitawrari Berhane Maskel Desta.
- HEM10 Debre Tsehay 11°54'/39°21' 3317 m 11/39 [Gz]
- HEM21 Debre Tsehay, see Muja

??	Debre Tsehay A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records a little north of Gondar a place written Debra Tzai.	12/37	[+ 18]
HDL64	Debre Tsige (D. Tsegie) 09°39'/39°51' 2577 m (with church Maryam & sub-post office), distance 89 km from Addis Abeba, see under Debre Libanos	09/39	[Gz AA Po]
HDT63	Debre Tsige 10°33'/38°44' 2372 m	10/38	[Gz]
HE...	Debre Tsige (Debre Tsigie) (centre in 1964 of Werteya sub-district)	11/39	[+ Ad]
HDL31	Debre Tsimona 09°24'/38°30' 2341 m (with church Medhane Alem)	09/38	[AA Gz]
HCT74	<b>Debre Tsiyon</b> (D. Zion, Debra Tseyon) 07°56'/38°51' 1636 m (English: Mount Sinai, Mount Zion) Monastery on island Tulu Gudu in lake Ziway. (There is also a Debre Tsiyon Kidist Maryam church in London.) The islands in Lake Ziway were incorporated into Menilek II's empire in 1894. Graham Hancock visited there in 1989 together with Yohannes Berhanu of the National Tour Operation and Dr Richard Pankhurst. "We pattered, very slowly, through the rippling waters, passing one densely wooded island, then another. -- We quickly established that every inhabitant of the island, including the farmers and the fishermen, routinely conversed in a dialect of Tigrigna -- As we hiked up the winding path to the top of the hill where Debra Zion's main church was sited I asked: 'How come you all speak Tigrigna?' -- /Yohannes translated their answer:/ 'Their forefathers came here with the <i>tabot</i> . It was in the time of Gudit. She attacked the Christians in Tigray. -- They say it was the <i>tabot</i> from the Church of Saint Mary of Zion in Axum.' -- /The church of Maryam/ was a plain and unpretentious wattle-and-daub building, whitewashed on the outside and surmounted by a simple cross. The view -- giving us some idea of the extent of this large island." "The senior priest, Abba Gebra Christos, now presented himself. A small wiry man, probably in his late sixties, he wore a thin grey beard and a threadbare two-piece suit, around the shoulders of which he had draped a length of white cotton cloth in traditional highland fashion. -- 'They brought the Ark to Zwai and to this island. -- After seventy-two years it was returned back to Axum.' -- 'Yes, there is a book. -- But the part concerning the Ark is no longer there. -- About twenty years ago a certain man came and cut some pages from the book and took those pages away with him. They were the pages in which the story of the Ark was told. -- Well, he was an Ethiopian." "'It's quite amazing,' Richard commented on one point. 'So many old books. A real treasure trove. And they're just lying here in complete disarray. They could get damp. They could get stolen. Anything could happen to them.' -- with at least an hour of sunlight still left in the sky, we headed out onto the still waters of Lake Zwai." [G Hancock, <i>The sign and the seal</i> , 1992 p 224-231]	07/38	[+ Gz]
text	/this place?/: M.O. Acanfora, <i>Avanzi di civiltà antica a Debre Tsion</i> , <i>in Rassegna di Studi Etiopici</i> 6, 1947.		
HES86	Debre Tsiyon (Debra Sion, D. Tiun) (area) 1446 m	13/38	[+ WO]
HES95	Debre Tsiyon (Debra Sion) (with church & mission) 13°29'/37°58' 1526 m, see under Adi Arkay	13/37	[Gz WO Gu]
HFF30	Debre Tsiyon (D. Tzien) 13°50'/39°22' 2173 m (with rock-hewn churches), see under GERALTA churches - northern	13/39	[Gz WO]
HFF52	Debre Tsiyon (D. Ts'iyon, Dabras'eyon) (Debra Sion) 14°02'/39°38' 2525/2643 m	14/39	[Gz WO]

- ?? Debre Wagag (Fre: Dabra Ouagag) ../. [x]  
 In the east, on a mountain towering over the rich plain of Yerer /Erer?/, ascetic men founded Debre Wagag in the reign of Amde Siyon (1312-1342).  
 [J Doresse 1957 vol II p 86]  
*debre werk* (däbrä wärq) (A) golden mountain/abbey
- HCG58 Debre Werk (Debre Worq, Mianta) 07/35 [Ad Gz x]  
 06°52'/35°31' 1525 m  
 (sub-district & its centre in 1964)
- HDS77 **Debre Werk** (D.Work, D.Wärq, Debra Uorch) 10/38 [Gz Po Pa WO]  
 (Debra Wark, Dabra-Warq, Debra Uorc, D. Uerch) 10/38 [18 Ch Gu]  
 10°40'/38°10' 2489/2630 m  
 41 miles /65 km/ by caravan route southwards from Mota.
- 1600s After 1620: Emperor Susneyos withdrew from Gojjam, after which the Tulema Oromo "devastated half Gojjam", as far as Debre Werk. [Pankhurst]
- 1800s When Cardinal Guglielmo Massaia arrived to Debre Werk in the mid-1800s, Ras Ali was camped not far from there.  
 Massaia says that Debre Werk was a round hill with on top one of the most beautiful churches in the country, a round building with thatched roof. A *debertera* who was head of the church seemed to be also the civil head of the town. The town encircled the church almost down to the plain.  
 Ras Ali sent his assistant John Bell to contact Massaia. Mr Bell guided them to Ras Ali's camp where they arrived after an hour, and along the road he gave them some advice on what to say and not to say in the conversation with Ras Ali.  
 The camp had sections for Dejzasmach Goshu Zewde, Dejzasmach Kasa (=future Tewodros II), Aligas Birru of Yejju, Wagshum Gebre Medhin, and others. Ras Ali received the visitors in a large straw hut, but there were also tents. He kept horses, dogs, cats, monkeys and children near his house of reception.  
 Massaia stayed for two months near the camp and found Ras Ali to be a supporter of Catholic missionaries. There was so much coming and going and noise near Ras Ali that Massaia preferred to sleep in Mr Bell's camp some distance away, where it was much calmer. There, Massaia could also discuss religious matters with people. As a Catholic, he was affronted by the kind of service taking place at the Orthodox church. He also describes how Ras Ali was sitting as judge, sometimes condemning people to be immediately executed.  
 [G Massaja, Mes trente-cinq années ..., Paris, vol.I (orig. Italian ed. 1885) p 218-230]
- 1920s "-- is the usual Abyssinian town of conical tukuls built over the slopes of an isolated hill, and crowned by the larger building of a church."  
 [H C Maydon, Simen, London 1925 p 151]  
 The Swedish author Sigfrid Siwertz passed there in early 1926 and gives the usual descriptions of a foreign traveller about Ethiopian culture.  
 [S Siwertz, En färd .., Sthlm 1926 p 215-220]
- 1930s The Italian troops passed Debre Werk on 1 June 1936 and reached Debre Markos on the following day.  
 On an isolated hill, main centre of the Ennawga area 90 km from Mota. Market on Thursdays. There is a famous church and monastery.  
 [Guida 1938]
- 1960s The primary school (in Bichena awraja) in 1968 had 232 boys and 63 girls, with 7 teachers.  
 The church primary school had 36 boys in grade 1, with three teachers.
- 1970s Around 1970: "We had a romantic first view of the old monastery town -- at dusk and camped beside a stream beneath the large round hill on which the settlement is situated. In the morning we drove up to the immense market-place dominated at its eastern end by an old fig with an extraordinarily horizontal habit of growth and then climbed on up the uneven, worn-down stone steps of the church. Its compound takes up the entire hilltop

and is enclosed by a tall stone wall. The church was a large round structure roofed with thatch, with beautifully cut cedar arches forming its outer colonnade. Its golden roof-cross was complete with seven ostrich eggs. The windows were framed in thick cedar and the tall wooden-plank doors were in good condition. But they were locked. The *memhir* was off in Addis Ababa and none of the many priests and monks who gathered around us could let us inside. The place had an air of lethargy about it beyond the sense of peace and timelessness that usually characterizes remote religious establishments in Ethiopia. The *eqabet*, a well-built high stone tower, was not locked. I looked in the door and saw a handsome, wild-eyed young monk sitting beside a pile of manuscript books, crosses, censers, and umbrellas. He unwrapped a brass - or was it gold? - cross and displayed it to me proudly, but he would not let me touch it. I asked him about manuscripts. He reached over and took a large volume off a peg on the wall and removed it from its leather case. Opening it carefully he held it up to reveal clean parchment pages of beautiful red and black -- Then he shoved the manuscript back into its case and refused to show us any of the other books."

[P B Henze (1977)2001 p 243-244]

"When we returned the next May, we were accompanied by Professor Chojnacki and two young assistants, Berhanu and Hailu, from the HSIU Institute of Ethiopian Studies. We were also armed with a letter from the Patriarch of Ethiopia -- As we walked through the gate to the churchyard we found that what often seems timeless in Ethiopia does not change; the old church was being taken apart and put back together again! The thatch was gone from the roof and tin was in process of replacing it. The wooden arches had been taken down so that their foundations could be rebuilt and the roof structure was being held up by scaffolding. The monks told us that the Emperor had donated E\$60,000 for the renovation and the job was being carried out by an Italian contractor -- It was good to see that this famous old place was being given the means to withstand the ravages of time for another century or two, but it was disappointing to learn that we would not be able to see the church's paintings on this visit either. They had all been covered with muslin for protection during the renovation."

[Henze p 244]

In spite of the hostile monk the *aleqa* arranged for the manuscript mentioned above to be placed on a mat outdoors. "We felt the tension around us ease as local people pressing in around us enjoyed seeing the manuscript as much as we did and commented to each other on the Virgin's miraculous deeds depicted in the illustrations. Taking a break from photographing them, I took out my Polaroid and photographed Aleqa Tadde and a friendly local *balambaras*, handing them their pictures a moment later. This modern miracle brought fourth even greater exclamations -- Two priests posed for their Polaroid portrait near the gate. The sulking monk emerged from the depths of his *eqabet* and moved swiftly over to get into the picture with them. They were embarrassed and the crowd was amused. The monk retreated into the *eqabet* again. The sun was getting low and we hoped to see more manuscripts. Debra Worq is reputed to have a library of more than 400 volumes -- But the monk was sulking, probably embarrassed at his own vanity in rushing to be photographed. -- Other monks were discussing the situation in whispers. Finally a heavy single volume of Gospels was brought out and laid on the mat."

"We walked out of the churchyard feeling a sense of triumph at having photographed the *Tamre Maryam*, but regretting that we had been able only briefly to lighten the tension and unease which hovered over this old hilltop monastery."

[Henze p 245, 246]

Around 1978 there was a sub post office and a petrol filling station of Mobil.

2005

In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the constituency published as Debirework, in the East Gojjam zone, had 75 polling station and 72,874 registered voters of whom 84% cast their votes.

Leading party was EPRDF with 30,465 votes and candidate Weyzero Senayit Andarige Jemberu. Second was CUD with 20,099 votes and candidate Ato Lejialem Wondyferaw Tsaga. The remaining 10,956 (!) votes are not explained.

	[www.electionsethiopia.org]		
text	M. Cohen, Dabra Warq, <i>in</i> Mélanges René Basset, vol 1, Paris 1923 p 1-20.		
picts	Nat.Geog.Mag. LIX:6, June 1931 p 732 relics of ruler Tekle Haymanot displayed; J Doresse, Ethiopia, (French 1956) London 1959 p 152 [pl 63] air view of plateau.		
HDD52	Debre Werk Giyorgis (.. Werk' .., ..Werq ..) (church) 08°41'/37°46'	08/37	[Gz q]
HED07	Debre Yakob (Debra Iacob, Debre Ya'ik'ob) 10°53'/38°13' 2749 m	10/38	[+ Gu Gz]
HD...	Debre Yesus (in Bichena awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 89 boys and 36 girls in grades 1-4, with 3 teachers.	10/38?	[Ad]
HFF61	Debre Zakarios (w one or two rock-hewn churches) see under Idaga Hamus	14/39	[x]
HEL01	<b>Debre Zebit</b> (Debra Zebit, Dabra Zebit, Dabrazabat) (Zebit, Zebt) 11°49'/38°35' 2928 m (sub-district & its centre in 1964) Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 10E Meket (area) 8SE Agamek (Agamec) (village) 3S Gedebba (Ghedebba) (village) 10SW Amba Merkali (A. Mercali) (area) 6W Gersat (Ghersat) (village) 4N Habbo Badu (village) 8NE Berekasa (Bereccasa) (church)	11/38 11/38	[Gz Ad WO x] [18 Gu]
1930s	In a battle on 31 March 1930 there was a victory of Ras Teferi's forces under Dejazmach Mulugeta (with 20,000 rifles, 6 cannons, about 30 machine guns) over those of Ras Gugsa (with 10,000 rifles, 2 cannons, about 10 machine guns). Ras Gugsa was killed. During the Italian occupation there was a <i>Vice Residenza</i> at Debre Zebit. [Guida 1938]		
??	Debre Zena Markos (monastery in Moret)	../..	[n]
HDP70	<b>Debre Zeyit</b> (D. Zeit, Wembera, Wambara) (Uambera, Uombera, Umbera, Wanbera, Wembero) 10°35'/35°48' 2097/2350/2438 m (centre in 1964 of Wembera wereda & Kitar sub-district) (same?: centre in 1964 of Fagta sub-district) Around 1917, at the age of 26, Lij Mekonnen Indalkachew was made governor of Wembero, Abichu and Maset. He probably left after four years when he became chief inspector of the railway company. [R K Molvaer 1997 p 88]	10/35	[Gz WO Gu Wa]
HDS53	Debre Zeyit 10°28'/37°48' 2716 m (with church Maryam)	10/37	[Gz]
HEE36	Debre Zeyit (Debrezeit, old name Wembero?) (locality) 11°11'/38°58' (sub-district & its centre in 1964) /Both above?:/ Traditionally a region producing civet. When Raya-Azebo pursued the Patriots towards Dehana in 1937 they burnt a number of churches among which also Debre Zeyit Maryam.	11/38	[Gz Ad]
HDE66	<b>Debre Zeyt</b> (Debre Zeyit, Dabra Zeit) (Debre Zeit, Ada, Adda, Haddas) ( <b>Bishoftu</b> , Biscioftu, Buscioftu)	08/38 08/38 08/38	[LM Gz x] [Gu] [Ad WO Gu]

MS: 08°48'/38°56' = HDE75, 1850/1908 m

Gz: 08°45'/38°59' = HDE66, 2000 m

Centre in 1964 of Ada wereda (map of 1868 shows "Adda lakes").

Within a radius of 10 km there are at km

5E Ada (area and original name)

3SE Dierntu (at the railway)

9SE Gadetti, M. (mountain/area)

3S Gavise

4S Sakora (M. Sacora) (mountain/area) 1900 m near

7SW Dikayu (M. Dicaui) (mountain/area)

2W Tongit (church)

10NW Dukem (Ducam, Dukham) (at railway & main road) 1950/2125 m m

10NW Tadecha (Tadecchia) (area) 2050 m

9N Guro 2079 m

There are a number of crater lakes and dry craters at km

NE Bishoftu (near the town, buildings partly on the rim)

1SW Petty Pit

3SW Rocky Hollow

4SW Green Lake (Lago Verde)

3N Cheleleka (Rain Lake, seasonally dry)

3NE Hora /Arsedi/ (8-shaped lake + dry crater)

4NE Koriftu (Kuruftu, Dry Hollows) (8-shaped)

5NE Bishoftu Guda (North Lake)

*guddaa* (O) = big, but not bigger than the other Bishoftu lake

geol

The high volcanic hills south of Debre Zeyt are composed of fairly recent sodic rhyolite. Very recent patches of scoriaceous olivine basalt lie upon these rhyolites and are also intercalated in the pluvial lacustrine sediments of the region.

[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 214]

Impure lacustrine limestones have found no uses for building purposes as yet.

[Mohr 1961]

A several metres thick occurrence of pumice 9 km south of the railway station /called Ada at that time?/ was worked in 1939. [Mineral 1966]

1880

On 28 March 1880 Alfred Ilg, Gustavo Bianchi (and other Europeans?) made an excursion to the lakes of Ada, where they admired the many birds such as flamingos. On 30 March they were joined by Antinori from Let Marefia and Labattut. They discussed whether they could organize an expedition to the south-west to try to save the explorers Cecchi and Chiarini.

[G Bianchi 1896 p 508-511]

1920s

Bishoftu Farm, with an area of 10 gasha around the lake of the same name, was an enterprise of Makonnen Habte Wold in the 1920s or 1930s. The future minister Makonnen Habte Wold was also born at Bishoftu. Director of his farm was A.L. Dix. "Plusieurs Européens sont employés à cette ferme modèle: Mr. Pavloff, un Bulgare, établi en Ethiopie depuis 30 ans, ainsi que le Directeur actuel, Mr. J. Phepher. Madame Phepher dirige l'hôtel du Lac.

[Another source says that in the early 1930s Joseph Pfeffer was director of Hôtel du Lac.] La section agricole s'occupe de la culture du teff et des céréales. On a fait quelques essais de viticulture et de tabac bulgare -- En 1932, la récolte produit 1000 sacs de graines. Pour l'irrigation, il a été construit une canalisation. De plus, une pompe puise l'eau dans le lac.

Des machines agricoles sont utilisées dans la ferme: charrues légères avec simple soc, versoirs, herses, brabants et scarificateurs. -- En ce qui concerne l'élevage des volailles, notons que des couveuses artificielles y sont utilisées."

[Zervos 1936 p 131]

1930s

In a description concerning the years around 1930 the locality is called Addas.

A "small village" named Bishoftu is mentioned by Swedes in 1935 (with the spelling



- Bitjofto).
- 1936 A supply caravan for Dr Agge's group of the Swedish Red Cross Ambulance arrived to Bishoftu on 31 March 1936 on its way southwards. It consisted of some 40 animals with 10 men and 10 soldiers as escort.  
[K Johansson, På äventyr ..., Sthlms 1936, p 125-130]  
On 22 October 1936 it was cabled to Italy that the government agency *Opera Nazionale Combattenti* (ONC) was selected to start agricultural colonization work at Bishoftu and Holetta, on the former Haile Selassie's farms of several thousand hectares. The original plan to create 200 farming units in Bishoftu was later reduced to 100. [Sbacchi 1997 p 111]
- 1937 Names Haddas and Adda Ambo have been mentioned in the 1930s. Post office of the Italians was opened effectively 12 April 1937 (officially 15 April). Its cancellations read ADDA (ADDIS ABEBA) which after May 1939 was modified to ADA \* GOVERNO DELLO SCIOA. The post used spelling BISHOFTU around 1963. [Philatelic source]
- 1938 At about 1 km distance from the original village of Ada, on land that had been owned partly by Haile Selassie I, the Italians started *Azienda Agraria di Biscioftu dell'Opera Nazionale per i Combattenti* on 15,000 hectares, with the intention to create one of the main centres of colonization and also an experimental station for agriculture.  
The first foundation stone for colonial houses was laid 9 December 1937, but only 21 dwellings were ready by May 1938. For the administration were built a *Palazzina della Direzione* and various service buildings.  
The locality named Ada (previously Haddas) in the Italian time had *Vice Residenza*, landing ground for aircraft, post, telephone, clinic, *spacci* tobacco shops, and also a school for local youths *Scuola per la Gioventù indigena*.  
Near the almost elliptical crater lake Hora Arsedi there was a hotel Albergo C.I.A.A.O. with 60 beds.  
[Guida 1938]  
Description of the Italian O.N.C. farming project: - The preliminary work started in December 1938. The land was boggy and needed to be drained. The Vedecchia river /Italian spelling/ was provided with a bed of reinforced concrete and a network of drainage canals was received there. Fishes like pike and trout from Italy were introduced into the five lakes.  
"The farms of the O.N.C. are triangular in shape. Wherever possible the farms are grouped together in circular formations consisting of eight farms each. If we compare -- to a wheel, the farms would represent the spaces between the spokes, while in the hub we should find the communal bakery and water supply. Although the growth of urban districts is not encouraged, at some accessible point a small village has arisen, with a few shops -- The individual farmhouses have been built near the apex of each triangle. -- Each farm includes about 70 acres of arable land and 50 acres of pasture land." By May 1939 only 21 houses had been completed at Bishoftu.  
[F Quaranta, Ethiopia ..., London 1939 p 43-48]  
There was - when? - a station of the American Lutheran Mission.
- 1940s The Swedes employed for the future airforce "started their work early in 1946 at the flying school started in Addis Abeba by the Americans. Since the Addis Abeba airport was needed for the Ethiopian Airlines, the Air Force was moved to Bishoftu -- Besides /Count Carl Gustaf/ von Rosen the initial group of Swedes belonging to the IEAF unit consisted of 19 persons, who left Sweden between January 9 and 16 July 1946. The group comprised three Air Force pilots, six mechanics, three wireless operators and one meteorologist -- There were also three engineers, one of whom was a construction engineer to build airfields, one secretary, one hotel manager, and one accountant. -- The IEAF unit had a special position in that respect that the Emperor was its supreme commander and von Rosen was subordinated immediately below him, Assefa Ayene from the Imperial Guard serving as liason officer."  
[V Halldin Norberg, Swedes in Haile Selassie's E., Uppsala/Sweden 1977 p 209-210]

- A number of short passages about IEAF in the following have no reference and have been cited from J Waernberg, Svenska vingar över Etiopien, Sthlm 1999.
- 1946 The Swedes Tage Sivall and Gunnar Granath started employment at the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force (IEAF) in April 1946 and worked first in Addis Abeba. Gunnar Karlenborg, also of IEAF, died in Ethiopia on 16 October 1946. Six Saab Safir training airplanes were bought from Sweden and flown from there. They landed in Bishoftu on the European Christmas Eve, 24 December 1946.
- 1947 Carl Gustaf von Rosen wrote in a letter of September 1947 that in Bishoftu two crossing runways were almost ready, one 80 x 1800 metres and the other 60 x 1100. The first Swedes in Bishoftu (called so here until 1955) worked much with the construction of housing and other buildings. Engineer Lars Knabe made drawings and radio telegraphist Erik Brinkhagen "wore out three wooden legs while constructing houses".
- The Ethiopian cadets also assisted in building work. Blasting for foundations was made with explosives in bombs from the Italian time.
- In the beginning Swedish staff of IEAF were housed in the Italian-built hotel, and the Swede Gunnar Jansson was hotel director for a while. One group of the Swedes also stayed in Addis Abeba.
- Most of the various buildings that were constructed on contract were built by the Italian contractor De Valerio.
- On 10 November 1947 a fleet of 16 light bomber aircraft Saab B-17 landed at Bishoftu. They were delivered from Sweden and had been flown there by Swedes with only one Ethiopian liaison officer on board. "At that point the Ethiopian Air Force was born." The airfield of the Air Force Training Centre (when did it become named Harar Meda /HAME/?) was inaugurated by the Emperor on 13 November 1947 after a display flight of the new aircraft.
- (The Swedish crew returned with a Bristol Freighter plane which on 18 November happened to fly into a mountain near Salerno in Italy, with 21 killed and 2 severely wounded. This was the worst disaster to ever happen to the Swedish air force.)
- In one of the very first years of the Air Force, possibly in 1947, there was a small conflict which throws light on local conditions. The Air Force had received a building inside Bishoftu village to use as a store. Some time passed before they thought of placing some things there, but it was then found that the building was already filled with several 'squatter' families and their children.
- A crowd gathered and protested very vigorously. A Swedish employee who was present was lifted to the side and they wanted to hit the Ethiopian cadet very severely, but he was soon saved by his comrades who arrived.
- [B von Rosen, Berget och solen, Sthlm 1949 p 107-108]
- 1948 Colonel Ingvar Berg was sent to Ethiopia in 1948 to assist von Rosen in making an organizational plan. "A plan covering the years 1948-1951 was presented to the Emperor by Berg in June 1948. After two years work the IEAF consisted of a headquarters, a flying school and a small workshop. The flying school had two courses. The first course had 17 pilot cadets and 10 radio operator cadets and the second course had 12 pilot trainees and 12 radio operator trainees.
- [Halldin Norberg 1977 p 211]
- Colonel Berg reported in late May 1948 that there were three aviation teachers - Engzell, Edfeldt, Magnusson - and that they had so far given the 17 first cadets about 100 hours of flying and the next 15 cadets about 15 hours, mostly on two Tiger Moth and two Saab Safir.
- Totally the air force had 28 aircraft by then.
- 1949 In a letter of 30 September 1949 the Emperor proposed that the Swedish Air Force would select a high officer whom they could employ in Ethiopia. The Emperor was thinking of Colonel Berg in the first place, but Colonel Gösta Hård was employed and served, with his office in Addis Abeba, from February 1950 to late 1952.
- Tore Meier arrived in August 1949 and was a real oldtimer by the time he left Ethiopia

- again in September 1965.
- 1950 By January 1950 there were 28 Swedes who had started employment at the IEAF. Three DH Dove had been received by the Emperor as a gift from the British. In 1950 these were transferred to the aviation school in Bishoftu, where they served until 1975.
- 1951 Ten more SAAB B17 were bought and were flown from Sweden in November 1951 by Swedish and Ethiopian pilots. The Ethiopian group was led by the head of IEAF and included Aberra Woldemariam, Elias Tessema, Asefa Gebrezgi, Getatzu Kemfere, Negach Merga, Alemayeou Woldesenbet, Asefa Josef, and Gadissa Guma. There were some problems during the flight and only four planes could continue regularly after a stop in Tunis. They landed in Bishoftu on 3 December 1951.
- 1952 A new wing for one of the B17 left in Tunis was flown there in January 1952 by a group who in England were to fetch Fairey Firefly F1 of which eight had been bought this time. Rainfall per year 618 mm was recorded in Bishoftu in 1952. Yvonne Lindholm, working with children, did not belong to the Air Force group. Elza née Soukiassian, married to Major Martin Bunke, was citizen of Iran. When Colonel Gösta Hård left in 1952 he was to be succeeded by Major General Schyberg, but this officer was killed in an accident shortly before he would have started employment. The leadership of the Swedish Air Force was in doubt whether Sweden should make someone else available, and Colonel Berg was sent for a third time to Ethiopia to study conditions at its Air Force. Nine two-seated Fairey Firefly, a type known from aircraft carriers during World War II, were bought from the British in 1951-52. The first of them were flown to Ethiopia in January-February 1952. (Another sixteen were bought second-hand from Canada and arrived to Massawa in April 1954, from where they were brought to Asmara, not to Bishoftu.)
- 1953 In the beginning of 1953 there were 52 Swedes employed in Debre Zeyt (and 8 in Asmara) with 30 wives and at least 50 children.
- 1954 Telephones in 1954 were one line to the IEAF exchange, two to the Imperial Palace, one to Bishoftu Hotel, and one privately to Count Carl Gustaf von Rosen. Joseph Behesnilian had an enterprise for vegetable oils which started production in 1954. He also had plans for wheat flour but production had not yet started in 1955. Grain and oilseed cleaners (-1955-) were Denis Antipas & Bros.
- 1955 The official change of name from Bishoftu to Debre Zeyt seems to have been done around 1955. It is still called Bishoftu in the index of Guide Book of Ethiopia, (Chamber of Commerce) A.A. 1954. (Does *Bishoftu* mean "place of water" in Oromo?) In 1955 six more Saab-Safir training aircraft were bought from Sweden, of a more recent type with Lycoming engines. Head of the Training Centre was General Christian Nilsson who this year also became chairman of the Association Swedes in Ethiopia, which at that time had 144 paying members. "One after another the big events in the history of the IEAF took place, but the most important was that which occurred on 22 February 1955, when, in the presence of the Crown Prince and other members of the Royal family and many Ethiopian dignitaries and international visitors, The Force received its colours from H.I.M. Haile Selassie I." [Join the Air Force, AA 1967] Ethiopia investigated about buying Vampire jet-propelled aircraft from England (though finally no purchase took place). Around June 1955 the British in Aden flew a group of Vampire to Debre Zeyt, via refuelling at Awash station, so that the flying conditions at the altitude of Harar Meda could be tested. During the Silver Jubilee festivities in late 1955 the Emperor and his ministers also visited Debre Zeyt and all the B17 and Safir flew over the tribune. Some time later/?/ the pilot Tesfay flew in mist at high altitude into a mountain top and was killed in the crash, possibly because the mountains were higher than what maps available at the time indicated. Also in 1955 the Norwegian Evangelical Mission opened a station at Debre Zeyt, their eleventh station in Ethiopia.

Lars & Almaz Knabe had a café there (-1955-). By January 1956 it had been handed over to an Italian and its standard became lower.

[B Lindahl]

- 1956 On 1 Oct 1956 teaching started at the Ethiopian Evangelical College, its first students being 40 boys and 5 girls. It was a joint undertaking of Swedish, Norwegian, and German Evangelical missions. Its first headmaster was Sven Rubenson (b 1919) with wife Britta (b 1919). They had been missionaries at Adwa already in the 1940s. Its new buildings had been designed by the Swede Ingvar Eknor (which explains the similarity with the Building College in AA where Eknor was its architect and director). They were erected on a site provided by the Emperor, who also promised to pay for half of the housing of teachers. The buildings were paid for mainly by the Lutheran World Federation. Rubenson's staff-house as headmaster was not yet ready by May 1956 so they lived for a while in a building belonging to the Air Force. The College was officially inaugurated by the Emperor and Empress on 6 April 1957. The building had so far cost Eth\$ 187,000 paid for by the Lutheran World Federation and other sums paid by the Emperor. The College had 55 students in the first year and 95 students by 1958. Count von Rosen applied for his final leave from the IEAF in mid-1956 and thereafter Christian Nilsson, as Commanding Officer, was the only Swede at the top. In contrast to von Rosen, Nilsson was a professional military. He served for three years in Ethiopia, November 1954-November 1957. Colonel Assefa Ayene, an oldtimer who had been a cadet at the Holeta school already in the 1930s, was made the first Ethiopian air force general in 1956. Aviation Day at IEAF 8 Oct 1956 marked the 10th anniversary of its establishment. Artist Lemma Tesefa Kesime was born in Debre Zeyt in 1956. He studied at the Art School 1972-1974 and received an M.A. from the USSR in 1983. Thereafter he became a teacher at the art school in Addis Abeba.

[Eth. Artists p 160-161]

One week after Meskel, about 1 October, an Oromo festival used to be held at the lake. Flowers were dipped into the water and there was ceremonial singing and dancing, and also riding games. Foreigners were not permitted to take photos and in 1956 the police did not even permit binoculars to be used.

[Inga-Maj Lundgren]

- 1957 In 1957 Christian Nilsson was replaced by Knut Lindahl (a Swede born 1904, with wife Ingrid born 1911) as head of the IEAF training centre, with Brigadier General Assefa Ayene as Deputy Commander, because he was not yet willing to become Commander. Lindahl served 1957-1961 and experienced the attempted coup, see below. The Emperor visited IEAF on 24 June at a time when a runway for jet planes was under construction by the Norwegian firm Veidekke. It was a concrete runway 2700x35 m and was completed during 1958. The British government had presented jet engines as a gift for training in the workshops. On 30 Sep 1957 the Emperor inspected newly-bought jet aircraft from the USA. "T-33 jet trainers and F-86 fighters brought the planes of the Force into line with other nations." The first cadet school for flying staff was organized by Major Sven-Erik Everstål and he was head of the flying school 1955-1957. Debre Zeyt in 1957 had one of the 9 provincial secondary schools in Ethiopia (if Eritrea is excluded). The Theological School was also regarded as a secondary school, which would make it the 10th in number. Ethiopia Observer, Nov. 1957, no 10 p 330-334 has a feature article on the Agricultural Research Station.

- 1958 On 6 Jan 1958 the Swede Bengt Bröderman from Debre Zeyt was killed by shiftas near Senafe in Eritrea. It was the second time a Swede was killed in Ethiopia (the first being Gunnar Lundström killed by Italian bombs during the war). The Swedes associated with the IEAF in January 1958 numbered 54 men, 46 women, and 74 children (there were 14-16 children in six grades in a Swedish school for them in Debre Zeyt, with K Högberg and M Wilander as teachers). At least six of 34 wives served as secretaries at the IEAF.

Swedes, mostly civilians, having contract with the IEAF in January 1959 numbered 51, and it could be seen that the "Swedish period" of the Air Force was nearing its end in the jet age. B. Ottinger, teacher at the Ground School, left around May 1958. In mid-1958 Belete Ergetie of the IEAF was married to Barbro Johansson which he had come to know in Göteborg, Sweden.

The highway through Debre Zeyt was widened in mid-1958 and some old buildings which had been too close to the road were taken down and partly replaced with masonry buildings.

The building of the secondary school of the IEAF was being constructed about this time. Its headmaster was B. Bennet and assistant headmaster Mr. Webb. Four more teachers from England were expected to arrive.

On 30 April 1958 some 75 Swedes, partly from Addis Abeba, celebrated their *Valborgsmässoafton* festival with an outdoor bonfire in Debre Zeyt.

Debre Zeyt Technical High School was established in 1958 with a 5-year course.

Admission was for boys 12-15 years of age. Number of students was "not reported" for the first two years according to the Ministry of Education, but in 1960 there were 76 students.

At the Evangelical College there were 95 students in 1958, of whom 90 boarders. There were 5 foreign and one Ethiopian teacher.

Three Lockheed T-33 were delivered to the IEAF on 30 October 1958.

1959 It was published on 6 February 1959 that 60 cadets from the IEAF would be given training in jet aircraft in the USA.

Swedes who left Debre Zeyt around mid-1959 were M. Edhe, K. Högberg, J. Karlsson, G. Rahm, S. Toreson, G. Åberg.

In late 1959 the IEAF had 23 Saab B17, 12 Firefly, and 18 Safir training planes. The total staff was almost 1100 men, of which 87 foreigners. Prince Bertil of Sweden, on semi-official visit to Ethiopia for inauguration of projects, visited Harar Meda on 2 December 1959.

1960 The Eghorn family moved from Debre Zeyt to Addis Abeba in January 1960.

Swedes who arrived around March 1960 were Gösta & Rut Andersson with 2 children, Kent & Inga Josefsson with 1 child, Olov & Marilyn Tidlund with 2 children ( at some period placed in Asmara?), Bertil Lundblad (unmarried). Nils-Erik Stahre & wife arrived from Sweden and families Augustinsson and Hedengran from Asmara in mid-1960 (the latter around August).

Leaving for Sweden during April were Håkan Kjellin & wife and children, Bruno Thorén & wife after 3 years, "Ali" Linderoth after 2 years.

Missionary Karin Bergman replaced Anna-Greta Stjärne in May.

"When the U.N. Congo operation was initiated in July 1960, the IEAF Air Transport Squadron was the first military unit to supply troops and supplies to that troubled land." The leading military Swedish officers at the IEAF in early 1960 were Knut Lindahl, Torsten Hedengran, Arne Linderoth, Bo Carlmarker, Hans Rehnvall. Among some twenty civilian Swedes were the "old-timers" Arne Hagström and Tore Meijer, but Tore & Eivor Meijer with children left before the end of the year/?/ after having stayed 11 years in Ethiopia. Family Nils Kähr arrived at the end of 1960, while families "Stickan" Öhman and K.-E. Johansson returned to Sweden.

Four F86F "Sabrejet" high-altitude fighter-bombers were delivered to the Ethiopian Air Force from USA at Harar Meda Air Base on 23 September 1960.

[Eth.Herald]

During the attempted coup d'état in December 1960 "it is clear that for a long period both sides counted on the support of Brigadier-general Assefa Ayena, the senior Ethiopian officer in the Imperial air force. He appears to have tried to remain uncommitted as long as he could, but not unnaturally he emerged on the winning side -- In the early hours of Wednesday morning /14 December/, Merid ordered Assefa, by letter written in Amharic, to place the air force on the alert and await instructions from the army."

All through Wednesday, acting on Merid's orders, air force transports flew about forty-

four trips to airlift nearly a thousand troops from Dire Dawa, Debre Markos and in particular Gondar and Negele to Debre Zeyt. "On that afternoon a task force of five heavy tanks, several tracked machine-gun carriers, wheeled troop carriers and jeeps called by Merid from Nazret -- stood by for some time at Debre Zeyt, where the junior air force officers were demanding to know more of what they were being called upon to do. Later the tanks and troops continued up to Addis Ababa. Light aeroplanes circled the convoy -- Air force planes flew reconnaissance photographic sorties over the city --"

[R Greenfield, Ethiopia, London 1965 p 412-413]

The situation was unclear to the IEAF in the beginning of the attempted coup. The Swedes with the highest rank, General Lindahl and Colonel Hedengran, declared that they were on the side of the Emperor and that they would cease employment immediately if the rebels came to power.

The Swedes in general, including families, tried to plan for every eventuality and investigated whether the British in Aden could fly them out. For sleep at night they gathered in a few houses and had weapons available for defence, mostly in case some kind of mob would start plundering.

On the American side there were Colonel Ramsey and others in contact with Assefa Ayene, who finally gave orders to fly firing attacks over Addis Abeba and to spread pamphlets from above.

General Lindahl wrote in a diary on 16 December: "As far as is known by me, no action whatsoever was taken by the Body Guard to cripple any part of the Air Force, though it must be admitted that such an action should have given good results and been relatively easy to perform."

[Svenska vingar över Etiopien, Sthlm 1999]

17 December: the Emperor made a military airplane available to foreign journalists. It flew from Asmara and landed in Debre Zeyt, but the main press conference of General Kebede Gabre was held in Addis Abeba.

Carl-Göran Burman with wife Siv and a son born 1961 in Debre Zeyt stayed in Ethiopia from 1956 and was teacher at the Evangelical College at least 1960-1962. Karin Bergman (b 1933 in India) was teacher there at the end of 1960 and still in 1966.

At the end of 1960 there were 29 IEAF-employed Swedes, 22 wives (of whom a couple not born in Sweden), and 45 children.

1961 On 8 May 1961 the IEAF was told via the Swedish embassy that the Swedish Air Force would not make any more person of its employees available for Ethiopia. This was, however, vividly debated in some Swedish circles, and not until 18 January 1962 was Assefa Ayene given final information through the Swedish ambassador that no more air personnel from Sweden would be made available.

General Knut & Inga Lindahl left about 17 March, Erik & Asta Augustsson about April, families E.H. Andersson and Bo G. Carlmarker in mid-1961, and on 5 September 1961 Bertil Dannebrink left after 11 years at the IEAF. Teacher Kaj Stridell left on 1 December.

In early October 1961 a different type of Saab aircraft visited Debre Zeyt. It was a division of J29 called Flygande Tunnan in Swedish ("the flying barrel"), but they were only on their way to UN tasks in Congo.

Nils Erik & Britt Nilsson with 2 children left on 11 November 1961 after 5 years 9 months in Ethiopia. Swedes at the IEAF including family members (also in Asmara?) decreased in number from 109 to 52 from the beginning to the end of 1961.

1962 On 1 January 1962 there were 18 Swedes still employed by the IEAF (52 individuals including family members). One year later there were 10 employed, one fourth of the number four years earlier. Barbro Ergetie (b 1940) had the Ethiopian husband Belete. Olle & Ianthe Holmberg (b 1932 and 1935) with a son arrived to the Swedish school in early 1962. The Swedish school in Debre Zeyt in 1962-63 had seven children in classes 1-8 (though none in 3 and 7, and class 4 with a boy and a girl was the only one to have more than one child).

Family Kähr left around June 1962. *Fil.mag.* Gunnel Wallbom of the Swedish EFS

Mission arrived around August 1963 to the Evangelical College, where 120 students were admitted in that year.

The average daily traffic on the Addis Abeba side in 1962 was 524 buses, 159 cars, and 200 trucks.

- 1963 In 1963 Ragnar Norheim (b.1932) with wife Ingrid (b.1935, educated as teacher) arrived to the Norwegian mission in Debre Zeyt. Two years later arrived Reidulf Molvær. In 1962/63 the Swedish school in Debre Zeyt had 7 Swedish children in grades 1-8, with teacher Ola Holmberg. Gunilla Bjerén, who worked for the Swedish Volunteer Service as a social researcher in 1965-1967 and returned to Ethiopia for her own studies, made one of her sample surveys in Debre Zeyt. [Bjerén 1985 p 22] A Swedish peace corps volunteer Hans Svensson in the 1960s worked as a teacher at Princess Tenagnework Haile Selassie Comprehensive High School. The school was located at the northern entrance of the town. [Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 2000 no 1 p 22-23] At the beginning of 1963 there were 10 Swedish staff at the Air Force (incl. Asmara?). Karl-Ivar Rosenqvist and families Roland Bengtsson and Sven Forsén left the IEAF around August 1963, while Ulf Bergström arrived as head of a car workshop and Lennart & Ingrid Larsson arrived around September. The Animal Health Assistants Training School, with financial cooperation by the UN Special Fund, was established in Debre Zeyt in 1963 and had a yearly intake of 25 students for a 2-year course. [Official pamphlet, A.A. 1964]
- 1964 By April 1964 there were 6 IEAF-employed Swedes. One of the teachers at the Evangelical College at this time was Gunnel Wallbom. The Emperor inaugurated the Veterinary Training School on 28 November 1964. The British veterinarians were on loan from the FAO, and this UN personnel would leave after a 5-year period.. Cattle vaccines against rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia were prepared at the veterinary laboratory (-1964-). The first to complete a course were given their certificates by the Emperor on 17 July 1965. Another 25 received certificates from the hand of the Emperor on 16 July 1966. Same for 23 certificates on 21 July 1967. By 1964 a 60-pair telephone cable had been laid from A.A. to Debre Zeyt. Radio technician Bo Lennart Ljunggren with 4 children left about February. On 8 June 1964 all Ethiopia changed from left-hand to right-hand traffic on the roads.
- 1965 By January 1965 there were 3 IEAF-employed Swedes with 3 wives and 3 children (plus Barbro Ergetie locally employed). Karin Bergman worked as teacher at the Evangelical College (-1960-1966-) The Extension Program of the university in the capital had 54 students in Debre Zeyt in 1965. Official statistics for 1965 say that there were 1,880 owned, 3,780 rented, and 690 unspecified dwellings. Of these 3,920 used piped water, 930 water from wells, and 1,450 from streams. 1.6% of the households had flush toilets, 63.6 had pit latrines, and 33.9% had none. 17% of the males and 21% of the females living there were born in the town. Of the town population ten years of age and older, there were 5,620 men of whom 56.7% literate and 9,340 women of whom 15.6% literate (the Air Force is not included in the figures). There was only one industrial establishment (food sector) in Debre Zeyt in 1965. Late leavers among the Swedes at IEAF were Lennart Larsson who left in September 1965, like Tore Meijer who was the real oldtimer since 1949, and Kenneth Eghorn since 1952/?/.
- 1966 In 1966 it was decided that the Ministry of Interior would design a master plan for Debre Zeyt, without engaging external consultants. At the Air Force in March 1966 there was still Barbro Ergetie and airplane technician Kent Josefsson (b 1934) with wife Inga (b 1936) and Olav Tidlund with family.

Volunteers Anne Edh and Ingalill Ohlsson worked at the Community Development Centre for Ada wereda.

Population as counted in 1967 was 22,055, and 65.9% of them were illiterate.

Of the active population (not including the Air Force) 34% were engaged in service. Almost 60% had Amharic as their mother tongue (possibly a somewhat exaggerated descent) and almost 97% were Christian, with 2% Muslim. At that time 36% of the town people were born in Debre Zeyt.

Telephone numbers in 1967 were 132, but still only IEAF had its line to an exchange. 30 of the numbers were registered on persons with high-ranking or military titles. Of the Swedes only Lt. Col. Gösta Zetterqvist had a direct number. Few commercial firms are visible. There was Ada District Community Development, Agricultural Experiment Station, Atse Lebne Dengel School, Debre Zeit Farm, Debre Zeit Hotel, Municipality, Railway Station, Royal Hotel, Technician Club, Territorial Army 4th Brigade. Debre Zeyt was mentioned in 1968 as one of four towns outside Addis Abeba and Eritrea having an automatic telephone exchange.

A branch of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia was established in Debre Zeyt within the period 1965-1968.

1967 The Air Force Transport Squadron was the first unit to provide troops and supplies for the UN force in Congo in 1960, and in 1967 a squadron of Ethiopian jet fighters was again sent to the Congo.

Swedish volunteer Anne Edh left on 4 January 1967.

In 1967 Torbjörn Vedelden (b.1934) arrived to the Norwegian mission.

The Emperor inaugurated an astronomical observatory belonging to the university and located at Debre Zeyt. On this occasion 10 February 1967 a passing technical satellite was photographed.

On 5 November 1967 there was an impressive Air Force show in honour of President Jomo Kenyatta.

1968 The Ethiopian Evangelical College in 1968 had 120 male and 29 female students in grade 9-12, with 7 teachers of which 6 foreign (the Swede Gunnel Wallbom left around June, together with an adopted girl Ginner). Family Anders Andersson, earlier at Adwa, moved to the Ev. College at the beginning of 1968. In this year there were 29 students who sat for the School Leaving Certificate examination and 14 who were accepted by the HSI University.

Atse Lebne Dengel Secondary School had 29 students in grade 12 who sat for school leaving certificate in 1968, and 6 of them passed.

The mission Teacher Training College had 8 male students.

The Animal Health School at the same time had 88 students, with 7 teachers of which 5 foreign.

The Emperor inaugurated the Aeronautical Academy in Debre Zeyt on 7 Nov 1968.

1969 In 1969 a teacher at the Animal Health School was from the British Voluntary Service. Bekele Molla had a motel at Debre Zeyt around 1969.

The Harar Meda school was surveyed in January 1969 by two Swedish and two Ethiopian architectural students. This school was primarily intended to serve Air Force personnel. The school building was financed half from Sweden through ESBU and half from the Air Force community.

The walls were built of plastered brick. There were 16 classrooms, at the time of survey for 11 classes of grades 1-6, with 221 boys and 197 girls. Comment said that it was the most luxurious of 20 ESBU schools studied, and it had been inaugurated by the Emperor himself (the marble slab for commemoration was still there into the 2000s). Every pupil had to wear a blue uniform with white shirt.

[Report for LTH Lund/Sweden with plans of site and buildings]

1970 According to Urban Survey, Second Round 1969-1970 of the CSO, Debre Zeyt inhabitants were 61.2% 'Abyssinians', 29.9% indigenous population and 9.9% others. In 1970-1971 Ethiopia bought 10 or 12 BAC Canberra bombers (used before by the RAF) from the United Kingdom and five Fairchild-Hiller C-119 Packet transport aircraft from



the USA.

[SIPRI Yearbook 1972]

In January 1970 volunteer Gunilla Strandberg was housekeeping teacher and volunteer Hans Svensson (b 1943) teacher at the secondary school. At the Evangelical College there were Anders Andersson (b 1929) with wife/teacher Berit (b 1934) and 3 children of whom one born in Adwa.

1971 Tor Forsman left around September 1970 after building work at the Evangelical College. Olav & Marilyn Tidlund with 2 sons left around August 1971 after 11 years in Ethiopia, of which some in Debre Zeyt but the last ones at EAL in Addis Abeba.

1972 The B17 aircraft bought from Sweden (see November 1947) were flown for the last time in 1972. They were thereafter kept unused.

In 1972 Jens Olsen (b.1944) arrived to the Norwegian mission.

1973 In 1973 the Ethiopian Air Force had 37 combat aircraft. [Gilkes 1975 p 244]

There were 200 students at the Evangelical College in 1973, of whom 175 boarders.

Teacher of English and French was *fil.mag.* Sonia Frängsmyr (b 1945), serving August 1972-1973-. The Swedish-Ethiopian Association paid scholarship at the College for Getahun Haile from Harar.

1974 International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA) was established at Debre Zeyt in 1974, affiliated to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). By around 1985 its staff numbered 35 professionals.

[ILO, Directory of African technology institutions]

The experimental station of ILCA (in French named CIPEA, Centre internationale pour l'élevage africain) has tried to find better harnesses and yokes so that ploughing with a single ox would be possible.

[J Gallais, Une géographie politique .., Paris 1989 p 106]

The Ada Development Project was supported by the World Bank (-1974-).

Just before the revolution in 1974, the air force (based in Debre Zeyt, Asmara and other places) had one bomber squadron with four Canberra B-2, one fighter-bomber squadron with 12 aircraft, one COIN squadron with 6 aircraft, one fighter squadron with 15 F-5A, one transport squadron with 16 aircraft, three training squadrons with 54 small planes, and 5 helicopters.

Lieutenant-General Assefa Ayene was by then Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and placed in Addis Abeba.

[C Legum, Ethiopia .., London 1975 p 17]

On 10 February 1974 the technicians and NCOs at the Air Force Base rose in a revolt, imprisoning their officers in a mess hall and holding them hostage for three days while they pressed their demands for better pay and working conditions.

[M & D Ottaway 1978 p 2]

In the evening of 12 February 1974 General Aberra Woldemariam reported that the Air Force had mutinied and that he was under threat from his own men. Police instead of troops were sent to Debre Zeyt. General Assefa Ayene visited the next day to hear the men's complaints and got the impression that the Air Force staff had launched a strike rather than a mutiny, as he was confronted with various demands, mostly old ones. For the moment they agreed to suspend the strike and go back to work.

(Aberra later became a prisoner, but his wife knew at least four years later that he was still alive, although suffering from diabetes. His wife, and also Assefa Ayene's, lived in their house in Addis Abeba.)

On 20 February the villas of General Abiy Abebe (President of the Senate) and Akalework Habte Wold (Minister of Justice) were attacked and smashed up. Road blocks were set up near Debre Zeyt.

On 22 February, air force men and other parents marched on the police station to demand release of the students arrested during riots earlier in the week.

On 27 February the Air Force arrested some but not all of their officers.

[from news and the journal Africa + Legum 1975 p 34]

"The revolt of technicians and NCOs at the Debre Zeit Air Force Base February 10-13 all

but repeated the Neghelle incident. For three days, the mutineers held their superiors hostage inside a mess hall while they negotiated demands for better wages and working conditions."

[Ottaway 1978 p 46]

In late March 1974 a committee of about 20 NCOs and officers at the Air Force Base plotted to buzz the capital with jets in order to show their dissatisfaction with the slow pace of reform and the failure of the Endelkachew government to arrest former ministers and officials of the previous cabinet. However, the government learnt of the plot, and on the night of March 24-25, it arrested about 25 NCOs and junior officers, most of them in the Air Force, accusing them of planning to bomb the capital and overthrow the prime minister.

The prime minister was able to send the Airborne Corps to surrender the Debre Zeyt base. The siege of the base was later lifted on 3 April.

[Ottaway p 49-50]

The paratroopers, who had their barracks near Debre Zeyt, were ordered to surround the Air Force base on 25 March 1974 and they remained until 2-3 April, when they were withdrawn and Air Force officers agreed to go back to their work.

[News]

In the second half of June, paratroopers seem to have clashed with the Air Force again, with at least one paratrooper and one civilian killed.

[News]

Throughout June 1974 the radical elements in the Armed Forces Committee (the Dergue) were organizing themselves. "Colonel Alem-Zewd was still the nominal chairman of the Committee, but the radicals, particularly in the air force - whose headquarters were still occupied by the Airborne Division - were pressing hard and openly for action. The first sign of this conflict in the military came on June 22 when there was a brief gunfight between some paratroopers of the Airborne Division and a group of airmen at Debre Zeyt. One died and about nineteen were injured."

[B Thomson, Ethiopia - the country .., London 1975 p 69-70]

On 3 July 1974 the Armed Forces Co-ordinating Committee presented some demands to the Emperor. One result of this was that radical air force officers who had been imprisoned at the end of March were released.

[Legum 1975 p 45]

1975 Population 39,675 in 1975, a growth of 17,000 in eight years. About 24% of those living there in 1978 were born in the town, a normal figure indicating the rate of recent growth of larger towns in Ethiopia.

Spelling used by the post office was DEBRE ZEIT around 1975.

On 7-8 February 1975 there were arrested 35 air force officers "for having discussed how to reinstate civilian government in Ethiopia."

It was also said that 9 Eritrean pilots and aircraftmen of the Air Force had been arrested at Debre Zeyt during the same week. [News]

1976 "Sisay was believed particularly powerful because of his support from the air force, which had been a centre of dissension throughout the revolution, many of its officers and technicians having long supported the idea of a 'people's government.' It was not entirely coincidental that a new wave of unrest swept through the air force base at Debre Zeit in May and June, just at the height of this confrontation. Nor was it a coincidence that both Mengistu and Sisay made personal appearances at the base, presumably to rally support for their respective views."

[M & D Ottaway 1978 p 140]

The US fighter-bombers promised to Haile Selassie in 1973 were ready for delivery in the spring of 1976, and the question arose in Washington: should they be turned over to Ethiopia as promised? After considerable debate, Henry Kissinger took the lead and decided that they should. Shortly afterwards, word of a Derg plan for a shocking "final solution" in Eritrea reached Washington. Kissinger sent an ultimatum to Mengistu: stop the peasant militia march or the planes will not be delivered. Mengistu denied the

existence of the plan and the march did not materialize. A squadron of F5-E arrived in Ethiopia in July.

[P B Henze, Layers of time, London 2000 p 298]

- 1978 Population 43,654 as estimated in January 1978.  
In 1978 there were petrol filling stations of Agip, Mobil, Shell, Total.  
The Air Force still had eleven of the small SAAB Safir in 1978, but as no spare parts could be had the Air Force would have preferred to sell them. Some Soviet planes could be seen at Harar Meda and many Russian officers in Debre Zeyt.
- 1980s Dr Taye Bezuneh was dean of the Junior College of Agriculture in the early 1980s.  
The College offered a 2-year course with 3 specializations to students who had passed grade 12 examination. There was a total of 367 male and 37 female students and a yearly intake of 200. The staff were 33 Ethiopian and 1 foreign.  
[Survey published in Dar es Salaam 1983]  
Dr Fisseha Gebreab was dean of the College of Veterinay Science at that time.  
Main hotel in town around 1982 was Hora Ras with 44 beds. Its manager was Berhane Desalegne.  
"In Debre Zeit -- there is the Heroes' Center for the Disabled - a well-organized, well-kept institution with every possible comfort for its patients. Every important visitor that comes to Ethiopia is taken to the Heroes' Centre to see how well Ethiopia cares for its disabled veterans. -- But the Center can house only 200 people. No provision at all is made for the 200,000 other veterans desperately in need of help."  
[Dawit W Giorgis, Red tears, USA 1989 p 359]  
In early 1986 the Debre Zeyt military airport had to take much civilian traffic for a period while the Bole airport in Addis Abeba was closed to international traffic for 65 days.  
Population 55,461 in 1987.  
There was an attempted mutiny against Mengistu Haile Mariam on 16-18 May 1989.  
From Debre Zeyt "two MiGs were able to take off and make passes over the ministry and city /of Addis Abeba/ but there had been no time to arm the planes with either bombs or rockets. Within a matter of minutes, the previously alerted airborne and tank units had driven tanks and tractors on the runways and prevented further airforce action. It was not until the morning of Thursday 18 May, however, that orders were given to attack the airforce dissidents, who had refused to surrender despite long negotiations the previous day."  
[Africa Confidential 26 May 1989]
- 1990s By February 1990, Agrober Agrinvest of Hungary had prepared plans for construction of 56 buildings for a poultry-breeding farm at Debre Zeyt. The scheme would be financed by Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, and it was intended to export chicks to those countries.  
[News]
- 1991 In May 1991 Derg forces in the east and south of Ethiopia rapidly collapsed. "EPRDF elements had no alternative but to move into most areas to fill the vacuum and were generally welcomed. They by-passed the capital to the east and reached Debre Zeyt."  
[P B Henze, Layers of time, London 2000 p 329]  
The EPRDF occupied Debre Zeyt on 23 May 1991, and thereby the airbase was in the hands of what also became the new government.  
After the takeover in the capital "several dozen senior military officers were placed in custody at Debre Zeyt Air Base where the EPRDF, which had never possessed air power, took over the remainder of the Derg's Soviet-supplied air force."  
[Henze 2000 p 332]  
At the change of political power in 1991 all Air Force staff were removed and all the aircraft were flown to Asmara to stay there for a while. One single airforce colonel was kept in Debre Zeyt to help clarify things during a transition period. This colonel was housed in the villa which had been Sven Rubenson's when he was director of the Evangelical College. The college building became a provisional prison for a while during the wave of criminality accompanying the great changes.

- [S Rubenson]
- 1993 Debre Zeyt and Adigrat were special centres (-1993-) for giving care on a permanent basis to some 15,000 disabled ex-soldiers totally at the two centres.  
[Official news]
- 1994 Population about 73,400 in 1994, an increase of over 20,000 in ten years' time. According to another source the population was 105,963 in October 1994, making Debre Zeyt the 8th largest provincial town in Ethiopia.
- 1995 The OAU Observer Group of 81 members were represented at the polling stations of Debre Zeyt and seven other major towns at the elections on 7 May 1995. A clash occurred in late June 1995 over the ownership of a piece of land in Debre Zeyt claimed by the Orthodox Kidane Mihret Church and also by the Protestant Misgana Church. The private weekly *Aemero* reported that many persons sustained injuries and that 15 were detained by police.  
A little later *Aemero* reported that there was an emergency meeting of Ethiopian Air Force staff in the premises of the base on 5 July 1995. They were told that nearly 328 administrative staff and an unknown number of technicians would be dismissed and were expected to leave the base in two weeks. On 21 July there was graduation of the first batch of pilots since the establishment of the Transitional Government.  
"It enjoys a warmer climate than the capital city. -- is resplendent with pepper trees, bougainvillea, flame trees, and frangipani. Its main hotel, the Hora Ras, is situated off to the left of the main highway on the rim of the largest crater. -- Continuing down the same road, you drive past the Veterinary Training Centre on your right --"  
[Camerapix 1995 p 125]  
"Debre Zeyt is a fairly large town which sprawls unappealingly along the main Nazret road -- Drive straight through and -- there is not a hint of the fact that the town lies in the middle of perhaps the most accessible crater-lake field in Africa."  
"The only tourist-class accommodation is the government owned Hora Ras Hotel, the run-down state of which is compensated for by an excellent position overlooking Hora Crater Lake. -- The more central Bishoftu Hotel is positioned on the rim of Bishoftu Crater Lake. -- The cramped bar and restaurant overlook the lake. The sign outside the hotel doesn't bear a name, but instead depicts what looks like a strangled pelican with a large "Welcome" written underneath. -- Altogether more friendly is the Bekele Mola Hotel on the main junction. Again, there's no signpost, but the orange prefabricated reception room is a good enough landmark. -- Another goodie is the Terminal Hotel near the bus station, which has clean rooms with private shower and toilet for around US\$2. No, it isn't signposted - there's a low stone wall and a large fuity painting on the exterior of the bar. In the dollar-a-night bracket you're looking at brothels, blatantly so even by Ethiopian standard. -- Strangely enough, most of the dollar-a-night places *are* well signposted."  
[Bradt 1995 p 164,167 with sketch of town plan and lakes on p 165]
- 1998 After several defections around early May 1998, the commander in chief of the Ethiopian air force called together officers at the air force base "to warn them that they would be subject to rigorous evaluation tests of their loyalty".  
[Indian Ocean Newsletter 1998-05-16]  
The town's smartest hotel, the Hora Ras Hotel on the rim of the largest crater lake, was bought in the late 1990s by the big business tycoon Alamoudi. There are also Royal Hotel, Bekele Mola Hotel, Hotel Bishoftu and the cheap Hoteela Tarminaalii. *Garis* (horse-drawn carts) are usually found near the bus station.  
[Lonely planet 2000 p 283-285, with simple town plan]
- 2001 Population about 90,200 in 2001. It was then the tenth largest town in Ethiopia.  
"There is a struggle to have it renamed Bishoftu to reflect it's location in the Oromo Region. Nobody seemed to pay much attention until fairly recently.  
As you enter the city you pass by a series of lines of trees by the side of the roads. These are popular picnic (and chat chewing) sites, particularly on the weekends. --  
The old Ras Hotel on Lake Hora is being renovated by the business magnate Al Almoudi (very slowly), and should be very nice when completed. Foreign churches have also found

the craters popular - both the Catholic church and the Protestant Sudan Interior Mission have built guest houses on crater lakes, and will rent space to outsiders when they're not busy. I ended up staying at the Air Force Officers Club once, an interesting experience although I was disappointed not to find groups of drunken officers hanging out at the bar late at night - they all seemed to go to bed early.

One pleasant addition to Debre Zeyt is the Family Restaurant, which serves tex-mex food and is a popular brunch spot on the weekend."

[John Graham in AddisTribune 2000/05/05 and 2001/11/01]

2002 Tirune Mangistu was director of a school in Debre Zeyt which in 2002 was visited and filmed by the Swede Björn Virving. As a child Björn had been a pupil of that school in 1952-1956 when it was newly built to be a school for Swedish children. The school building first had two classrooms, and three classrooms were added later. There were about 200 children of ages 4-7 in 2000 but over 700 children enrolled in 2003, of which 117 given education free of charge. Additional classrooms were being planned. The school was assisted with money from some persons in Sweden and with materials from some persons in Debre Zeyt.

[Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 2003 no 2 p 4-6]

2003 Distance 47 km from Addis Abeba. The Ada wereda police station and a couple of petrol filling stations are at the main throughgoing road. An Orthodox church on a hill has two towers with cupolas.

There is Ada Flour and Pasta Factory,

Pasqua Giuseppe PLC, glass,

Salmida Leather Products Manufacturing,

Ratson (Women Youth Children Development Programme),

Winrock International Ethiopia (association for benevolent work?),

Debre Zeyt Research Center.

2004 Harar Meda Model School was built as an elementary school, see above at 1967.

It became much upgraded, and by year 2004 there were 18 classrooms for until 10th grade and teaching in two shifts. Its former book store contained data servers.

[B Lindahl from visit]

A bomb exploded in the town in the beginning of May 2004. It killed one person and injured others.

[AddisTribune 2004/05/07]

maps Urban map 1:10,000 December 1961;

Urban map 1:4,000 October 1962.

texts Bishoftu Agricultural Research Station,

*in* Ethiopia Observer 1957 no 10 p 330-334;

The agricultural experiment station in Debra Zeit,

*in* Ethiopia Observer 1959 vol III no 2 p 45, 47-49, 51-53;

C. Nilsson, Svenska flygvapnet i Etiopien, *in* Ett år i luften (Flygets årsbok) 1959/1960 vol II p 125-141;

Zemedu Worku, Debre Zeit Agricultural Experiment Station,

*in* Bulletin of the Horticultural Society of Ethiopia, vol 1, 1963 no 6 p 35;

Taye Bezuneh, Notes from Debre Zeit Agricultural Experiment Station, *in* ditto vol 2, 1964 no 1 p 43-47;

Report on a survey of Debre Zeyt (Central Statistical Office)

A.A. 1967, about 25 pages mimeographed.

### **Debre Zeyt: dams**

Around 14 km north of town /about 10 km north of Lake Bishoftu Guda/, beyond the Godino Soil Conservation and Forestry Development Nursery, are the three so-called Cuban lakes. In fact, they are dams built in the 1980s for an irrigation project, but they provide one of the best places for spotting birds, including pelicans, cormorants and egrets.

[Lonely planet + Bradt + Aubert]

**Debre Zeyt: Dukem** (Ducam)

Village and railway station midway between Akaki and Debre Zeyt, named after a small stream there. Recent basalt flows cap a line of small volcanic hills north of Dukem. At 35 km from Addis Abeba there is a turn-off for going to Zikwala mountain and Dukem itself is at 37 km.

- 1930s In the Italian time with post, telephone and *spaccio* (tobacco shop).  
Post office of the Italians was opened 15 March 1937 (or 1 January or 10 March?) in a tent of type *Balilla* and it was closed 31 May 1939, though on 1 March 1940 a tax collector's office with some postal functions was opened. Its cancellations read DUKHAN \* ADDIS ABEBA and later possibly DUCAM.  
[Philatelic source]
- 1960s Boys used to stand along the road offering mandarines and oranges grown at Dukem. Dejazmach Fikre Mariam primary school in 1968 had 279 boys and 121 girls, with 4 male teachers and one female.
- 2000 The Misrak Ber Hotel is recommended, and there is also the Harar Meda Hotel (its name refers to the military airport at Debre Zeyt).  
[Lonely planet 2000 p 281]  
There is a health station in the 2000s.
- Debre Zeyt lakes** (see also under their individual names below)
- geol "Explosion craters, deep basin-shaped depressions sunk below the surrounding land level and circumscribed with a rim of ejecta, are not uncommon in Ethiopia. -- The best known of the Ethiopian explosion craters are those occurring in the vicinity of Bishoftu. Here at least twelve craters are known. One of these flooded craters is a twin /the 8-shaped Koriftu/. Except for the crater of Lake Kilotes and an associated crater, both bisected by a fault line, all the Bishoftu craters lie along an approximate north-south alignment, and it is significant that the rim and walls of the Lake Kilotes crater are less well preserved than are the others. Probably the Lake Kilotes crater was formed earlier than the others -- The Bishoftu craters are otherwise fresh in appearance and it is likely that they were formed during the Makalian post-pluvial wet phase. -- The rims of the Bishoftu craters are formed of water-lain ejecta fragments varying in size from small gravel to large blocks many metres across. Ejecta are also scattered over the surrounding plains. -- The rims of the Bishoftu craters tend to be highest on the south-western side."  
[Mohr, Geology 1961 p 225]  
Fine-grained yellow sediments are exposed in the bottoms of the deeper explosion craters at Debre Zeyt. The levels of the crater lakes during the pluvials were higher than at present by at least 7 to 10 m, the evidence being in the form of thin calcareous sediments with tree roots. [Mohr ditto, p 202]  
At Bishoftu lake occur coal outcrops which have no economic importance as they are small. Pumice occurs as shore sediments.  
[Mineral 1966]
- 1800s At the end of May 1878 the explorers Cecchi and Chiarini made some topographical measuring at the lakes and also made a sketch. Antinori visited the lakes for the first time on 3 May 1879. Cecchi, Antinori and Antonelli visited the lakes again in May 1881 and tried to determine as exactly as possible their locations. They wrote the names Cialalaca, Haddo, Buscioftu I, Buscioftu II, Arsade, Kilole, of which Arsade was supposed to be the name of a person.  
[A Cecchi, vol II, 1885 p 594-603]
- 1950s Around 1950 there was a court case in which a person claimed to have been granted exclusive right to fish in the main lake. The High Court judged that he had no such right and also ruled that the Ministry of Agriculture could not grant any exclusive right for fishing.
- texts P. A. Mohr, The geology, structure, and origin of the Bishoftu explosion craters, Shoa, Ethiopia *in* Bull. Geophysical Observatory, Addis Ababa, vol 2(1961) no 2 p 65-101;  
P. A. Mohr, Further notes on the explosion craters of Bishoftu (Debre-Zeit) *in* Bull. of the Geophysical Observatory, Addis Ababa, vol 10(1967) p 99-112:  
Lars Sjögren *in* Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1998 no 2 p 4-11 with

five photos of the crater lakes and one map by Tore Sjögren 1951; Bernhard Lindahl *in ditto* 1999 no 1 rejoinder on how the lakes were formed.

birds Bird life at the Debre Zeyt lakes has been drawn and described by a Swedish artist, brother of Count Carl Gustaf von Rosen, who at the time was head of the Air Force aviation school.

text Björn von Rosen, *Berget och Solen*, Sthlm 1949 p 39-142.

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Aranguage**

This is the smallest and best preserved of the crater lakes. The crater walls climb to over 180 metres above the lake surface. Unfortunately, it is impossible to visit this beautiful spot as it lies within the perimeter of the military airfield Harar Meda.

[Aubert 1999 p 129]

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Bishoftu**

This is the deepest of the crater lakes. The northern slope of the crater towers nearly 150 metres above the surface of the lake. There is abundant fish. [Aubert]

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Bishoftu Guda (B. Guba?)**

"About 2 km past the Hora Ras Hotel, you come to a fork in the road where there is a small black and white signpost marked 'ILCA'. Take the right fork, past the HRC Children's Centre till you reach the Catholic Galilee Mission -- continue straight on past the Galilee Centre for about 500 m, where a road to your left leads down to the shore of Lake Bishoftu Guda, a large and very attractive lake with lushly vegetated shores." [Bradt 1995(1998)]

This small lake is almost circular. It is the least alkaline of the crater lakes. The aquatic plants which thrive close to the water's edge shelter many catfish and tilapias. [Aubert]

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Cheleleka (Chalaklaka)**

"Just before entering Debre Zeit -- there is a fruit juice cafe where refreshing drinks and various other foostuffs are on sale. The terrace of this little bar overlooks shallow Lake Chalaklaka, which is the periodic feeding ground for thousands of flamingos. -- "

[Camerapix 1995]

"Cheleleka doesn't appear to have formed in a crater, and I gather it is a seasonal lake. It is very pretty with Mount Yerer in the background, and also offers some excellent birdwatching. The open water supports a variety of waterfowl - look out for the large, attractive knob-billed duck, which is regular in the area - while the shore is dense with waders." [Bradt]

**Debre Zeyt lakes: Green Lake (Ethiopian name not found, cf Kilole below)**

Situated 10 km south /or 4 km SW?/ of Debre Zeyt off the Nazret road. The green colour of the water is the result of algae. At night, flamingoes often converge on the water.

[Lonely planet]

"The Green Crater Lake, south of town, is rated the most attractive of the lot. It is, according to various estimates, 6-10 km out of town. I couldn't get sensible directions from anybody, but all the *gari* drivers seem to know where it is and will take you out there." [Bradt 1995(1998)]

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Hora (Hora Arsedi)**

"Its main hotel -- is situated off to the left of the main highway on the rim of the largest crater, Hora Lake, where boating and waterskiing are popular and there are many species of birds to be seen, including cormorants, pelicans, grebes, shovellers, storks, and a myriad of brightly coloured passerines. -- There are also camping facilities by the lake. Swimming is not recommended. At the end of the rainy season -- a big, colourful festival to celebrate the beginning of the planting season is held under huge fig trees at the lake shore across from the hotel." [Camerapix]

"The only tourist-class accommodation is the government owned Hora Ras Hotel, the run-down state of which is compensated for by an excellent position overlooking Hora Crater Lake."

[Bradt 1995(1998)]

This is the largest lake in the region. To the left of the hotel, hidden behind dense thickets,

is one of the former residences of the Emperor Haile Selassie, now used as a military post. From the hotel, a path leads down the slopes to the water's edge. This lake is actually composed of two craters joined together to form a single body of water. Only the eastern slope has been substantially eroded and now is a gentle grassy slope.

"The hot water springs which gush from the eastern slopes of the lake are considered to be sacred by the local population. -- On Sundays, in particular, invalids and old people accompanied by their families come in large numbers to the springs with offerings, songs and dances. In the wet season, however, the springs are below the lake surface." [Aubert 1999, with photo across the water on p 130]

"At the weeken it can get a bit noisy. Along the shore, a kind of resort has grown up, with an entrance fee of 2 Birr." [Lonely planet 2000]

**Debre Zeyt lakes : Kilole** (Hora Kiloli, Flamingo lake)

About 10 km from Debre Zeyt, Lake Kilole covers a relatively small area within a much larger crater. With a maximum depth of less than 6 metres, it is the shallowest of the crater lakes. The road which leads to the lake follows a cotton plantation. In the wet season the river Mojo bursts its banks and floods the route, making it impassable. On the north side of the lake, cold water springs give rise to marshy shores. The lake shallows provide an ideal environment for numerous aquatic birds; flamingos group in large numbers around the shore.

[Aubert 1999 p 130-131]

Not the same as the Green Lake according to Lonely Planet:

Lake Hora Kiloli lies 20 km from Debre Zeyt. A side road leaves the main road just past the Oromiya water mines and energy resources complex. The lake is 5 km from the village of Kaliti.

**Debre Zeyt lakes: Koriftu** (Kuruftu)

Lake situated about 4 km north-east of Debre Zeyt. It is known for *tilapia* fish, and is the site of a Protestant mission with a guesthouse. [Lonely planet]

Koriftu is notable more for its excellent fishing than any scenic qualities. [Bradt]

"Continuing down the same road -- two more lakes: Babogay on your left and Kuruftu further down the road on your right."

[Camerapix]

picts

F Wencker-Wildberg, Abessinien, Berlin 1935 pl 63 crater lake;

Kronprinsparets orientresa, Sthlm 1935 p 219 view of

lake seen from Emperor's villa;

F Quaranta, Ethiopia, London 1939 p 54 wide view of the

Italian O.N.C. Biscioftu settlement;

Gli annali ..., anno IV vol 4, Roma 1941 p 1164-1165[7]

Italian hotel above the lake, and Taverna dell'Imperiale;

B von Rosen, Berget och solen, Sthlm 1949, a number of drawings

and a few photos of bird life at Bishoftu lake,

p 333-337 three photos of Green Lake;

S R Rommerud, Östafrikansk ..., Sthlm 1952 p 80 air view of

Bishoftu lake, imperial summer palace and Air Force

staff-house area;

Guide book of Eth., AA 1954 p 48 Emperor at Harar Meda airfield;

Bortom bergen vol II, Sthlm (EFS) 1954 p 64[3] crater lake

seen towards Yerer mountain;

A M Rubin, I Etiopien, Sthlm 1957 p 16 air view of southern

and eastern part, 62 priest at Air Force funeral, 75 Green Lake,

78 two photos from market;

H Jenny, Äthiopien, Stuttgart 1957 p 225 training of

mechanics at IEAF;

Aethiopien, München (Terra magica) 1958(1963) pl 46 women

carrying water from the main lake;

Bibeltrogna Vänners julkalender 1958, Sthlm, p 102 post card



of village in the neighbourhood;  
 Ethiopia Observer 1959 no 2 p 44-49 six photos of plants and animals at the Agricultural Experiment Station;  
 Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1981 no 1 p 33 Prince Bertil's visit to IEAF in December 1959, 36 staff villa;  
 C Birch-Iensen, Ett okänt Mecka, Sthlm 1960 p 200 Oromo sacrifice at lake, and midsummer festival of Swedes;  
 Haile Selassies land, Sthlm (EFS) 1961 pl 4 lion emblem at gate to the IEAF, pl 22 lake Bishoftu on side towards Debre Zeyt town, pl 53 exterior of the Evangelical College, pl 69 meteorologist Martin Ehde with IEAF students, pl 70 Emperor visits the Air Force Day;  
 N G Nilsson, Det är ju människor .., Sweden (EFS) 1966 pl 122 scholarship winner Belletch Deressa in front of the Evangelical College;  
 Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1969 no 2 p 19 Oromo riding display; ditto 1973 no 1 p 5 Getahun Haile from Harar, student at the Evangelical College with a scholarship from the Swedish-Ethiopian Society;  
 A brief history of the Mekane Yesus Church, Denmark 1979 p 30 building of the Evangelical College;  
 Tenaestelin 1980 no 2 p 27 market place around year 1960 with church on hill at the horizon, 31-33 three air photos of different parts, on other pages five photos of aircraft used by the IEAF;  
 R Herrmanns, Carl Gustaf von Rosen, Sthlm 1983 p 79 buildings at IEAF, 81 course for mechanics, 84 Emperor and officers (plus other pictures and most of these also in the 1975 edition of the book);  
 G Hancock et al, Under Ethiopian skies, London 1983(1987) p 182 the main lake;  
 Camerapix guide 1995 p 48 colour picture of lake and road around it, 126 colourfully painted Belete Hotel.

maps  
 Urban land use July 1960;  
 1:10,000 by Mapping & Geog. Inst. December 1961;  
 1:4,000 ditto October 1962

--	Debre Zion, see Debre Tsiyon		
HFC54	Debregut (Debragut) (mountain) 14°03'/36°58' 988 m	14/36	[+ WO Gz]
HD...	Debreko (centre in 1964 of Zangerra sub-district) <i>debri</i> (T) same as Amharic <i>debre</i>	09/39	[Ad]
HEU81	Debri (waterfalls), see under Mekele		
HEU90	Debri, on trail between Shelikot and Abiy Adi The place was occupied on 19 January 1936 by the Italians. <i>debtera</i> (däbtära) (Geez) tent /such as of the Ark of Covenant/	13/39	[It]
HEJ53	Debtera Got (D. Got') 12°13'/36°55' 1849 m	12/36	[Gz]
HEJ54	Debtera Got (D. Got') 12°13'/36°58' 1904 m	12/36	[Gz]
HEM32c	Debtera Maryam (centre in 1964 of Arefa sub-district) /this one?/: King Ba'eda Maryam in the 1470s in the province of Angot founded a shrine which he named Debtera Maryam.	12/39	[Ad]
HDM73	Debtreko Giyorgis (church) 09°46'/39°37' north-east of Debre Birhan <i>debu, dheebu</i> (O) thirst	09/39	[Gz]
HEU32	Debu 13°02'/39°35' 2785 m, cf Dabu	13/39	[Gz]

JDG23	Debu 09°16'/40°06' 733 m	09/40	[WO Gz]
HEU43	<i>debub</i> (däbub) (A,T) south, the South <b>Debub</b> (old source: 1560 m) two: 13°00'/39°36' 2571 m and 13°05'/39°38' 2622 m the latter with school and church Maryam Centre in 1964 of Wajirat wereda. Within a radius of 10 km there are at km 4W Abedda (Abeda, Amba Abbedda) (mountain) 10N Geri'igab (Garagiam) (mountain) 2162/2637 m 10N Garajam (Garagiam) (village) "During my stay at Debub I met a young man who was the 'owner' of no less than 23 pieces of land, 17 inherited from his mother and 6 from his father, some at a distance of 25 kms from one another." [K J Lundström, North-eastern Ethiopia ..., Uppsala/Sweden 1976 p 67 note 47]	13/39	[MS Ad WO Gu]
HCS99	Debub Shershera, see under Butajira	08/38	[n]
HET96	Debuc, see Debek, also Debuk below		
HE...	Debuh (in Metekel awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 16 boys in grade 1-2, with 2(!) teachers.	11/36?	[Ad]
HET96	<b>Debuk</b> (Debuc, Dibbuc) 1548 m In the late afternoon of 27 February 1936, the IIIrd Corps of the Italian invaders halted "in positions at Debuc, where it consolidated, thus cutting off the enemy from access to the important ford of that name." "The IIIrd Corps, which had moved at dawn /of the 28th/ from the positions at Debuc, completed its movement towards Abbi Addi, in the same formation as on the previous day." [Badoglio (Eng.ed.) 1937 p 106-107] Beginning of March 1936: "An attempt on the part of a strong column of the enemy to fall back south of the Ghevà was at once stopped by the prompt and decisive attack of the Debuc garrison (2 battalions and 1 group of squadrons). After a short encounter the enemy were scattered; they left more than 600 dead on the field and in our hands, 300 prisoners, as well as arms, materials, and a variety of objects, including Ras Cassa's personal decorations." [Badoglio p 108] The battle on 3 March 1936 was between the Italian troops and retreating Ethiopian forces of about 3000 men. [Guida 1938]	13/39	[+ WO Gu It]
HER76	Decacaro (Decagero), see Dekagaro		
HDC89	Decan, see Dekan		
HEJ17	Dech, see Dek, and also Narga		
HDJ45	Decha 09°28'/37°07' 2243 m	09/37	[Gz]
??	Decha Laki (visiting postman under Jimma)	../..	[Po]
HC..?	Decha awraja Around year 2000 in the Kaficho-Shakicho Zone, with some villages where Nayi (Nao) people live and speak their own language. The nearest big town is Bonga.	07/36?	[n]
HDJ45	Decha sub-district (-1997-)	09/37	[n]
HDJ45	Decha wereda (-2000-)	09/37	[20]
??	Dechatu Distance 515 km from Addis Abeba.	../..	[20]
JCJ14	Deche (Deke) 06°29'/41°57' 572 m	06/41	[Gz WO LM]
??	Deche Ager (visiting postman under Nazret)	../..	[Po]
HFF83	Dechi (Deci) 14°19'/39°39' 1476 m	14/39	[+ WO Gz]
??	Decho (Deccio) (dense humid forest)	../..	[Gu]
JBP19	Decti Iopti, see Decti Yopti		

HDE67	Deda 08°46'/39°09' 2129 m	08/39	[Gz]
HFE71	Deda (waterhole) 14°13'/38°33', cf Dida ..	14/38	[WO Gz]
JEJ12	Dedai 11°54'/41°47' 539 m	11/41	[Gz]
JDH..	Dedanene	09/41	[18]
	A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records a place Dedanene on the caravan route from Harar to Ankober, inside Dewaro.		
JEH85	Dedda (waterhole)	12/41	[Ne]
JDH28	Dedder, see Deder		
	Dede, cf Dada		
HDL52	Dede 09°33'/38°38' 1827 m (with church Giyorgis, waterfalls nearby)	09/38	[AA Gz]
HDL61	Dede 09°40'/38°35' 2741 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HFD55	Dedebit, see Dedibit		
HCT87c	<b>Dedebo</b> (Dadabo) (village) in the 1980s in Ziway & Dugda wereda The Dedebo peasant association in 1986 disposed of an area of 1,806 hectares, according to a SEAD map. The village is located east of lake Ziway about 12 km south of Ogolcho, with flat and dark brown to black soil. There were 129 households according to a 1984 census but 180 huts in the village, because being a Muslim area some households had more than one dwelling house. The houses were placed in straight rows but not all of the same size, because some households had consolidated two buildings into one when moving during villagization. The peasant association first heard about villagization in October 1985. All the villagers worked their own land, and by the end of 1986 they had not discussed to form a producer co-operative. Overgrazing was becoming a major problem. The village gave the impression of being rather poor. Some of the fields being farmed were 2-3 km away. An old pipe system for water supply was broken and not functioning. There were no public services in the village. The nearest school was at Keyancho 5 km to the south and the clinic at Ogolcho. The Muslims had built a mosque and the few Christians attended an established church nearby. [J M Cohen & N-I Isaksson, Villagization ..., Uppsala/Sweden, Feb 1987 p 172-174]	08/39	[x]
HDM15	Dedecha (Tadecha Melka, Tadeccia Melca, Tadacha Malka, Tadiccia Malca, T'adacha Maleka) 09°08'/39°50' 913 m Coordinates would give map code HDM05	09/39	[Gz]
HEE48	Dedeho 11°14'/39°11' 2707 m	11/39	[Gz]
JEB68	Dedel Daba (area)	11/41	[WO]
	<i>Deder</i> , another name for the Kallu group of eastern Oromo.		
JDH28	<b>Deder</b> (Dedder, Dadar, Derru, Derhu) 09°18'/41°23' MS: 09°18'/41°23' = JDH27, 2150 m; Gz: 09°19'/41°27' = JDH28, 2117 m (with post office), distance 449 km from Addis Abeba Centre at least 1956-1980 of Webera (Woberra) awraja.	09/41	[WO Gz It 18]
1930s	Spelling used by the post was DERROU (-1932-) and its <i>receveur</i> was Ato Wolde Mariam around 1931. Deru Deder was administrative centre of Meta district in the early 1930s. The firms of Valentis Frères and of Lycousdis were established there by 1935, trading mostly in coffe. There was also an agency of Said Bazarah, an export-import firm founded in 1887. There were camel caravans to Dire Dawa and a track to Gota railway station. [Zervos 1936] Deder was at this time an important coffee market on a saddle between the mountains Vobi and Mine. Occupied by the Italians on 21 July 1936. With <i>Residenza</i> , post, telephone, infirmary. According to different philatelic authors the post office of the Italians was opened on		

- 8 May or 13 June or 14 June or 4 July 1937. Its cancellations read DEDER \* HARAR.
- 1940s The future playwright Tesfaye Gessese grew up in Deder although he was born on 27 September 1937 in the small village Guru Gutu. His mother died when he was eight months old and his father when he was about two years. He was brought up by tenants on land he had inherited from the family. One of his early memories was that Deder was burnt and looted by Eritrean *banda* when the Italians were driven out in 1941. At the age of seven Tesfaye left for school in Addis Abeba and rarely visited Deder later. His father Gesses Qolech was the son of a Fitawrari, and his mother Belletech Yayyeh-yirad was of upper-class people from Tegulet. Tesfaye became an "absentee landlord" for the land in Deder.  
[R K Molvaer 1997 p 223-226]  
After the liberation the Ethiopian post office was to be opened in 1944.  
The hospital had one doctor and 25 beds in 1949.
- 1950s The small coffee plantations in the Deder area (-1950s-) give relatively high production. Sub-province Governor of Webera awraja in 1959 was Kenyazmach Tebebe Guangul.
- 1960s In 1966 it was decided that the Ministry of Interior would design a master plan for Deder, without engaging external consultants.  
In 1954 there was a post office and no telephone but by 1967 there were numbers for the municipality, awraja office and police, prison and telecommunications and the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions. Telephones on private names were for Ahmed Galib El Harazi, Jami Hassen Aboy, George Kaminatos, Teshome Yilma, Zakarios Gutu.  
The American Mennonite Mission had a hospital there (-1949-1955-).  
At Grazmach Abera Gizaw junior secondary school 10 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960.  
Grazmach Abera Gizaw primary school in 1968 had 378 boys and 186 girls, with 11 teachers.  
Mennonite Mission primary school had 159 boys and 88 girls, with four teachers.  
Islam primary school had 158 boys and 71 girls in grades 1-4, with three teachers.  
Grazmach Abera Gizaw secondary school in 1968 had 96 male and 24 female students in grades 7-8, with two teachers (Ethiopian).  
The Mennonite Mission secondary school then had 33 male and 18 female students in grades 7-8, with two teachers (foreign).  
The Mennonites also had a hospital at Deder.
- 1978 The Oromo merchant Ali Mikael, the local government secretary Abdul Malik Jusuf Ahmed, the leader of 84 peasant associations Abdallahi Ahmed Shefa, and the awraja governor Jusuf Scheich Don, were arrested in October 1978 and brought to prison in Harar. In early November they were brought back to Deder, shot in the street and left lying there.  
[G Hasselblatt 1979 p 122-123]
- JDH28 Deder sub-district? (-1997-) 09/41 [n]
- JDH28 **Deder wereda** (centre in 1964 = Deder) 09/41 [Ad]
- In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Deder 1 constituency had 56 polling stations and 44, 175 registered voters of whom 89% cast their votes.  
Dominating party was EPRDF with 33,347 votes and candidate Ato Tajir Shame Usman. Far behind was CUD with 2,501 votes and candidate Weyzero Wede Mulugeta H/Silase. The remaining 3,581 votes are not explained.  
The Deder 2 constituency had 54 polling stations and 39,391 registered voters of whom 93% cast their votes.  
The only reported party was EPRDF with 31,505 votes and candidate Ato Enkosa Dugasa Gudeta. The remaining 5,278 votes are not explained.  
[www.electionsethiopia.org]
- text Wondwossen Gizaw, The history of Mennonite missionary activities in Dadar Warada (1948-1979), Univ. of A.A. 1988.
- HEE37 Dedere 11°11'39"09' 2959 m (with church Maryam) 11/39 [Gz]
- JDJ21 Deder 09°18'41"47' 2489 m 09/41 [Gz]

??	Dedessa (postal service u. Nekemte), cf Didessa Distance 377 km from Addis Abeba.	../..	[Po]
??	Dedessa sub-district (Dedesa .. -1997-)	../..	[n]
HFD55 1975	<b>Dedibit</b> (Dedebit) This area in Tigray's far western region was the first base of the Tigray People's Liberation Front. The TPLF was officially established at Dedibit on 18 February 1975. Ayele Gessesse (known under the code name Suhul) led a group over the next seven months. The group included his brother Berhane, a couple of peasants being former soldiers, and seven students. The Dedibit area, some distance away from the nearest inhabitants along the Inda Silase-Sheraro road, became a magnet for Tigrayan youth terrorised by the Derg. - After the defeat of the EDU, the TPLF quickly gained support from the villagers along the road mentioned above. [Young 1997] "Once upon a time (in February 1975 in fact) ten Tigrayan students with five outdated guns left Addis Ababa to start a revolution in Tigray. -- They made for a wild and desolate area in the western lowlands called Dedebit, where the dust in the dry season blows continuously between a tangle of thorn bushes and in the wet season turns into a sea of thick soft mud." "Nearly all these first fighters were from cities and towns. -- It is difficult to discover who they were. However, one of them was called Meles. He had given up medical school to go to Dedebit and was reputed to be an intellectual. Another fighter, called Asgede, was famous for his memory. He was not a student and had never been to Addis, but had trained as a health worker and a soldier in the Ethiopian army. Recently he had been cultivating farmland in the Dedibit area." "The plan was to start armed struggle by rousing the peasants against their traditional oppressors, the feudal landowners and the government." [Hammond 1999 p 56-57] "But 'they had big sacks of books, Marxist books,' said Asgede. 'They would spend twenty-four hours reading, discussing and debating --' They were constantly mobile to elude capture, but their presence could not be concealed from herdsmen and shepherd boys bringing their beasts to the forest. -- hints and rebukes accumulated into a sort of training given in the first few months by the peasants to the fighters on how to survive in the forest. They saw them as young people who, although feeble in terms of survival, had good ideas and needed seasoning. They brought them game animals for food. Their advice was practical and useful." "That first summer was a terrible time. Animals were not the only danger. The rains were exceptionally heavy. Rivers and streams were in flood. Mud made it almost impossible to move around -- They couldn't make shelters. They got sick. Meles fell seriously ill with what was probably typhoid. -- The following summer, they were in villages and small towns, mixing more with the peasants. The hardships were never to be so severe again." [Hammond 1999 p 57-58 based on interview with Asgede and Meles]	14/38	[LM WO Yo]
HCH22	Dedina 06°31'/35°55' 1488 m	06/35	[Gz]
HDK38	Dedinu 09°24'/38°15' 2243 m dedo: <i>deddo</i> (Som) cold, low temperature	09/38	[AA Gz]
??	Dedo (sub-post office under Jimma)	../..	[Po]
HCR33	Dedo (Diedo, Garrima, Gorrina, Corrina) 07°31'/36°52' 2132 m dedo bore: <i>dedu</i> , <i>dheeduu</i> (O) to graze; <i>bore</i> (O) 1. mellow tej; 2. solemn promise; <i>boore</i> (Som) grey	07/36	[Gz Te]
HCR33	Dedo Bore (area) dedo folle: <i>folle</i> (O) 1. large drinking cup; 2. honeycombed, perforated	07/36	[WO]

- HCR33 Dedo Folle (area) 07/36 [WO]  
 ?? **Dedo sub-district** (-1997-) ../. [n]  
 In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dedo 1 constituency, in the Jimma zone, had 54 polling stations and 57, 215 registered voters of whom 86% cast their votes. Dominating party was EPRDF with 39,980 votes and candidate Ato Seifu Legesse Koricho. Far behind was CUD with 4,750 votes and candidate Ato Tefera Gebre Bza. The remaining 4,373 votes are not explained.  
 The Dedo 2 constituency had 51 polling stations and 56,635 registered voters of whom 94% cast their votes.  
 Very dominating party was EPRDF with 48,608 votes and candidate Weyzero Askale Lema Alemu. Far behind was UEDF with 2,824 votes and candidate Ato Adem Abalema Abawari. The remaining 1,931 votes are not explained.  
 [www.electionsethiopia.org]
- ?? Dedowale circa 43°50' 09/43 [18]  
 According to a map by Henry Salt in 1814 this was a place at a southern route from the coast to Harar.  
*dedu, dheeduu* (O) to graze
- HD... Dedu (centre in 1964 of Tach Ula sub-district) 09/37 [Ad]  
 HCB15c Deel (De'el) 05/36 [x]  
 A small part of the Baka ethnic group, with their own settlement area.  
 [Ad E Jensen 1959 p 29]
- HEU65 *defar* (däffar) (A) bold, venturesome  
 Defarfo 13°16'/39°54' 1058 m 13/39 [Gz]  
 The town described in the 1520s by Alvares as Tarso is probably Defarso, north-east of Dehub.  
 "-- went to sleep at a large town of Christians, which may have near 1000 inhabitants: it is named Tarso. There are more than a hundred priests and monks in the church of this town, and as many nuns: they have not got a monastery: they lodge about the town like laywomen. The monks are almost divided in two enclosures, in which are a number of cottages -- In other churches it is always the custom to give communion before the door of the church, and these priests go and give communion out of its place, in an open space belonging to the church, in a tent of silk which they pitch there -- Two nights that we slept in this town the nuns came to wash our feet, and drank of the water after they had washed them, and they washed their faces with it -- At this town there is much cultivation of all kinds /Alvares mentions *nug*, *Guizotia oleifera*, giving nug oil/ -- 'Honoured guest -- if it were not for the multitude of locusts and the hail, which sometimes do great damage, we should not sow the half of what we sow -- This town is almost in a valley, and above it are two hills -- The language of this country is not like that we had passed /they were leaving Tigrinya-speaking and entering Amharic-speaking area/ -- they always have watchmen /on the two high hills/, because further on is the country of the Moors. There are great plains, although wooded, -- and then are the mountain ridges in which the Moors live. -- they brought /us bread/ at unseasonable hours, because in all this country it is the custom to eat only once a day, and that is at night.]  
 [Beckingham & Huntingford, *The Prester John ...*, vol.I, Cambridge 1961 p 188-191]
- HEJ.. Defecha (Däfäca, Dafacha) (to NE near Gondar) 12/37 [+ 20 Pa]  
 known at least from the 1700s  
 The relatives of Emperor Iyoas I (1755-1769), who were Oromo, wanted to get rid of Ras Mikael Sehul and if possible kill him. "Ras Mikael -- established his camp at Dafacha and the river Angarab. The colour of these tents was like the white colour of hail --" Mikael suddenly attacked his enemies who dispersed. Iyoas tried to order his relatives to return to their respective provinces, but they did not listen to his commands. Mikael dethroned Iyoas and made a 70-year old man the new emperor Yohannes II.  
 [Pankhurst, .. *Chronicles* 1967 p 137-138]
- HEE76 Defer 11°30'/39°02' 2854 m 11/39 [Gz]

	<i>deg</i> (däg) (A) 1. good, virtuous; 2. "not good not bad"; <i>deg, deeg</i> (Som) peak; edge, shoulder; <i>deg</i> (Som) dismount, live in a place; <i>dheeg</i> (Som) 1. high place; 2. camel's flank; <i>weyn</i> (Som) big, large		
JED12	Deg Weyn (Deg Ouein) (area) <i>dega</i> (däga) (A) highland above 2400 m; <i>deegaa</i> (O) poor, miserable	11/42	[+ WO]
HDB44	Dega (Degga) 08°35'/36°07' 2133 m, cf Daga	08/36	[Gz WO]
HDL26	Dega 09°18'/38°59' 2725 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
HEJ18	<b>Dega</b> (Daga) (island) 11°54'/37°19' 1784 m (Debre Istefanos, Derke) Island east of Dek "which from its bold, rocky outlines is a much more conspicuous object from a distance than its larger neighbour". Dega island is formed of more recent lavas. [P A Mohr]	11/37	[Gu Ch WO Gz]
HE...	Dega Abole sub-district (Dega Abolie ..) (centre in 1964 = Barkwa Maryam) <i>dega adi</i> (T) highland village	11/37	[+ Ad]
HDE63	Dega Adi (village)	08/38	[x]
JCS85	Dega Ahmedo (Dega Medo), see Degeh Medo		
HF...	Dega Amba sub-district (centre in 1964 = Adi Haremat) <i>dega bera</i> (O) poor /but respectable/ old woman?	14/39?	[Ad]
HBT05	Dega Bera (Daga Bera Dego) (with well) 04°31'/38°57'	04/38	[MS WO Gz]
HDL36	Dega Birbo 09°21'/38°58' 2688 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDE01	Dega Bur, see Degeh Bur		
HDS70	<b>Dega Damot</b> (Degademot) (area) Area about 10 km north-east of Dembecha. A. Hoben visited the area for research in the early 1960s. He visited again after almost two decades and says that he was struck most vividly by the increase in tree cover in spite of increased population pressure. [A. Hoben in conference 1996]	10/37	[x WO]
HDS81c	Dega Damot sub-district? (-1997-)	10/37	[n]
HDS81c	<b>Dega Damot wereda</b> (centre in 1964 = Feres Bet) In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dega Damot constituency had 69 polling stations and 66,629 registered voters of whom 84% cast their votes. Dominating party was CUD with 25,528 votes and candidate Ato Tilahun Abebe Bitew. Second was EPRDF with 17,849 votes and candidate Ato Muluken Shibesh Tegegne. The UEDF party received 1,338 votes. The remaining 10,950 (!) votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]	10/37	[Ad]
HEF53	Dega Estefanos, see Daga Estifanos <i>dega gurra</i> : <i>gurra</i> (O) 1. ear, ear lobe; 2. kind of black spice, <i>Nigella sativa</i> ; 3. single /leaf/		
JCJ40	Dega Gurra (area)	06/41	[WO]
HEK35	Dega Ibnat sub-district (centre in 1964 = Ibnat)	11/38	[Ad]
HEF53	Dega Istifanos, see Daga Estifanos		
HEE67	Dega Majete 11°25'/39°09' 1924 m, cf Majete	11/39	[Gz]
JCS85	Dega Medo, see Degeh Medo		
JDE92	Dega Medobe (plain)	08/43	[WO]
HEK...	Dega Melza sub-district (centre in 1964 = Islam Midir)	12/38	[Ad]
HDL61	Dega Meye 09°39'/38°34' 2574 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
??	Dega sub-district (-1997-)	../..	[n]
H....	Dega Temben sub-district? (-1997-)	13/38?	[n]

H....	Dega Temben wereda (.. Tembien ..) (centre in 1964 = Adi Selam)	13/38?	[+ Ad]
HED01	Dega Tsion, see Digu Tsiyon		
HDE83c	Dega Wake (village) dega werabe: <i>werebe</i> (wä räbe) (A) kind of small bird	08/38	[x]
KCN84	Dega Werabe (Dega Uarabe)	07/45	[LM WO]
JCD92	Dega Yiley (Dagaielei) 06°15'/42°45' 339 m	06/42	[Gz WO]
J....	Degabah The caravan of Cecchi and others camped there for one night on 27 August 1877. There was no water and the locality was completely deserted. [A Cecchi, vol I, 1866 p 120]	09/41	[18]
HF...	Degabur, cf Degeh Bur (centre in 1964 of Degabur & of Lahlien sub-districts)	14/39?	[Ad]
JDG13	Degadege (G. Degadeghe) (area)	09/40	[+ WO]
HDS70	Degademot, see Dega Damot degaga: <i>dagaga</i> (O) ivory; <i>dagagaa</i> (O) well-developed		
HC..	Degaga (Degega) (in Chilalo awraja) The primary school in 1968 had 113 boys and 10 girls, with 2 teachers.	07/38?	[Ad]
HD...	<b>Degaga</b> (Degega) (in Kalu awraja) Enrollment in the Sweden-supported Wello Environment Education Project at Degaga junior secondary school was 107 in 1986/87.	10/40	[x]
HCT24	Degaga 07°27'/38°49' 1954 m, cf Dagaga /this one?/: Around 1990 investigations were carried out within a joint water project in Arsi between Ethiopia and Sweden. Sembero (Simbiro?) in Degaga was chosen as the site for a water dam. The Dalele stream runs westwards there . Sembero was regarded as a representative case for other dams. [Tenaestelin (Sthlm) 1990 no 1 p 8]	07/38	[x Gz]
HDK74	Degaga 09°43'/37°53' 1581 m	09/37	[AA Gz]
HDU67	Degaga 10°31'/39°58' 1512 m	10/39	[Gz]
HDU86	Degaga (centre in 1964 of Mehal Ager sub-district)	10/39	[Ad LM]
HDU94	Degaga (Degega), see Albuko		
HEF03	Degaga 10°52'/39°39' 2753 m	10/39	[Gz]
JDB71	Degaga 08°46'/40°49' 1801 m	08/40	[Gz]
HCT24	Degaga sub-district (centre in 1964 = Degaga)	07/38	[Ad]
JDE01	Degahabur, see Degeh Bur		
JCS85	Degahamedow, see Degeh Medo <i>Degala</i> , caste group of tanners or potters living among the Welamo/Dorze		
JCL42	Degaleh	06/43	[WO]
JCS85	Degameda, see Degeh Medo		
HEF36	Degan 11°09'/39°54' 1477 m	11/39	[Gz]
HEU13	Degan 12°46'/39°42' 1647 m	12/39	[Gz]
HDJ85	Degar 09°50'/37°04' 2362 m (with school)	09/37	[Gz]
HFD..	Degasgede The Catholic missionaries Prutky and Lang, who had to leave Ethiopia, journeyed with their servants and escort past Mai Timket and on the following day, 17 February 1753, reached Degasgede. It was a pleasant hill with a few huts, "once the abode of robbers but now cleared of them by the governor." Prutky's travels .., 1991 p 335]	13/38	[n]
HDK55	Degatina Amba (Degatin) (mountain) 09°32'/37°58' 2310 m	09/37	[AA Gu]
H.... pict	Degato (largest Konso settlement) G Gerster, Äthiopien, Zürich 1974 pl 70 air view of the largest Konso settlement, on a hill plateau, densely	05/37?	[x]



	built-up and with a wall around the periphery.		
HEJ10	Degbassa (Degbasa) 11°53'/36°38' 1339 m	11/36	[Gz WO]
HEJ10	Degbassa sub-district (centre in 1964 = Abichekli Maryam)	11/36	[+ Ad]
HDJ11	Dege Roba (mountain chain) 09°10'/36°43' 2707 m	09/36	[Gz]
HCD81	Degecha small district south of Chencha on both sides of the road to Ochollo	06/37	[x]
HDU94	Degega, see Albuko		
JDE01	<b>Degeh Bur</b> (Dagabur, Dagahabur, Degahabur) (Dagahbur, Deghabour, Daggah Bur, Fre: Dagabour) (Dagghabur, Dega Bur) distance 799 km from Addis Abeba MS: 08°12'/43°29' = JDE00 1106 m; Gz: 08°13'/43°34' = JDE01, 1044 m There are important wells. Administrative centre, with post office.	08/43 08/43	[Gz WO Ad] [Gu Po Wa]
geol	The Warandab series of rocks extends from the area of Degeh Bur and north of it to Warandab. The Warandab series is built of compact grey and light to olive green shale, which is crumple-bedded, and coarse and finely crystalline gypsum, arranged in lenses and thin banks. The shale grades vertically into marl and marly limestone. The thickness is 60 m at Degeh Bur. In the surroundings of Degeh Bur, 130 m thickness of Jesomma sandstone has been measured. The Jesomma formation consists of coarse to fine-grained sandstones which vary from white to light grey, maroon and pink or purple. [Mineral 1966]		
1900	In the middle of December 1899 it was reported that Sheik Muhammad Abdullah Hassan had left British Somaliland to establish himself at Harardiget and Degeh Bur, with some 1,000 Dolbahanta, Ali Geri and Ogaden followers. Even then the Dervishes had no hostile attitude towards Ethiopia, and their intention was to combine the Ogaden against the British Somaliland. The Dervish force returned to Haradiget and Degeh Bur after their disastrous attempt to attack the Ethiopians at Jijiga on 21 March 1900. [7th Int. Conf. of Ethiopian Studies 1984 p 303-304]		
1920s	In 1927 a band of Ethiopian soldiers attacked the British ex-governor of Somaliland, and his Somali attendants, when he was at Degeh Bur on a hunting expedition, murdering eight of his men and looting the caravan. Protests by the British Government met with little response from the Regent, Ras Tafari, who replied that he had not sufficient arms to keep these people in order. [M Perham, The government of Ethiopia, 1948 p 337] A governor before the Italian time was Dirar, a son of the important Abdallah Taha of Harar. In the 1800s, Degeh Bur was an important centre for trading caravans, but towards the end of that century the place was plundered several times and all settled inhabitants abandoned it. In the 1920s the town started to recover. It was said that there were some two hundred villages within the distance of a day's travel and that these used the market at Degeh Bur.		
1931	By 1931 there were motorable roads in five directions out from the town. Wealthy Arabs had started erecting two-storey buildings. The Arab man Mohammed Tor had a grammophone. The health situation in Degeh Bur was in general very good. By mid-1931 Grazmach Yohannes had been commander at Degeh Bur for a while. He was replaced by Grazmach Ejigo, a man who had served with the British in Nairobi for seven years. He arrived together with Gunnar Agge, a Swedish doctor, using one passenger car and one truck, which both had been much used and had to be constantly repaired. In the little town at that time there was a judge, a couple of priests, an Amharic merchant selling mostly tej, a few Arabs among whom Mohammed Kasim provided Dr Agge with a place to sleep, and some Somali chiefs of whom one was crippled and walked on his		

hands and knees but seemed quite intelligent.

During sightseeing they found that termites are a great problem in the area and build hills as tall as 6-7 metres. The space of the town had been cleared from "the endless forest of northern Ogaden" at about a kilometre from the river. There were a number of wells cut in the rock on the southern bank. They were among the few in northern Ogaden which held water all year round, so nomads used to come from far away with their animals. There was sometimes competition and fighting over water. Some thirty gravestones testified to an armed fight a few years earlier.

[G Agge, I svart tjänst ..., Sthlm 1935 p 23-27]

1932 In mid-January 1932 pilot Paul Corriger with mechanic Baladé flew first to Jijiga and from there passed over Degeh Bur and dropped some parcels there. They had intended to start early on 14 January but fog, unusual in the desert, forced them to wait until 9 o'clock. Navigation down to Webi Shebele had to rely on lines of footpaths and valleys. The place to aim at in Degeh Bur had been marked with Ethiopian flags and soldiers standing around it.

[Les nouvelles (A.A.) Février 1932 p 3]

1933 Balambaras Afewerk was chief judge in Degeh Bur around 1933 and comparatively very much liked by the Somali chiefs.

1934 Fitawrari Shiferra, newly appointed governor in Harar, together with Dr Agge in mid-July 1934 passed Degeh Bur and stayed a couple of days. The purpose was to go towards Italian Somaliland and study how far the Italians had penetrated into Ogaden.

[Agge as above p 142, 188]

An Armenian mechanic Babkian was working at Degeh Bur at this time. He had been in charge of the Dejazmach for over a year, but feeling threatened by approaching Italians he resigned from this job.

In November 1934 Dr Agge saw a field radio used near Degeh Bur, with young operators who had been trained by Frank Hammar in Addis Abeba. It communicated with Harar. Outside the town there were many white tents of the border commission, with Colonel Clifford and others.

[Agge p 197, 206]

1935-36 Degeh Bur was bombed from November 1935 to April 1936, at least on some occasions with poison gas. On 30-31 December 1935 yperite bombs were directed against the inhabitants. On 4 January Dr. Hockman's Red Cross camp at Degeh Bur was bombed. When Italian land troops arrived at Degeh Bur on 4 April they found no enemy there. Aerial chemical warfare continued at this locality on 8-10 April 1936.

[Sbacchi 1997 p 62 + Xylander 1937 p 49]

"Flight-Lieutenant Minniti Tito was forced down by engine trouble while he was reconnoitring Daggahbur on December 26. He landed in bush some way from the camp and his fellow pilot ran away. Somalis caught Tito while he was examining his machine. He was killed, decapitated and mutilated: his head was taken by the Somalis to Daggahbur, as evidence of their loyalty to Ethiopia. The rest of him was divided among a large number of these simple nomads." (The incidence was taken by the Italians as a pretext for bombing the Swedish Red Cross ambulance camp soon after.)

[G L Steer 1936 p 241]

The Finnish Red Cross ambulance at Harar on 13 Feb 1936 sent four trucks to establish a field hospital at Degeh Bur. They were received by Vehib Pasha, the military adviser of Dejazmach Nasibu. He was a very corpulent man (from Albania) in a khaki uniform without emblems of rank. His large grey moustache was the most military detail. He held a little speech in French "accompanied by the lamenting howl of a hyena". A little before Dr Hockman, a British mission physician, had wanted to examine an unexploded bomb and was killed when it went off. The Finnish group of five under Dr Faltin had two Ethiopian servants, an Oromo Guta and an Amhara Asfaw. A quite young British missionary, architectural student, helped them after his boss Dr Hockman had disappeared. They had about 150 patients daily. The expatriates could not quite handle their names and gave them numbers instead.

[H Mörne, Afrikansk oro, Sthlm 1936 p 57-63]

Dr Faltn was intent on working as a surgeon, did not like the medicine work at Degeh Bur and wished to leave the place. Tapeworm, malaria and venereal diseases were among the most common. Scorpions were also a nuisance. There were some heavy rains so that motorcar transport became impossible and the telephone line to Degeh Bur ceased functioning. After these rains, the Finnish ambulance loaded their trucks and departed in direction Jijiga.

[Mörne p 78-98]

The Finnish ambulance service was soon withdrawn from Ethiopia after Harar had been bombed on 29 March.

April 1936: "The war in the Ogaden had after a long lull flared up again. -- Graziani at last resumed -- his advance on Harar. Dagghabur had been bombed, Harar had been bombed -- Colonel Frusci and his mechanized Arabo-Somali battalions -- faced the main Ethiopian defensive position in the hills of Sasabeneh, in front of the town of Dagghabur, Nasibu's headquarters."

"The Italian plan was clear; a three-pronged attack with, as the biggest thrust, a lightning attack on the left designed to cut off the fortifications at Sasabeneh rather than to assault them frontally. But the Ethiopians did not wait to be surprised and attacked. For the last time in the war by attacking first they attempted to disrupt a proposed offensive, to break up a concentration and to pursue a beaten army."

"By the 23rd /of April/ the Italians were advancing on all fronts in the South, and Graziani could congratulate himself that, despite an unexpected incident in the lower Ogaden, his moves were being made according to plan."

"In the centre of the Ethiopian defences at Sasabeneh opposite Frusci and his mechanized battalions the three Turks inspected their half-prepared trenches and gun-sites -- Graziani launched his attack on the following day, 24 April. There was little hand-to-hand fighting -- in the next four days. The very concept of a fortified position isolated in the desert and easily outflanked was a bluff, as the Turks must have known and the Ethiopians soon realized. The clans south of Dagghabur led by the Ugaz Mohammed Othman of the Ogaden Malinga came in to submit, and when the Italians put in their textbook attack on Sasabeneh itself on 28 April, there was only sporadic resistance. Dejaz Nasibu and the other leaders were back in Harar -- on 30 April, six days after the final action had been started, Graziani's advanced columns entered the town of Dagghabur, 'capital' of the Ogaden. At Dagghabur it was reported that a platoon of Italian soldiers rendered military honours at the grave of Afework, an opponent whom even they had respected. The route to Harar lay almost open."

[A Mockler, Haile Selassie's war, New York 1984 p 127-129]

After the Emperor's departure from Ethiopia on 3 May, Omar Samanthar fought a final rearguard action between Dagghabur and Jijiga.

[Mockler p 139]

1940s In early 1941 the Nigerians of the British forces advanced from Mogadishu along the road that led into the Ogaden, "the road that Graziani's invading columns had followed five years earlier. General De Simone was by the first week in March back at Dagghabur, where five years earlier Dejaz Nasibu -- had also set up his headquarters. But unlike the Ethiopians, the Italians did not resist. Seventeen days later the Nigerians were well past Dagghabur on the far side of the Ogaden driving into Jijiga."

[Mockler p 365]

1950s Emperor Haile Selassie in 1951 personally granted the request of S.I.M. to open a mission station at Degeh Bur. The centres Degeh Bur and Kelafo were chosen because they offered at least a degree of permanence in the midst of a moving population.

[H M Willmott .. p 113]

In the mid-1950s a local trading company was founded and its head was Abdi Ali Agole who had experience in trade, but there was also some clandestine nationalist activity.

[Markakis 1987]

Sudan Interior Mission had a clinic there (-1955-).

- A monument to Dejazmach Afewerk was unveiled by the Emperor at Degeh Bur on 29 August 1956. Afewerk was a commander in Ogaden who fought the Italians in 1935.
- 1960s "Dagah Bur is neat and rectangular and, like all towns of the Ogaden, dominated by a snow-white mosque. The /S.I.M./ mission buildings, a short distance away, are also white-washed, and look neat and trim amid their barren surroundings. Trees have been planted as a protection against the frequent dust-storms, and - by dint of constant watering from the wells - seem to be holding their own."  
[H M Willmott .. p 112]  
Around 1960 the Ethiopian government appointed some local pastoral chiefs as governors in Ogaden. Ahmed Farah Daud was appointed in Degeh Bur.  
In 1962 Makhtal Garad Dahir was appointed sub-district governor with the title of dejazmach. He had been sentenced to death by the Ethiopians in 1949 and spent time in the prison in Addis Abeba until 1958. He fled to Mogadishu in 1963 and was elected leader in June 1963 of the long guerrilla campaign planned at a meeting at Hodayo. Siraj Hadj Mohammed, a former director of post and telecommunications in Degeh Bur, became commander of the south-eastern sector of the guerrilla campaign.  
[Markakis 1987 p 291 notes 20, 21]  
Postal hand stamp hade spelling DEGAHABOUR around 1963.  
Dejazmach Afework primary school in 1968 had 189 boys and 102 girls, with 6 teachers.
- 1970s Spelling used by the sub-post office was DEGEHABUR around 1975.  
It was published in October 1974 that Degeh Bur was the worst hit area in the famine of Harar Province. Lt.-Colonel Hailu Regassa, commander of the army unit at Degeh Bur, was quoted as saying, "The population here are 99% nomads and 1% smugglers." On 2 March 1975 the Derg made it known that Hailu and one Major Abebe had disappeared with much money from a fund-raising campaign.  
[news from ENA]  
On 13 March Hailu was captured together with the Oromo leader Tadesse Birru and others near Ambo, and he was among six men executed on 18 March.  
[Radio Ethiopia]  
"In the Ogaden, the Western Somalia Liberation Front seized all the small villages and towns and then the larger centers of Gode and Degahabur, and by late July /1977/ engaged the Ethiopian army in major battles."  
[Ottaway 1978 p 171]  
Before mid-1977 well-armed units of the guerrillas in the Ogaden besieged Degeh Bur and other main administrative centres.  
[Markakis 1987 p 228]  
In early March 1978 the Somali forces were driven back from the town.
- 1990s Haji Abdinur Sheikh Mumin, imam of the Degeh Bur mosque, was one of those arrested in 1994 for being active for the ONLF. At the end of 1995 he was still in prison waiting for court trial.  
[Amnesty International, 1996 report]
- 2000s Population of Degeh Bur about 12,000 in 2001.  
pict H Mörne, Afrikansk oro, Sthlm 1936 p 65 soldier's camp, General Nasibu and Prof. Faltin at Red Cross camp.
- JDE86 **Degeh Bur awraja** (Degehabur ..) 08°00'/44°00' 08/43 [Gz Ad]  
(centre at least 1964-1980 = Degeh Bur)  
In the national elections, held somewhat later in the Somalia region, in August 2005, the SPDP party was very dominating in the Degahabur constituency, with 68,995 votes and candidate Ato Hussein Ismael Tewuhiden. The WSDP party got 468 votes. Three independent candidates received 346 and 275 and 245 votes.  
[www.electionsethiopia.org]
- JDE01 Degeh Bur sub-district? (-1997-) 08/43 [n]  
JDE01 Degeh Bur wereda (centre in 1964 = Degeh Bur) 08/43 [+ Ad]

JCS85	<b>Degeh Medo</b> (Dagamedo, Medo, Modo, Dagmeda) (Dega Ahmedo, D. Medo, Degamedo, Degehamedo) (Segeg) (village with wells)	07/43 07/43	[MS WO Gu x] [LM Gz Ro Ad]
	MS: 07°57'43°05' = JCS86, 975 m; Gz: 07°59'43°01' = JCS85, 952 m The semi-nomadic Borana living in this region are of the Malingur tribe.		
1930	This place was the first that Dejazmach Gebre Maryam assigned a garrison during his war campaign in south-eastern Ogaden in 1930. The Somali in the area were friendly towards the Ethiopian government, so the place was called Tammene Ketema, 'the reliable town'. The Emperor, during his time as Dejazmach Teferi, had once visited there during a hunting expedition. The first masonry building in a new town in Ogaden was built at Degeh Medo.		
1933	By 1933 there were customs buildings, a treasury and a masonry residence with whitewashed walls for the commander, Balambaras Tesemma. When through Ato Umar he was asked to help in the Webi area he sent some 50 soldiers. With these soldiers went also Dr Agge as provincial medical officer and dresser Mulugeta, together with medical supplies. [G Agge, I svart tjänst ..., Sthlm 1935 p 163-164]		
1936	General Verne captured a caravan of 600 camels and made a surprise occupation of Degeh Medo on 23 April. [Gentizon 1937 p 154] On 24 April 1936 the advancing troops of General Nasi were attacked at Degeh Medo by the Ethiopians, but these attempts were crushed. [Guida 1938] General Verne was attacked a second time on 26 April.		
JCS85	Degeh Medo sub-district? (-1997-)	07/43	[n]
JCS85	<b>Degeh Medo wereda</b> (Degehamedo .., Degahamedow ..) (centre in 1964 = Degeh Medo)	07/43	[+ Ad]
	In the national elections, held somewhat later in the Somalia region, in August 2005, the SPDP party was very dominating in the Degahamedow constituency, with 35,648 votes and candidate Sheik Aden Ismael. An independent candidate Ato Mohammed Sheik Ibrahim received 4,740 votes. [www.electionsethiopia.org]		
HDJ84	Degel Chis (D. Ch'is, Degl Chis) 09°50'37°03' 2417 m	09/37	[Gz]
HEE64	Degela 11°26'38°49' 2145 m	11/38	[Gz]
HDL62	Degeli 09°41'38°40' 2716 m	09/38	[Gz]
	degem: <i>deggeme</i> (däggämä) (A,T) repeat, recite prayers		
HCG63	Degem (Deghem) 1043 m, see Fukinka, cf Digim	06/35	[WO]
HDL81	Degem (Dagam) (with church) 09°50'38°37' 2962/3049 m	09/38	[AA Gu Gz]
HDL82	Degem Hambiso (Dagam) 09°49'38°38' 3049 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
H....	Degem Iyesus (Degem Eyesus) (centre in 1964 of Degem sub-district)	10/37	[+ Ad]
HDL82	<b>Degem sub-district</b> (centre in 1964 = Ambisa) (-1964-1997-)	09/38	[AA Ad n]
	In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Degem constituency had 43 polling stations and 47,190 registered voters of whom 77% cast their votes. Leading party was EPRDF with 16,875 votes and candidate Ato Gebisa Tesfaye Geleta. Second was OFDM with 7,326 votes and candidate Ato Beyene Muleta Negewi. CUD got 3,491 and OLNP 2,036 votes. The remaining 6,548 votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]		

H....	degemo: <i>degmo</i> (Som) grazing encampment; (dägmo) (A) furthermore Degemo sub-district (centre in 1964 = Shelel Gebreal)	10/37	[Ad]
HDS27	Degen, see Dejen		
GDM12	Degenyi 09°09'/34°31' 1626 m	09/34	[Gz]
HDT56	Deger 10°26'/38°59' 1875 m	10/38	[Gz]
HEU12	Deger Milash sub-district (centre in 1964 = Maychew)	12/39	[Ad]
HDG55c	Degero (Deghero) (river) Near Alaltu in Wellega. Prospecting for gold and small-scale operations have taken place. [Mineral 1966]	09/35	[Mi]
HCC97	Degeza 06°18'/37°17' 1291 m	06/37	[Gz]
HDB44	Degga, see Dega		
HDR25	Degga (Dagga) 10°08'/37°04' peak 2402 m (mountain), cf Digga Coordinates would give map code HDR15	10/37	[WO Gz]
pict	A Rubin, Ensam med .., Sthlm 1966 p 81 mountain seen from river Abay.		
??	Degga Artunne A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records Deggha Artunne on the caravan route from Zeyla to Harar, not quite halfway from the coast. degga daremu: <i>dareeme</i> (Som) sense, feeling	10/42	[18]
HDB44	Degga Daremu (wide area)	08/36	[WO]
HET55	Deggara, see Niway		
JDF32	Deggoys (Deggois) (area)	08/44	[+ WO]
JDS93	Deghet (area)	10/42	[WO]
HCG99	Degiasmac, see Dejazmach		
HES69	Degien (mountain), see Ras Dashen, and also HDS27 Dejen		
HDT56	Degiy 10°25'/39°01' 1902 m	10/39	[Gz]
HC...	Deگو (centre in 1964 of Tatessa sub-district)	06/38	[Ad]
??	Deگو (centre in 1964 of Weyzazir sub-district)	../..	[Ad]
HED01	Deگو Tsiyon, see Digu Tsiyon		
HED82	Degol 11°41'/37°45' 2104 m	11/37	[Gz]
	<i>degole</i> (T) smother degolo: <i>digello</i> (central O) kinds of orchids and other epiphytes, <i>Aerangis</i> spp., <i>Polystachya</i> spp.		
HDT59	Degolo (Teragullo, Gollo) 10°25'/39°15' 2433 m (centre in 1964 of Jamma wereda) south-west of Were Ilu Concerning elections, see under Jamma wereda.	10/39	[Gz WO Ad]
HDU71c	Degolo (Degollo), cf Dgolo 16 November 1990 there was an air raid on Degollo at the Wello-Shewa border, but no fatalities were reported.	10/39	[MS n]
HEK71	Degoma, see Deguma		
HDT26	Degore 10°11'/38°59' 2158 m	10/38	[Gz]
HEL	Degosay 12°07'/39°04' 3183 m	12/39	[Gz]
HFE27	Degoshako (with rock-hewn church Maryam) see under Temben churches	13/39	[x]
HDL33	Degoye 09°19'/38°42' 2587 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
JD...	Degu (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	09/41	[Ad]

??	Degu (historically recorded)	../.	[Pa]
	The last expedition of Emperor Iyasu I against the Shanqella took place in 1703. He then "also attacked the 'town' of Degu, where he killed many soldiers, and -- carried off the women as slaves." [Pankhurst 1997]		
HFD27c	Deguadegunye (Deguadegugne)	13/38	[+ n]
HFF31	Degum (Digum, Dugum, Dugem)	13/39	[x + MS]
	(w rock-hewn church), see under Geralta churches - northern		
HFF30	Degum Ayrefeda (Digum A.)	13/39	[x]
	(w rock-hewn church), see under Geralta churches - northern		
	<i>deguma</i> (O) lack, deficiency, poverty, misery; <i>dagama</i> (O) sorcery, witchcraft; <i>diggoma</i> (A) subsidy		
HEK71	<b>Deguma</b> (Degoma, Dagoma, Ambaciara)	12/37	[MS Gz WO Gu]
	12°25'/37°40' 2441 m		
	Within a radius of 10 km there are at km		
	5E    Ambachara (Ambaciara) (area) 2441 m		
	(8SE   Belesa, see this name directly)		
	10SW  Denkez Iyesus (Dancaz) (village)		
	2N    fort /built by Italians?/		
	?     Barie Gimb (ruin), see Bahri Gimb		
1960s	The primary school (in Libo awraja) in 1968 had 39 boys and 17 girls in grades 1-4, with two teachers.		
picts	A A Monti della Corte, I castelli .., Roma 1938 p 107 plan of church Kidus Mikael at Bahri Gimb, 110 drawing of ditto		
	<b>Deguma: Ambachara</b>		
	Altitude about 2900 m. In the neighbourhood there are lime quarries known already by the Portuguese in the 1600s.		
1930s	Important market, <i>Vice Residenza del Belesà</i> , post, telegraph, school, infirmary, <i>spaccio</i> (tobacco shop). [Guida 1938]		
	<b>Deguma : Barie Gimb</b> (Barie Ghemb), see Bahri Gimb directly		
	Village with an old church of Kidus Mikael from the first half of the 1500s. It is built of stone and lime mortar, with square plan on the outside and circular on the inside. Windows with arches of reddish tufa. Over the sanctuary there is a cupola raised on a cylinder in the manner found also in castles of Gondar. The church is believed to have been destroyed by Ahmed Grañ around 1540. [Guida 1938]		
HC...	Deguna sub-district (centre 1964 = Kerchecho)	06/37	[Ad]
HEC49	Degutit	11/37	[WO]
HEM70	Deguyat 12°24'/39°25' 2254 m	12/39	[Gz]
HDS72?	Degwe (Dägwe), see also Dagwey	10/37?	[Pa]
1330s	"At the end of the Adäl campaign 'Amdä Seyon /1312-1342/, on his way home, made his way once more to Ifat. -- He later repulsed the people of Harla, somewhere in Somaliland -- He then attacked the town of Dägwe, and killed many of the nearby Wärjeh pastoralists." [Pankhurst 1997 p 45]		
HFE63c	Degwe, at some 15 km from Aksum	14/38	[20]
	There is a quarry for red stone which has recently been used for a modern monument in Aksum. [Munro-Hay 2002 p 255]		
??	Deha (in Wello)	../.	[n]
	23 January 1990 there were 7 killed by an air raid on Deha.		
J....	Dehabo (centre in 1964 of Fo-o sub-district)	10/40?	[Ad]

HCJ13	Dehada 06°27'/36°53' 1864 m <i>dehan</i> (T) all right; tolerable	06/36	[Gz]
HEU91	Dehan 13°33'/39°28' 1968 m (with church Maryam) (visiting postman under Dessie)	13/39	[Gz Po]
??	Dehana (historically recorded), cf Dahana Around 1616, Emperor Susneyos marched to the frontier, where he defeated the men of King Erubat of Sennar. The king of Fung thereupon came to the Emperor's camp at Dehana, and paid him homage. [Pankhurst 1997]	../..	[Pa]
HDU03	Dehana (Dihana) 09°58'/39°41' 2734 m In Bulga/Kasim wereda, with church Maryam. /which Dehna/Dehana?/:/ Dejazmach Belay Maru was from Dehna and (-1935-) a sub-commander of <i>wagshum</i> Haylu.	09/39	[Gz]
HEL63	Dehana sub-district? (Dihana .., Dehna ..-1997-) When Raya-Azebo pursued the Patriots towards Dehana in 1937 they burnt churches among which: Biwel Arba'itu Insisa, Tebanzba Gebri'el, Amde Werk K'irk'os, Debre Zeyit Maryam, Gur Amba Giyorgis, Adeljan Mika'el, Abam Abo, Abmata Libanos, Misk'a Maryam, Bache Maryam, Cher Arba'itu Insisa.	12/39	[n]
HEL63	<b>Dehana wereda</b> (centre in 1964 = Amde Werk) In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Dehana constituency had 45 polling stations and 49,372 registered voters of whom 86% cast their votes. Leading party was EPRDF with 23,372 votes and candidate Ato Tadesse Kasa Ketema. Second was CUD with 15,162 votes and candidate Ato Mekonne Yigizaw Weldeyes. The remaining 3,876 votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]	12/39	[Ad]
JCK92	Dehen, see Dihun <i>dehna</i> (dähna) (A) well, in good health or condition		
HEL63	Dehna (Dähna), see Dehana		
??	Dehondur (Dähondur), see Abejegay		
HDE27c	Dehra (Dhera) (50 km north of Asela)	08/39	[x]
HE...	Dehuch, see Lai Dehuch, Tach Dehuch		
JDN96	Dei Ella (area)	10/40	[WO]
HDM70	Dei, see Dey		
HDA36	Deibi, T. (hill)	08/35	[WO]
GDM06	Deibia (Tulu D.) 09°04'/34°57' 2118 m	09/34	[WO Gz]
HF...	Deireka sub-district (De'ireka ..) (centre in 1964 = Gezeiti)	14/39	[Ad]
HCG99	Dejazmach (Degiasmac) 07°10'/35°36' 1584 m	07/35	[+ It Gz]
JDH12	Dejazmach Ameteli 09°10'/40°52' 1831 m	09/40	[Gz]
	<i>dejen</i> (däjän) (A,T) rear guard <i>Dejen</i> as ethnic group: according to what an Oromo chronicler of Gojjam wrote in Menilek's time, the Däjän are among the descendants of Emperor Hezbä-Nañ (1430-1433).		
HDS27	<b>Dejen</b> (Degen, Dingab) 10°10'/38°08' 1870, 2421/2490 m, distance 229 km from Addis Abeba Centre in 1964 of Dejen wereda & Dejen sub-district. Beyond the main Abay bridge from Shewa the highway climbs up to Dejen on the Gojjam plateau.	10/38	[Gz Ad Br Gu]
1900	The hunter Powell-Cotton camped there in mid-March 1900. "Dedgem -- was a little village of a dozen huts or so perched on the steep side of the valley of the Mogga, and only remarkable as being the first village on the Gojam side /when coming from the north/." Powell-Cotton 1902 p 204]		
1920s	The caravan of the British men Maydon and Blaine passed there in March or April 1923.		



"There was a customs post here, which, although admitting the authority of our passports, tried to prevent us going on that day. -- In his rush of reasons the official quite forgot that each of his excuses cancelled the others. We insisted on going on."

They found the descent to the Abay river very difficult, and there were thousands of animals and people, traders as well as soldiers.

[H C Maydon, Simen, London 1925 p 152-156]

Cheesman in 1927 saw Dejen as a small village on the edge of the Abay ravine.

Concerning descent to the river at that time "it is hard to avoid using the word 'road', but in reality it was no more than a rough mule-track down steep slopes". Caravans usually made a halt at Inadajir, a spring some way down the valley.

[Cheesman 1936]

When the town was recently established, three Arab merchants settled there. One of them, Muhammad Qasim, handed over his shops to a local Ethiopian trader when he himself moved to Addis Abeba.

[Hussein Ahmed, conf. 1997]

1960s In Dejen junior secondary school 12 students passed 8th-grade examination in 1960.

In 1966 it was decided that the Ministry of Interior would design a master plan for Dejen, without engaging foreign consultants. A health station, paid for by the fund "Swedish Aid to Leprous Children in Ethiopia", was completed in February 1966 and had been built by a contractor Asmellash.

Population as counted in 1967 was 3,666.

In 1954 there was no telephone, but by 1967 there was one for the Municipality and one for Mohammed Wudu.

The primary school in 1968 had 482 boys and 293 girls, with 13 teachers.

The junior secondary school in 1968 had 71 male and 16 female students in grade 7-8 (with no teacher regularly employed then?).

1970s Around 1978 there was a sub post office and a petrol filling station of Agip.

1991 There was long-distance shelling of Dejen town on 16 April 1991, after its capture by the EPRDF, and six people were killed. [Africa Watch, USA 1991]

Population about 8,900 in 1994.

1990s Dejen is a checkpoint for traffic crossing province boundaries. Because of the waiting time for buses there are several restaurants. Among the hotels, the first, two-storey one on the left hand (when going northwards) is recommended.

"If Bahir Dar -- seems to be a bit of a push, you may want to rest the night at the small Tizale Dejen hotel here, which is perched on the edge of the gorge." [Camerapix 1995]

2000s Population about 11,000 in 2001.

The Tezale Dejen hotel had 40 rooms.

text Embiale Wudu, A brief history of Dajan; B.A. thesis, A.A. University 1994.

**Dejen: ford** cf Shafartak

HDS18 Dejen (Malca Degen) (ford) 1280 m 10/38 [+ Gu]  
at 11 km from Dejen town, cf Shafartak

Used to be one of the relatively easy fords of the Abay, with depth of water about 1.30 m in the dry season and 5 m in the rainy season. The large Abay bridge not far from there was under construction in 1938. [Guida 1938]

1927-1933: "When the seasonal rise of water takes place *jendies*, or skins, can be hired at Dejen, and in these the mule-packs are wrapped and floated over, guided and pushed by trained local swimmers, while the mules, relieved of their saddles and loads, swim over without much trouble. -- The Abbai is not in a ravine here, the valley being shallow. -- For going between Gojjam and Addis Ababa, most of the traders prefer the Dejen road which crosses the river at Shafartak."

[Cheesman 1936]

HES69 Dejen (mountain), see Ras Dashen

HDS27 **Dejen sub-district** (-1964-1997-) 10/38 [n]

The future emperor Susneyos (1607-1632) grew up in several environments. At one point he was sent to Admas Mogasa, mother of Emperor Sertse Dengel "-- who was in a region



churches on Dek.

D'Abbadie was there earlier (Douze ans dans la Haut-Ethiopie, 1868) and was also interested in mapping but not in the monasteries or churches.

1900s The hunter Powell-Cotton saw Dek and Dega from the shore of the mainland in May 1900. By asking local people he got the impression that the name of the group, or particularly the eastern and more visible island /Dega, Daga, Debre Istefanos/, was Derke, as confirmed by persons from several villages.

[Powell-Cotton 1902 p 278]

The Jean Duchesne-Fournet Mission surveyed the shores of Lake Tana in 1901-1903 and crossed the water to Dek.

1930s Cheesman was on Dek for several days in December 1932. "It took two and a half hours to reach Dek, and we landed at Gadna, a small parish on the south shore -- Along the rocks runs a conspicuous white line marking the high-water limit of the last flood season." The island is an irregular circle about 3 km in diameter. A thin layer of red soil covers the lava and supports a thick vegetation of bushes and big trees. "The land is rich and 75 per cent is cultivated. -- Each field of corn is a clearing of an acre or so in scrub forest, and is divided by a boundary hedge from the next."

The surface of the island is almost flat, with the highest land in the middle not more than 10 m above high lake level. "For this reason mosquitos can penetrate everywhere and are a plague all over the island." Cheesman sent a collection of the mosquitos to the Natural History Museum in London. They were several different species, none of which had been proved to be carriers of malaria. "It is certain that a malaria-carrying mosquito exists on Lake Tana. All men who live there get the fever."

Concerning wild animals there were no antelopes, no hyenas, etc. Fruit-bats were seen in the big *werka* trees. There were domestic cats but no dogs in the villages. Birds that cannot fly over the 8 km of water from the mainland were not seen, such as guinea-fowl and francolines. There were big pythons in the reed beds. Termites were plenty. An Ethiopian official was said to have introduced black ants in an attempt to exterminate the white ants, but the black ants died. "I saw no acacia trees and accounted to myself for their absence by the fact that their hard seeds are not eaten /and carried over water/ by birds."

[Cheesman 1936]

"Dek is not considered as a sacred island, and women are allowed there. -- There were altogether about a hundred houses inhabited by countrymen on Dek, including all of the villages. Some of the land is the property of the family of Ras Hailu, but the monastery of Daga seems to have the rights over the whole island. Dek is frequently harassed by pirates. -- The Memhir said that there were five churches on Dek, and there was once a sixth, now ruined and deserted. -- The church Gadna Giyorgis was in a dense grove of trees. It was a poor, circular building with thatched roof -- all in a bad state of repair -- we passed the small village of Zibd, and a mile farther on stopped at Zibd Yasus Church, which was in much the same dilapidated condition -- we returned by another path and reached Arsima Sematat Church after half an hour's walk. It is a better building than the other two; the walls are of rock and mud and are four feet thick. The sides of the inner building are decorated with some good wall-paintings that have been executed by a European artist -- Arsima was apparently a woman and a martyr -- None of the people who came to the church with us could tell more about her. -- All churches on the island have small villages close by -- /and among a few without churches one/ being Moana, where the Memhir lived." [Cheesman 1936]

Cheesman landed again on Dek on 9 March 1933 and was able to visit the remaining churches. "It took fifty minutes to reach Kota Mariam village, and another fifteen minutes to Kota Mariam Church, situated to the north-east of Dek, about half a mile from the shore. The rectangular walls of the Holy of Holies are built of lime mortar and rock, whereas the circular outside walls are of mud and rock. Local tradition told of a serious quarrel that arose over the building of the church. The patron who paid the expenses of the building was Ato Waldo, a commoner. He sent for lime from a far country to make

mortar, and the walls of the inner structure were already erected when the neighbours raised objections, saying that only the Emperor and those who were of kingly families could use lime in their churches, and such was the uproar that the rest of the church had to be finished with mud, rock, and straw. By the church wall stands a coffin of a woman, Waizero Herut, who received this honour because she had been to the expense of having the church repaired. The coffin is a whole tree-trunk hollowed and shaped by adze, with a small knob left at the end to serve as a handle. We were shown also a small brass bell, and another bell made of a long bar of stone -- Jaga Yohannes was about three-quarters of a mile from the south shore of Dek and had been built on a rock mound that had been artificially raised. The church was little better than a ruin."

[Cheesman 1936]

"On Dek Island -- Cheesman saw both dead animals and skeletons in the fields, and observed that cattle used for plowing have to be replaced constantly because of the unhealthiness of the island."

[Simoons 1960 p 142]

1950s The yearly production of coffee on the island was 300-400 tons in the 1950s.

[FAO]

1960s "A flat and rather large island -- Several churches are located here and may be visited by women. Among them the Arsima Church, which owned one of the oldest and most beautiful manuscripts of the Ethiopian middle age yet discovered. In the Gadena Church a well-preserved diptych from the sixteenth century and an early manuscript can be seen."

[Welcome to Ethiopia, AA ca 1965 p 197]

Dek Estifanos church primary school in 1968 had 31 boys and no girls in grades 1-3, with three teachers.

Dek used to be known for its honey, of which much was supplied to the imperial court. There are four churches: Arsima, Qota Maryam, Daga Yohannes, Gadena. Arsima /Sematat/ has valuable manuscripts from 1430.

[Äthiopien 1999 p 257-258]

1980s "Back on Dek I walked with Yared around the northern shore of the island to the remote church of Debra Kota Mariam. It stands alone in thick woods beside the lake -- The only other building in the area was the hut of the priest. He wore the church key around his neck, and appeared -- rubbing a midday sleep from his eyes. The priest told us the church had been built in the fourth or fifth century, after the reign of the twins Abraha and Atsbaha. Records on Daga put it more plausibly in the thirteenth century. Its round outer walls were crumbling wattle and daub, and the thatched roof was supported by a series of columns carved from a single bole of sycamore. Inside, the floor was spread with dried grass.

The church's only embellishments were the frescoed walls of the *maqdas*, the inner sanctum. Here, among others we had found the story of Balaya Sab, a graphic reassurance of the power of forgiveness, the supremacy of good over evil."

"In the west of Dek, Yared and I found a group of villagers spearing catfish in the flooded grass. -- Here the shore breaks up into small wooded islands and peninsulas. To reach Narga Selassie in the rains, you must take a boat around the shore and enter the church by the old water gate. But Yared took med through the papyrus swamp."

[Marsden-Smedley 1990 p 112-113]

texts M Di Salvo, Churches ..., Milano 1999 p 12 air view of the whole island, p 78-79 (fig 81-83) colour photos of Kota Maryam church, 84 (89) plan and section of this church, 96 (102) the island seen flat at the horizon, 98 (103) similar view with islets in front.

**Dek: Gadna** (parish)

On the south shore of Dek.

Gadna Giyorgis is a church placed in a dense grove of trees.

[Cheesman 1936]

**Dek : Kota Maryam**

Walking on foot the distance is 50 minutes to Gadna at the shore and another 15 minutes

to the church, which is situated about 800 m from the north-east shore of Dek.  
 1933: "The rectangular walls of the Holy of Holies are built of lime mortar and rock, whereas the circular outside walls are of mud and rock. -- The patron who paid the expenses of the building was Ato Waldo, a commoner. He sent for lime from a far country to make mortar, and the walls of the inner structure were already erected when the neighbours raised objections, saying that only the Emperor and those who were of kingly families could use lime -- By the church wall stands a coffin of a woman, Waizero Herut, who received this honour because she had been to the expense of having the church repaired. -- We were shown also a small brass bell, and another bell made of a long bar of stone -- Such wall-paintings as the church possesses are of a crude order, done on calico and stuck on the wall."

[Cheesman 1936 p 133-134]

**Dek : Zibd**

When Consul Cheesman visited Dek island in December 1932 he found Zibd to be a small village and Zibd Jesus Church one or two kilometres from there to be dilapidated. "The Memhir told a pitiful tale of poverty."

[Cheesman 1936]

dek buri: *huri* (O) blue-grey root which is boiled and eaten;  
*huri* (Som) 1. chase away; 2. boil over; *buuri* (Som) tobacco,  
 cigar, pipe

JBH86	Dek Buri (area)	04/41	[WO]
	<i>dek mezmur</i> (däq mäzmur) (A) pupil, disciple		
	<i>deka, dekah</i> (O) kinds of shrub, <i>Grewia tembensis</i> , <i>G. tenax</i> ;		
	<i>deka</i> (O) prayer for a dead person; <i>daka</i> (O) stone;		
	<i>dekka</i> (däqqa) (A) beat /the breast in mourning/;		
	hit severely, shake; (däkka) (A) delimit, determine borders;		
	<i>bora</i> (O) brown /animal/; <i>bore</i> (O) solemn promise		
HDL46	Deka 09°25'/39°02' 2644 m	09/39	[Gz]
HDL27	Deka Bora 09°20'/39°06' 2839 m	09/39	[Gz]
HDL78	Deka Bora (Debacora) 09°43'/38°28' 2542 m	09/38	[Gz]
??	Deka Bora Wasewo (visiting postman u. Nazret)	../..	[Po]
	deka boru: <i>boru</i> (O) muddy /water/; (A) ox having a blaze		
HDK18	Deka Boru (D. Bora, D. Boro) 2527 m	09/38	[AA n]
GDF83	Deka Jeldesa (mountain) 08°55'/34°40' 2179 m	08/34	[Gz]
HDH76	Deka Jemto 09°44'/36°15' 2115 m	09/36	[Gz]
HDE74	Deka Seden (D. Sedan) 08°52'/38°51' 2192 m	08/38	[Gz]
HER77	Dekaba (Dek'aba, Deqaba) 13°23'/37°16' 2111 m	13/37	[Gz q]
HEM61	Dekabil (Deqabil)	12/39	[+ Ad]
	(centre in 1964 of Merewa sub-district)		
HDL70	Dekabora (with church, waterfalls nearby)	09/38	[AA Po]
	(visiting postman under Nazret), cf Dakkabore, Deke Bora		
HER76	Dekagaro (Decagero, Decagaro)	13/37	[Gz WO It]
	13°20'/37°08' 1007 m		
HDC89	Dekan (Decan) (area)	08/37	[+ WO]
HCR38	Dekano (Decano, Dakano) 07°32'/37°21' 2252 m	07/37	[LM Gz WO Ad]
	(sub-district & its centre in 1964)		
geol	At Dekano where there is a comparatively large deposit of iron ore, a few thousand tons of crudely smelted iron have been produced annually in a dozen of native furnaces, using locally obtained charcoal in the production process.		
	[Lipsky, Ethiopia ..., USA 1962 p 263]		
HCP30	Deke 07°35'/35°46' 2309 m	07/35	[Gz]
HEC88	Deke (Dek'e, Deqe, Selcen, Salchan Mikael) (church)	11/37	[Gz q Ch WO]
	(Salcen Micael) 11°38'/37°20' 1784 m, see under Bahir Dar		

JCJ14	Deke, see Deche		
H....	Deke Abai (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	13/37?	[Ad]
HDL73	Deke Bora 09°42'/38°43' 2660 m (with church Gebriel), cf Dekabora	09/38	[AA Gz]
	<i>deker</i> (däkär) (A) strong, firm		
JDJ16c	<b>Deker</b> (Däkär, Dakar) (historically recorded)	09/42	[+ Pa x]
1400s	The Walashma formed a new state, under the name of 'Adal, with Dakar as its capital, a little to the south-east of Harar. The sultan of this kingdom invaded Dewero in 1445 but was defeated and killed. [J Dorsesse, Ethiopia, 1959 p 121, 125] "Eskender (1478-94) also took the field against the Adalites, then under Shams ad-Din b. Muhammad (1472-87), but in spite of some ephemeral successes, during which he sacked their capital Dakar, he was surprised and defeated." Sultan Abu Bakr ibn Muhammad transferred his military headquarters from Dakar to Harar in 1520. [Trimingham, Islam in Ethiopia, 1952 p 82, 85] After the defeat in 1415 of the Sultan of Ifat and the disappearance of the Ifat state, the chief's sons later returned to Africa and called themselves kings of Adäl. They established themselves in lower land to the east at a place called Däkär. [Pankhurst 1997 p 56] After 1432: "Jämal ad-Din was succeeded by his brother Sultan Bädlay ibn Sä'd ad-Din, sometimes referred to as Shihab ad-Din Ahmäd Bädlay, who had his capital at Däkär. -- He brought numerous Christian lands under his rule, and burnt many of their towns, together, Maqrizi says, with at least six churches." [Pankhurst 1997 p 60] "Eskender (1478-1494) later took the field against Adäl, which was then ruled by Amir Shäms ad-Din ibn Muhammäd (1472-1487). Imperial forces sacked the Adäl capital, Däkär, but were surprised and defeated. The story of this defeat is graphically related in Eskender's chronicle." [Pankhurst 1997 p 121]		
1500s	The great famine of 1559 coincided with the first Oromo advance into the Harar area. Oromo warriors, according to a local Adare chronicle, also devastated the old Adäl capital, Däkär. [Pankhurst 1997 p 373]		
HES32	Dekhrso sub-district (centre in 1964 = Dara)	12/37	[Ad]
HCR61	Dekia sub-district (centre in 1964 = Gimbo)	07/36	[Ad]
	dekime: <i>dekkeme</i> (däkkämä) (A) get tired, be failing		
HBL41	Dekime (area)	03/38	[WO]
HDB64	Deko 08°45'/36°09' 1841 m	08/36	[Gz]
HDL26	Dekole 09°16'/38°59' 2821 m	09/38	[AA Gz]
JBP19	Dekti Yopti (Decti Iopti) (area)	04/41	[+ WO]
	deku kersa: <i>karsa</i> (qarsa) (O) flat rock		
HDK49	Deku Kersa (D. K'ersa, D. Qersa) 09°25'/38°22' 2569 m	09/38	[AA Gz q]
H....	Dekuna (centre in 1964 of Cheha sub-district)	08/38	[Ad]
HFE36	Dekuya (Dek'uya, Dequya, Dagohia) Dekuya 13°55'/39°04' 1703 m	13/39	[Gz q Gu]
HET29	Dekwale (Dek'wale, Deqwale) 12°55'/39°19' 1899 m	12/39	[Gz q]
	<i>del</i> (däl) (A) delta		
H....	Del (area)	10/39	[Ad]
??	<b>Del Meda</b> (historically recorded) Imam Ahmed Grañ decided in 1530 "to embark on the more permanent occupation of	../..	[Pa]

Däwaro. Early in the ensuing campaign he again advanced into the area, and reached the province's northern districts. Lebnä Dengel, on learning of this development, ordered Bahr Sägäd -- and his commander Wäsän Sägäd, who was away in Damot, to dig a defensive trench at nearby Del Méda. When these earthworks were completed Bahr Sägäd stationed an army to guard them. He died, however, shortly afterwards, whereupon a nobleman called 'Addalu, also known as 'Adälih -- took over the defence. 'Addalu ordered a large number of soldiers from Bali, as well as others from Däwaro, to guard the trench. Ahmääd, however, was not to be foiled. He made inquiries, and interrogated the prisoners in his possession, and through them learnt a way of circumventing the trench. This enabled his men to reach Del Méda without difficulty. The defenders, obliged to abandoned their fortification, massed instead at Bäb Sari." [Pankhurst 1997 p 172-173]

HDU72	Del Mikael 10°37'/39°33' 2789 m	10/39	[Gz]
H...	Del sub-district (centre in 1964 = Key Amba)	10/39	[Ad]
JBN95	Del Verme Falls (European name) 05°27'/40°17'	05/40	[WO Gz]
	Coordinates would give map code JCA05		
HET39	Dela, see Dala		
HEL85	Delaba 12°31'/38°56' 2289 m	12/38	[Gz]
HEC75	Delache, see Deleket		
JDH31c	Delado (oasis)	09/40	[x]
	The American diplomatic mission passed there on 5 December 1903. The country was barren at first, becoming grassy and better near Delado. There was plenty of water in wells. Many herds were seen, [R P Skinner 1906 p 220]		
pict	K Herzbruch, Abessinien, München 1925 p 285,287 people at oasis.		
HDK18	Deladu (Delladu, Kalladu) 09°14'/38°17' 2659 m	09/38	[AA Gz x]
	The British traveller Henry Savage Landor was there on 17 January 1906. He found a large well and two smaller dry ones. "From this point we were again out of the Danakil country and found Hawuya people, who possessed a lot of cattle with gigantic straight horns." [A H Savage Landor, vol I 1907 p 44] The caravan with which Dr Kurt Herzbruch returned to the coast in 1907 also halted at the oasis of Delado with its trees. There were a number of Ittu people who would have liked to deny the travellers to use water, so the caravan's armed escort showed that they were prepared to use force, and then the Ittu remained quiet. [K Herzbruch, Abessinien, München 1925 p 288-289]		
JEA54	Delagalesa (area)	11/40	[WO]
JCS23	Delahalleh 07°27'/42°51' 867 m	07/42	[Gz]
JDA79	Delajebo 08°48'/40°40' 1835 m	08/40	[Gz]
HEC85	Delakes Mikael (Delaches Micael) c1900 m (village with church)	11/37	[+ It]
HE...	Delakus	11/37?	[Pa]
	James Bruce for the 1770s described what he called Delakus as a purely Muslim trading settlement, situated by a ford on the Little Abay. According to Bruce it was more considerable in appearance than most small towns and villages in Abyssinia. [Pankhurst (1990)1992 p 102]		
HEE78	<b>Delanta</b> (Dalanta, Delante, Delenta) (high plateau) 11°35'/39°10' 2619 m	11/39	[Gu 18 WO It]
	Even in Delanta, where the population had been forced to feed Tewodros's army for a whole month only weeks before March 1868, some 80,000 kilograms of grain and flour were made available to the British army during the last few days before the attack on Mekdela.		

[S Rubenson 1976 p 260]

"Halted at Dalanta. A grand parade of the whole /Napier's/ force, salutes fired and the German and French prisoners /held by Tewodros on Mekdela/ handed over to their respective representatives. The Chief made a most excellent speech -- In the afternoon the sale of loot began, and is realizing very large prices."

[Colonel Milway for Sunday 19 April 1868]

HEE79	Delanta wereda & sub-district (-1964-1997-) (centre of both in 1964 = Wegel Tena) In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Delanta constituency had 82 polling stations and 75,422 registered voters of whom 84% cast their votes. Leading party was EPRDF with 40,226 votes and candidate Ato Dawit Tefera Chane. Far behind was CUD with 15,503 votes and candidate Ato Abera Kasaye Hagos. The remaining 7,621 votes are not explained. [www.electionsethiopia.org]	11/39	[Ad n]
HEM94	Delate 12°39'/39°48' 1623 m	12/39	[Gz]
HDA72	Delatti, see Dalati		
JEA62	Delay Mele (Delai Malé) 11°28'/40°01' 1137 m On an old caravan route from Djibouti to Harar.	11/40	[Gz x]
HCJ41	Delba 06°43'/36°42' 568 m	06/36	[Gz]
HCK64	Delbu (Dalbo, Delbo) 06°54'/37°52' 1994 m	06/37	[Gz WO Gu Wa]
HDE71	Delbuki (Dälbuqi) (village)	08/38	[x]
H....	Deldak (Deldack) (centre in 1964 of Gojima sub-district) <i>deldalla</i> (A) smooth, level, flat	08/37	[+ Ad]
HEJ..	Deldali (small fort near Gondar) 2087 m	12/37	[Gu]
HEK71	Deldalit 12°25'/37°33' 2047 m	12/37	[Gz]
HEM51	Deldei, see Dildi		
HDS20	Deledel Maryam (church) 10°13'/37°35'	10/37	[Gz]
HEK44	Delego 12°10'/37°53' 2681 m	12/37	[Gz]
HEC75	Deleket (Delache) 11°31'/37°01' 1890 m Coordinates would give map code HEC74 <i>delel</i> (A) 1. layer of sand, sediment, silt; 2. place where rainwater remains in a field; <i>dellala</i> (dällala) (A) broker, middleman; <i>dilela</i> (T) commission	11/37	[Gz WO]
HDD56	Delella, see Dilila		
H....	Delelo (north Gondar) Zelege Agricultural Mechanization SC was established in May 1996. General manager was Tewodros Dessuye. Initial chairman of the board was Solomon Tegeba, a senior member of the Amhara National Democratic Movement who left Adigrat in 1983 and became a TPLF fighter until his transfer to the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement. [T M Vestal, Ethiopia - a post-cold war .., USA 1999 p 218] <i>delesa</i> (T) penthouse	12/37	[n]
HEM72	Delesa (area), see under Alamata	12/39	[WO]
HEP26	Delesa, see Dalasa delet: <i>dilet</i> (T) will, desire		
HDJ33	Deleta 09°23'/36°55' 1973 m	09/36	[Gz]
HDK48	Deleta, two at 4 km distance, cf Dalata Deleta 09°28'/38°15' 2446 m and 09°30'/38°17' 2652 m church Mikael near the south-western one	09/38	[AA Gz]
JDA43	Deleta Gabriel (church) 08°35'/40°05'	08/40	[Gz]
JDR36	Deleymeley (small railway station) 10°17'/42°11'	10/42	[Gz]
HDH44	Delgagala 09°27'/36°06' 1100 m	09/36	[Gz]



HEJ45	<b>Delgi</b> (Delgi Mariam, Delghi, Delgh) 12°12'/37°03' 1785 m (with church & sub post office) Market town, centre in 1964 of Takusa sub-district.	12/37	[Gz Br Ch WO]
1900s	The hunter Powell-Cotton was there in early May 1900. "We passed the walled church of Delgee Mariam, burnt by the Dervishes when they raided the country twelve years ago." [Powell-Cotton 1902 p 284]		
1930s	Consul Cheesman in 1933 noted that coffee from Zege was loaded in big leather sacks and brought by <i>tankwa</i> to Delgi in the NW corner of Lake Tana, where they were emptied into smaller sacks for donkey- or mule-loads in the caravans going to Gallabat on the Sudan frontier. "Delgi is a small village by the lake shore and has some local fame as a <i>tankwa</i> port. It has an unimportant church, Delgi Mariam." [Cheesman 1936]		
1941	In late October 1941 the 2nd Ethiopian Battalion reached Delgi from the south, together with an irregular cavalry unit 50 strong commanded by Captain Elles. The Ethiopian Battalion was commanded by Lt. Col. Geoffrey Benson, who left Delgi on 30 October. [Shirreff 1995 p 251-252]		
1960s	The primary school in 1968 had 179 boys and 98 girls, with five teachers.		
1990s	The next stop of the ferry after Konzula, at around 2.30pm, is at Delgi, a larger town on a rather bland stretch of shore. Delgi has a restaurant, and even a hotel. From Delgi, the ferry takes about three hours to reach Gorgora. [Bradt 1995 p 276]		
??	Delhoya (historically recorded)	../.	[Pa]
JE..?	<b>Delifage</b> In the national elections of 15 May 2005 the Delifage constituency, in Afar region, had 105 polling stations and 146,996 registered voters of whom 87% cast their votes. Dominating party was ANDP with 116,535 votes and candidate Ato Mohammed Aydahis Allo. There were also ARDUF 8,724 with Ato Mohammed Sani, ALFP 2,124 and CUD 561 votes. [www.electionsethiopia.org]	11/41?	[20]
HCC60	Delkinsa (Delk'insa, Delqinsa) 06°03'/36°39' 3057 m <i>della</i> (dälla) (A) be well, be at ease	06/36	[Gz q]
H....	Della (sub-district & its centre in 1964)	13/39	[Ad]
JDN.?	Delladu, see Deladu		
??	Dellamenne A map in 1814 by Henry Salt records this place on the caravan route from Zeyla to Harar, with distance to Harar being about one-third of the whole route.	10/42	[18]
HCI19	Delle (mountain) 06°28'/37°26' 1496 m, cf Dalla <i>dellele</i> (dällälä) (A) 1. remove or bring soil by torrent of water; 2. caress in order to soothe	06/37	[WO Gz]
HDS..	Delma On their way from Debre Markos to Dembecha the Rosen party of Germans on 3 April 1905 entered the district named Delma on maps of the time. There was a saddle between two churches Jesus and Joseph where they were met by the priests and invited to see a manuscript that seemed very valuable. They measured the highest point of the locality to be at 2370 m altitude. [F Rosen, Eine deutsche ..., Leipzig 1907 p 358-359]	10/37	[x]
HCD43	Delo 05°49'/37°50' 3119 m	05/37	[Gz]
HCD44	Delo (Dello) 05°50'/37°56' 3600 m (mountain), cf Dalo, Dillo The highest peak of the Amaro range. As far as Douglas Busk could ascertain no mountaineer had yet climbed it by the 1950s. Being fairly easy of access, there would also	05/37	[Gz WO x]

	not be any special interest in such a climb. [D Busk 1957 p 222]		
HDB43	Delo (Dello)	08/36	[+ WO]
JCN07	Delo (Uara Combo) 07°15'/40°28' 2138 m	07/40	[Gz]
JCG12	<b>Delo awraja</b> (Delu awraja & sub-district) 06°30'/40°00'	06/39	[Ad Gz]
	Centre in 1964 and in 1980: Meslo/Masslo, in 1970: Menna.		
1940s	The reimposition of Ethiopian rule in Bale in 1941 was not welcomed. It provoked an uprising that brought Arsi and Somali together. Its focus was Delo district in the south-western corner of Bale. It became known as "Jeghir", a Somali coined term denoting the shaving of hair at the back of the head, which was the symbol of recognition among the rebels. Their nominal leader was the traditional Arsi chief of Delo, Mohammed Gedda, who earlier had been deposed by the Ethiopians, then reinstated by the Italians, and now faced deposition once again. The actual leader was another Arsi named Nur Garuene. Fighting lasted for nearly a year.		
	[J Markakis, National and class conflict .. (Cambridge Univ. Press) 1987 p 193]		
1960s	During the Bale rebellion 1963-1970 the resistance spread to Delo awraja around late 1964. "Trouble between the Oromo in Boranna and the Ethiopian Somalis south of the Ganale river, led the Government to order the resettlement of some groups in Delo. When this was resisted the Oromo forcibly drove them across the river into Delo awraja. Their appeals to the local administration for redress or for land in Delo met with no response. They were therefore left with little option but to join the rebellion." Rebellion leaders in Delo and Ganale were Wako Gutu, Wako Lugo, and Ahije Chiri. The Liberation Front for Western Somalia in 1966 was particularly successful in Delo awraja. [Gilkes 1975 p 214-216]		
	The Bale rebellion which started in 1963 continued with undiminished force in the lowland districts such as Delo, where a state of emergency was declared in August 1969. By the end of that year, Wako Gutu, with a much reduced band of followers, was besieged in Walabo and others were surrounded in the Arena Bulik forest, both in Delo district. Lack of food made their position untenable, and they negotiated terms of surrender which included a promise of pardon. Wako Gutu surrendered on 28 March 1970. He was kept in Negele for three months, then taken to Addis Abeba for an audience with Haile Selassie about the reasons for the rebellion.		
	[J Markakis, National and class conflict .. (Cambridge Univ. Press) 1987 p 200]		
	In Delo awraja, where the Oromo uprising had been centred, the portion of confiscated land ( <i>gebretel</i> ) reached an astounding 36.5% of the total measured land in 1968. [Report on land tenure survey of Bale Province, A.A. 1969, cited by Markakis]		
	In this almost exclusively Moslem awraja there were 378 students in 1970. [Gilkes 1975 p 223]		
1970s	Around December 1975, refugees from Bale were given arms in Somalia and entered Ethiopia again. Led by Rube, a group of about 750 men with camel transport reached western Bale and there split into two. One section under Rube stayed in Delo, and the other went north of Ginir.		
	[Markakis 1987 p 224-225]		
JCG..	<b>Delo Mena</b> (Dello M.)	06/39	[n]
	Delo Mena primary school (in Delo awraja) in 1968 had 117 boys and 52 girls, with seven teachers.		
1990s	The Danish missionary nurse Janne/?? Pedersen (41) was returning by car to her house at Delo Mena in late March 1997 when she was stopped by armed men and taken away. Later her body was found dead in a wooded area several kilometres away from where she had been attacked. Pedersen arrived in Ethiopia in 1993.		
	[News]		
HCD44c	Delo wereda (centre in 1964 = Delo)	05/37?	[Ad]