

Dejach Hailu Kebede



[Abebe Haregewoin](#) with Morten Søndergaard

Today let us remember our unsung hero Dejach Hailu Kebede (posthumously made general) - a hero of both Adwa and the second Italian invasion

Dejach Haylu Kebede is a descendant of the ancient Zagwe dynasty, who gave us the churches of Lalibela and perfected and fine tuned Amarigna for us. As a youngster he led an army from Seqota, Wag during the battle of Adwa in 1896, and fought bravely and captured a battalion of enemy troops and became one of the most celebrated leaders of the battlefield.

After the battle of Adwa, he retired from public service to devote his life to religious contemplation. But when this lion knew about the second Italian invasion of his country in 1936, he responded to the cry of his holy country. He rallied his people of Wag around him and defeated the Italian army in the battle of Tembien and liberated Abiy Adi. This was a shocking defeat for the Italians. This was the defeat that led to their starting to use carpet bombing of villages and use of mustard gas dropped from the air. Unfortunately, Dejach Haylu was killed in one of these bombings. When the Italians discovered the dead body of their enemy, these cruel barbarians cut his head to parade it as their trophy and discourage our people. Afterwards, the head was put in ice and flown to Rome for Mussolini's and his bunch of inhuman beasts to enjoy.

This brave man twice our hero was made a General posthumously by the

Emperor upon liberation. Other than this there is nothing done to commemorate this brave son of our country! Nothing! Unfortunately we are eager to celebrate foreigners who have made some minor contributions or nothing at all with statues, roads and squares named after them when we have totally abandoned the names and memories of those who gave up their lives so that we can live in freedom. What has Winston Churchill done for our country to have the longest road in Addis Named after him? And what had DeGaul done to have a square named after him....and the surprise of all travesties...why did we ever at one time boast of erecting the biggest statue of the monstrous beast Lenin in our capital city.....why are we trying to bury our heroes and our history and celebrate the heroes of others? Why have we developed this slave mentality of vanquished and totally subjugated people, when we in fact enjoyed freedom from domination because of heroes like Dejach Hailu Kebede. I can only say, shame on this generation of vipers and spittle lickers.