



# Dejezmatch Solomon Abraha Hagos Mirach WoldeKidan The Final Verdict

## Part - 4

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<sup>1</sup> The Author opposes Nedemer with Ethiopians as well opposes Agazian ideologies.

## **WEDI MIRACH'S TRIUMPH**

Wedi Mirach or Aba Bezbez Kassa (King Yohannes IV) was known for his exceptional courage and leadership in the battlefield. He led his men from the forefront not the rear.

**Battle of Gundet**, November 15-16, 1875: Wedi Mirach fought an Egyptian force at Gundet, on the frontier of Mereb Melash (now a location south of Adi Quala, Eritrea).

Aba Bezbez Kassa's army attacked the Egyptian force armed with superior weapons and led by experienced American and European officers. Aba Bezbez Kassa's army destroyed the 2,500 strong Egyptian force. Only few Egyptian soldiers and American officers managed to flee back to Massawa. Wedi Mirach's army captured quantities of superior arms.

The following officers were killed in the Battle of Gundet: the leader of the Egyptian force, the high ranking Danish commander Soren Adolph Arundep . . . Arakil Bey Nubar, nephew of Ismail Ibrahim Pasha, Khedive of Egypt and Sudan . . . Lieutenant Colonel Rustem Naghi Bey . . . Austrian cavalry officer Count Wilhelm Zichy, the nephew of the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople was wounded and later captured by the Mirach fighters. On the spot, the Mirachs delivered the 2nd bullet of death and Count Zichy was killed.

In the battle, the famous military tactician Alula used smart manoeuvres to defeat the well-armed and officered Egyptian force.

**Battle of Gurae, November 7 - 9, 1876: Yohannes bravely led his army and fought a tough battle at Gurae, on the frontier of Mereb Melash (now a location near Dekamare, Eritrea). Yohannes's army fought against an huge Egyptian force that had superior Remington rifles and cannons, led by American ex-confederate General William Wing Loring.**

**William Wing Loring was an veteran American soldier who served in the armies of the United States and the Confederacy. He was the Chief of Staff of the Egyptian force at Fort Gurae**

**Yohannes's army won an decisive victory over the Egyptian force. They killed scores of Egyptian soldiers and they captured hundreds of prisoners. They captured quantities of arms.**

**The defeat at Gurae effectively halted the Egyptian grand campaign to conquer Abyssinia.**

**After the Battle of Gurae was over, Yohannes appointed Alula who bravely fought along side him, as Ras Alula Engda Euqbin (ራስ አሉላ ኢንግዳ ዑቅቢን), Governor of Mereb Melash, basically the frontiers of Kebesa, Bogos (Senhit) and lower Barka.**



[#16 ex-Confederate  
General William Wing Loring](#)

## **METEMA, THE END OF YOHANNES IV**

**March 9, 1889: The critical Battle of Gallabat (as known to the Mahdi) or Battle of Metema (as known to the Abyssinians) took place at the border crossroad between Gallabat in the Sudan and Metema in the Abyssinian land. King Yohannes and his army fought in the Battle of Gallabat against the toughest Mahdi Ansar warriors of Sudan.**

**Ras Alula Engda Euqbin was the commanding officer on the Abyssinian side. Zaki Tupal, Al-Mahdiyyah Amir Al-Umra was the commanding officer on the Mahdi side.**

**On the morning of first day, initially the battle went in favour of King Yohannes's army. Unfortunately after few hours of fighting, Yohannes was gravely wounded in the battle. He later died, in that day from his wound. Yohannes in his deathbed stated his last will, "Mengesha is my natural son and he is the heir to my throne". The loyal Ras Alula suggested Ras Hailemariam Gugsu as the temporary King and ordered the army to initiate a retreat.**

**On March 10, on the second day of the battle, the balance of power shifted quickly after Zaki Tupal, Al-Mahdiyyah Amir Al-Umra saw an opportunity after he noticed Yohannes's army retreating. Amir Al-Umra ordered the horn to be blown for counter offensive and attack.**

The Mahdi swiftly embarked on counter offensive and started to attack the retreating Yohannes's army. They concentrated their attacks toward that caravan that was carrying Yohannes's body. Ras Hailemariam Gugsu the acting King was killed defending the body.

The battle began to turn disaster for the deceased Yohannes's army. The Abyssinian army managed to retreat to safety without major wrecks due to the skill of Ras Alula.

The Mahdi managed to capture Yohannes's body and they decapitated his head. Zaki Tumul, Amir Al-Umra urgently dispatched the precious cargo to Omdurman, the power seat of Abd Allah ibn-Mohammed Al-Khalifa, the Khalifite<sup>1</sup> leader of the Mahdi<sup>2</sup> of the Sudan. The Mahdi won the greatest trophy of victory, Emperor Yohannes's head. Tally III.

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<sup>1</sup> The Khalifites accept only the Qur'an as supreme authority for their life.

<sup>2</sup> Mahdi is the messianic redeemer of the Islamic faith. The great Mahdi or Redeemer found al-Mahdiyyah Sudan Ansar Movement in 1881: Mohammed Ahmad ibn-Abd Allah. Ansar is an Qur'anic term for "helpers". Ansar included various ethnic tribes of the Sudan such as Baggara, Ta'aisha, Hadendoa Beja, Nuer, Shilluk, Anuak etc. Founder Mohammed Ahmad died from typhus in 1985. One of his followers, Abd Allah ibn-Mohammed took over the movement and became the new Ansar ruler, adopting the title "Khalifat al-Mahdi". "Khalifa" (Caliph) means "Successor". Abd Allah Al-Khalifa or "The Khalifa" attempted to create an expansive Mahdi kingdom of Ansar in the Sudan, which led to bursting battles against the British and the neighbouring kingdoms. The Battle of Gallabat resulted out of that cause.

**Since Al-Mahdiyyah Sudan Ansar Movement erupted in 1981, they tallied III trophies:**

**I - Colonel William Hick's head.**

**II - Governor General Charles George Gordon's head.**

**III - Emperor Yohannes IV's head**

#### Final Resting Places

Emperor's head settled for decades at The Khalifa House Museum Omdurman, Khartoum, as a relic of Al-Mahdiyyah heroism. On May 1980, Colonel Menghistu Hailemariam, leader of Ethiopia made four-day state visit to the Sudan. At the visit Col. Menghistu asked favour to Gaafar Muhammad an-Nimeiry, President of Sudan. The favour he asked was to remove the Emperor's head from The Khalifa House. Yohannes was out of sight since.

Al-Mahdiyyah Sudan Ansar Movement was crushed on September 2, 1898, at Omdurman by the firepower of superior British army. The British employed years of planning, organized logistics, well-drilled soldiers and use of modern heavy-duty machine guns called Maxim Guns to crush the movement.

Abd Allah ibn-Mohammed Al-Khalifa, was hunted down and killed on November 25, 1899 by the decorated British General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, at Umm Diwaykarat, Kordofan, 311 k/m south of Khartoum. It marked the end of the Mahdi state in Sudan

Zaki Tumul, Al-Mahdiyyah Amir Al-Umra, was later accused of conspiring to hand Kassala to the Italians, summoned to Omdurman for investigation of the charge and he was stoned to death.





**#16 Menelik II, Emperor of Ethiopia**  
Founder of modern Ethiopia

The callous and rude Negus SahleMaryam HaileMelekot of Shewa crowned himself to the throne as Emperor of Ethiopia on the very day Yohannes IV was martyred in the Battle of Metema.

### More Seeds of Harm

On March 10, 1889, the very next day Emperor Yohannes IV was killed at Metema, Negus SahleMaryam HaileMelekot of Shewa instantly assumed the power by ignoring the heir to the throne, Luul Dejazmatch Mengesha Kabsay Mirach.

On May 2, 1889, before SahleMaryam was even crowned Emperor, he already signed the deal of the devil with the Italians: the Treaty of Wichale. In odd ways, the Treaty of Wichale recognized Ethiopia to Menelik and Eritrea to Umberto I, King of Italy.

Prior and post the realization of the Treaty of Wichale, the Italians dumped over to SahleMaryam huge cache of Italian rifles as rewarded for his cooperation in their scheme to secure a colony in Eritrea.

**On November 3, 1889, SahleMaryam was crowned Menelik II, Emperor of Ethiopia.**

**Yohannes's final days was haunted by Tewodros's fate. In the same manner Yohannes became Hercules with the aid of British armaments, Menelik II known as Aba Dagneu (አባ ዳጎኒው), rapidly became big boss with the aid of the Italian rifles.**

**The combination, of huge cache of Italian rifles, the Treaty of Wichale and the introduction of an greedy Menelik taxation law in Ethiopia, Aba Dagneu grew steadfastly militarily and monetarily, and soon became supper power next to the Italians. Hence Ethiopia as a country began to emerge under the rule of Menelik II.**

**The callous and rude attitude of Aba Dagneu against the deceased Yohannes IV bloomed into biggest hatred that exist now between the Amhara and the Tigrayans, which started after Tewodros's death.**

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