



# **THE MISSING 2nd TANK**

## **UPDATE FORTO ACTION**

Investigator Haile Menegesha Okbe  
January 21, 2019



**RED ARROW** The missing 2nd tank of Forto Action is located on the background, among the vegetation thicket.





**RED OUTLINE** The missing 2nd tank of Forto Action is highlighted with an outline of red colour.



MISSING 2ND TANK LOCATED Tank gun is shown parallel & below the red arrow. The white arrow shows tank hatch cover.





FORTO TSETSERAT, ASMARA Houses the Ministry of Information and state broadcast facilities of Eritrea. Senita neighbourhood and Mekane Hiwet Hospital (formerly Itege Menen Hospital) hug the southern slopes of the Forto Tsetserat. The yellow lines indicate the periphery of Forto Tsetserat.

Forto TseTserat was a fortress built by the Italian colonialists at the beginning of 19th century. Later it was the military barrack and HQ of Ethiopia's 2nd Army, which controlled Eritrea during its tenure. The third occupant was the Ministry of Information of Eritrea.





**TOWER  
INSIDE  
FORTO**



**LOCATIONS OF THE TWO TANKS INSIDE FORTO ON JAN. 21, 2013**  
 Colonel Seed Ali's tank parked in front of the Northern Twin Towers, which housed the broadcasting studios of the Ministry of Information. The 2nd tank parked in a side way just few meters south of Colonel Seed Ali's tank. The yellow arrows indicate directions of the tank guns. Transmission tower is located on the south of Southern Twin Towers.





[T-55 AM2B](#) Russian made tank which is identical version to Colonel Seed Ali Hijay's tank. [FRONTAL VIEW](#)





BIRD EYE VIEW and rear view of T-55 AM2B.



## **T-55 AM2B**

**T-55 AM2 are upgrades of the T-55A, which appeared during the late 1970s and early 1980s to address the need for additional protection and firepower against the threat of RPG type weaponry. It has thicker turret armour, laser rangefinder over the main gun, rubber side skirts, and thicker front hull armour**

### **T-55 AM2B Specifications**

**Crew: 4 - Commander, Gunner, Loader, Driver**

**Weapons: 100mm Main Gun**

**12.7mm Machine Gun**

**7.62mm Machine Gun**

**Engine: V-12 (620 Hp)**

**Speed: 48 Km/H (30 Miles)**

**Range 740 Km (460 Miles)**



T-55AM2 Demo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V782K3UEc5w>

# **Forto Action**



Colonel Seed Ali Hijay  
Forto Action Leader

**Monday, January 21, 2013, unknown number of disgruntled members of Eritrean Defence Force with two tanks surrounded the Ministry of Information facilities in Forto TseTserat in Asmara. The daring action of the rebellious EDF in Forto TseTserat is known as Forto Action.**

**The chief tank commander Colonel Seed Ali Hijay was the leader of Forto Action. Colonel Seed Ali also commanded the two tanks, which were the spearhead of the rebellious EDF. Unknown commander of the 2nd tank and all together, eight crew of two tanks were the vanguard of the rebellious EDF in the Forto Action.**

**During the progress of Forto Action, the rebellious EDF took control of the state radio and television-broadcasting facilities of the Ministry of Information housed**



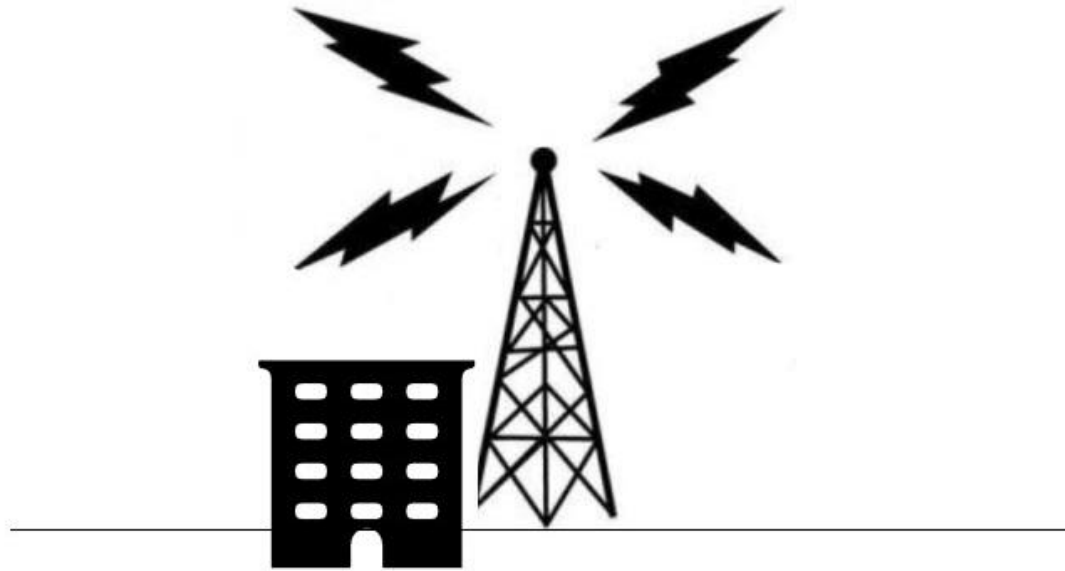
**inside the compound of Forto TseTserat. A statement was read on Dimsti Hafash Eritra, calling for the country's 1997 constitution to be reinstalled. The director general of Eri TV, Asmelash Abraha also asked for the release of all political prisoners in Eritrea, live on Eri TV.**

### **Why Forto Action Failed After a Brief Moment**

**For a short time, freedom messages of the rebellious EDF were broadcasted on both Dimsti Hafash Eritra and Eri TV. After few minutes the broadcasting was silenced because Isayas quickly gave order to shut down the 2nd secret relay tower, which is located at a distant secret location. The remote 2nd secret relay tower was outside the control of the rebellious EDF.**

**The rebellious EDF didn't know, Isayas had secretly configured the broadcast system of the Ministry of Information on double towers in order to broadcast signals to the air. The transmitter tower from the broadcasting studio and the remote 2nd secret relay tower must be active in order to broadcast signals to the air.**

**Please see, [STANDARD TOWER TRANSMISSION](#) and [DOUBLE TOWER TRANSMISSION](#).**

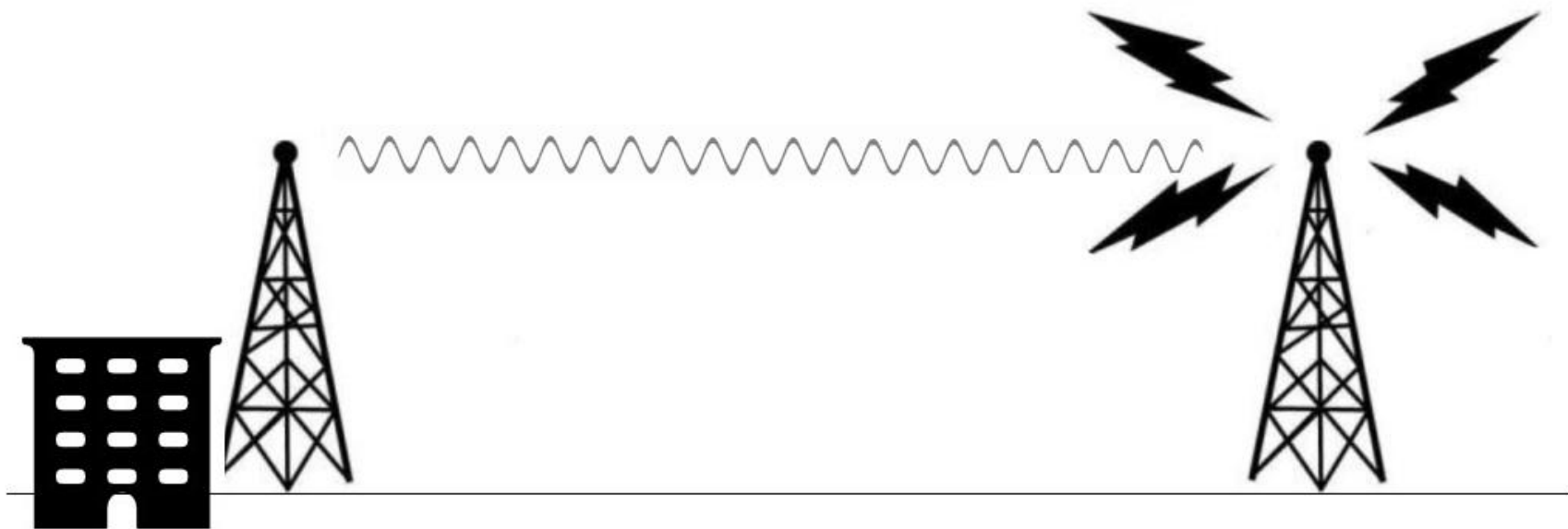


### STANDARD TOWER TRANSMISSION

Standard tower transmission has one transmitter tower to broadcast signals from the broadcast studio to the air.







### DOUBLE TOWER TRANSMISSION

Double tower transmission has combo transmitter towers to broadcast signals to the air. .

RIGHT is the transmitter tower from the broadcast studio. It feeds signals to the remote 2nd relay tower.

LEFT is 2nd relay tower located in a remote place. The 2nd relay tower receives signals from the transmitter tower before broadcasting the signals to the air.

Isayas had secretly configured the broadcast system of the Ministry of Information on double tower transmission in order to broadcast signals to the air. When the remote 2nd secret relay tower is turned off, there would be no broadcasting at all.

Shortly after Colonel Seed Ali and the rebellious EDF started broadcasting their freedom messages on Dimtsi Hafash Eritra and Eri TV, Isayas turned off the remote 2nd secret relay tower and all transmissions were muted. This step resulted in the abortion of Forto Action.

**Because of the unexpected situation at the Ministry of Information, which resulted from Isayas's deep secrecy, the Forto Action failed to achieve its goal of getting rid Isayas Afeweki.**

**Colonel Seed Ali and the crew of the tanks and the rebellious EDF were arrested. Colonel Seed Ali Hijay and the lead architects of Forto Action were martyred.**

### **Locating the Missing 2nd Tank of Forto Action**

**Every year, all Diaspora Eritreans opposing the fascist regime of Isayas Afewerki honor January 21, 2013 as a Commemoration Day of Forto Action.**

**On January 21, 2019, I have successfully located the missing 2nd tank of Forto Action. It's an historic day: 6th Commemoration Day of Forto Action was honored amid the discovery of the missing 2nd Tank Forto Action.**

**Lest Forget Forto Heroes**

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