

Journey
From Nakfa to Nakfa
Back to Square one
1976 - 1979

By Tekeste Fekadu

The Journey from Nakfa to Nakfa is about liberating the major towns of Eritrea only to lose them at the end with the exception of Nakfa. The liberation started with Nakfa in 1976 and reached the gates of Asmara: from the siege of Nakfa to the siege of Asmara. The setback was due to the massive intervention of the Soviet Union and its allies. The Liberation Fronts, made the Historical Strategic Withdrawal in order to save the revolution.

The Back to Square One did not mean going back to the situation of 1976, but returning geographically to Nakfa with rich political, social, economical and military experience.

I wrote this book by bringing together my notes and memories thus many statements, especially matters of details, except those I witnessed myself, may only be just beliefs and assumption of the people, rank and file or that of the middle cadre at the time of events described, took place and/or as recorded in my diaries. So, some may not correspond to what exactly happened. There is also the inevitable holding of military and political secrets related to weapons, ammunitions,

casualties etc. To try to check every detail with the PFDJ documents and/or with those who witnessed this or that event will be impractical, cumbersome, and ambitious.

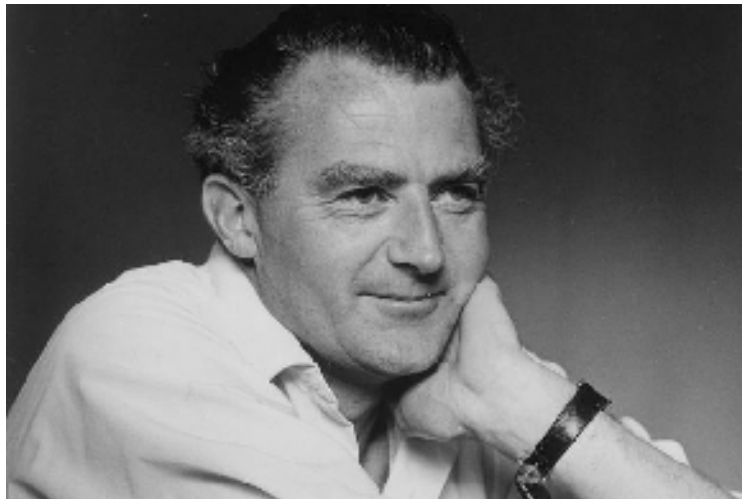
Besides, I would like this book to be a narration of the events as the ordinary EPLF combatants saw, perceived, felt and understood them then; rather than make it seem to be the official history that is checked counter checked for all sorts of legal and historical considerations. However, I would be more than happy to receive comments from readers.

The author has published the following two comments about his book. The first one is of Eritrea's former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Said Abdallah, and the other is of the British writer and historian Basil Davidson



The late Foreign Minister Ali Said Abdallah wrote " Journey from Nakfa to Nakfa, Back to Square one" has clear with a very

important period of the Eritrean armed struggle, which witnessed two parallel developments: an all-out offensive by the Eritrean Liberation Fronts against the Ethiopian regime that transferred the Eritrean cause from forgotten guerilla war to a war of just cause; and the intervention of the USSR on the side of the Ethiopian regime, which subsequently led to the decision of strategic withdrawal to the very strategic, Sahel mountains. The strategic withdrawal was a vision on how the newly created balance of power could be tilted in favor of the Eritrean struggle. The author's decision to document such moments is highly admirable and commendable."



Basil Davidson comments: «Dr. Tekeste Fekadu gives us a valuable and moving addition to the literature of African emancipation from the toils and sorrows of colonial oppression. His work here offers us a fine opportunity to measure the courage and self-sacrifice of all those men and women who

have ready to sacrifice their youth and lives for the noble cause of national freedom.

I want to recommend his writing to everyone who believes in the future welfare and progress of all the peoples of Africa and with them of course, notable the welfare and progress of the people of Eritrea."