

## Military planning that out-maneuvered enemy military elites

Written by Yishak Yaried

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Afabet located on a vast plain is surrounded with mountains which are interlinked with each other and with very few exits and one who has the capacity to block the exits would have the upper hand. That's what exactly happened during the battle to liquidate the 'mighty' Nadew Command and liberate Afabet. Case in point is the closure of the strategic exits of Adshurum and Kidad-Meshalit by the liberation fighters.

Nadew Command was a strong command formed with 20 thousands foot soldiers, one mechanized brigade, ten battalions as well experienced military commanders, coupled with Soviet military and intelligence advisers. It was also equipped with advanced military hardware including rocket propeller launchers (what we call Stalin Organ), several tanks and cannons of different millimeters and intelligence and surveillance equipment.

With the position they held (13x13 kilometers stretched trenches), with the military hardware they possess and with the advice they were receiving from the Soviet advisors both militarily and intelligence wise they never expected any one force will penetrate their position and do harm to them. Nadew Command for them was indomitable force that could



undo any attempt by any force and in fact if it happened it was for its final doom. That was Nadew Command to the Derge regime. And it stayed there for 10 years consolidating its power by the day.

What the commanders of the Derge regime and its Soviet advisers didn't realize was that Eritrea is of its people and the EPLF commanders as sons and daughter of Eritrea know their country from its in and out. They know the location of every mountain, hill and valley. And above all they had people ready to cooperate on what they are asked at any one time and place for they were also part liberation army from behind the front line and in the middle of the enemy forces.

The EPLF military commanders had accumulated the necessary experience during the long years of combat and had well studied the mentality and psychological make up of the enemy. They well know how to create panic on

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