

Afghanistan *North West Frontier*



Michael E. Lambert

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

The Romance of Adventure The phrase, *North West Frontier*,¹ plays to the imagination. When Major-General Sir Frederick Roberts made his dramatic 310-mile dash from Kabul to Kandahar in August 1880, to raise the siege of the trapped British garrison; the event caught the public's imagination. The public wanted to learn more about the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Roberts, the Army, and the Frontier were now front page news. On display is a collection of medals awarded to those who served on the Frontier. The medals are arranged in three groups; *Kabul to Kandahar*, *Waziristan*, and the *North West Frontier*. The display represents a small portion of medals ² that could be awarded. Each grouping portrays significant events. But, each medal's significance is the *life* it portrays.

Shortly after my arrival in Kabul, I went to the Friday morning *souk* – market. By chance, I found a medal on a merchant's table. A quick examination of the medal indicated that it was British. I noted the medal's details. During the following week, my research indicated the medal was correctly named to an Indian soldier who had served on the North West Frontier. The subsequent week I returned to the souk and purchased the medal. The Kabul merchants discerned my interest, with prices rising high. I limited my purchases to the medals on display. All medals were awarded to Indian soldiers except the Afghanistan Medal which was issued to Private O'Neil of the 9th (Queen's) Lancers. Pte O'Neil's name and regimental number, 1861, are on the medal's rim. All medals, including Pte O'Neil's, were minted in Calcutta, India.

The presentation is in three parts: *The History* relates Britain's involvement in the North West Frontier, *The Medals* discusses the Afghanistan Medal, the Kabul to Kandahar Star, and the India General Service Medal through its multiple issues. *The Album* presents early twentieth century photographs of soldiers and soldiering.

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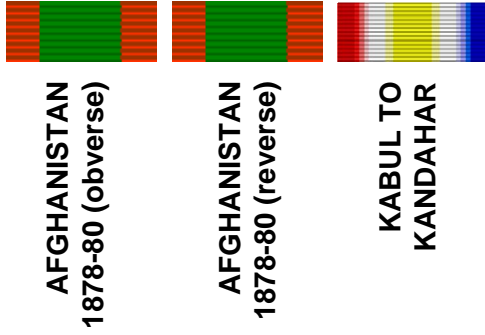
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**AFGHANISTAN
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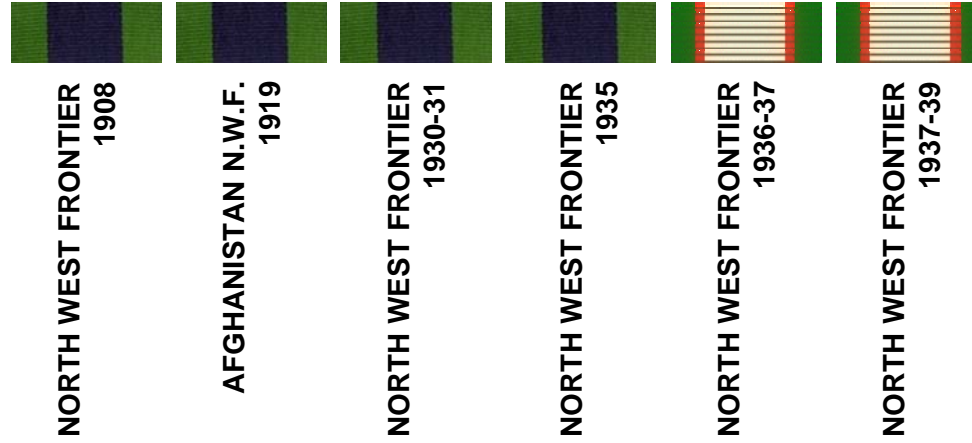
Kabul to Kandahar Group



Waziristan Group



North West Frontier Group

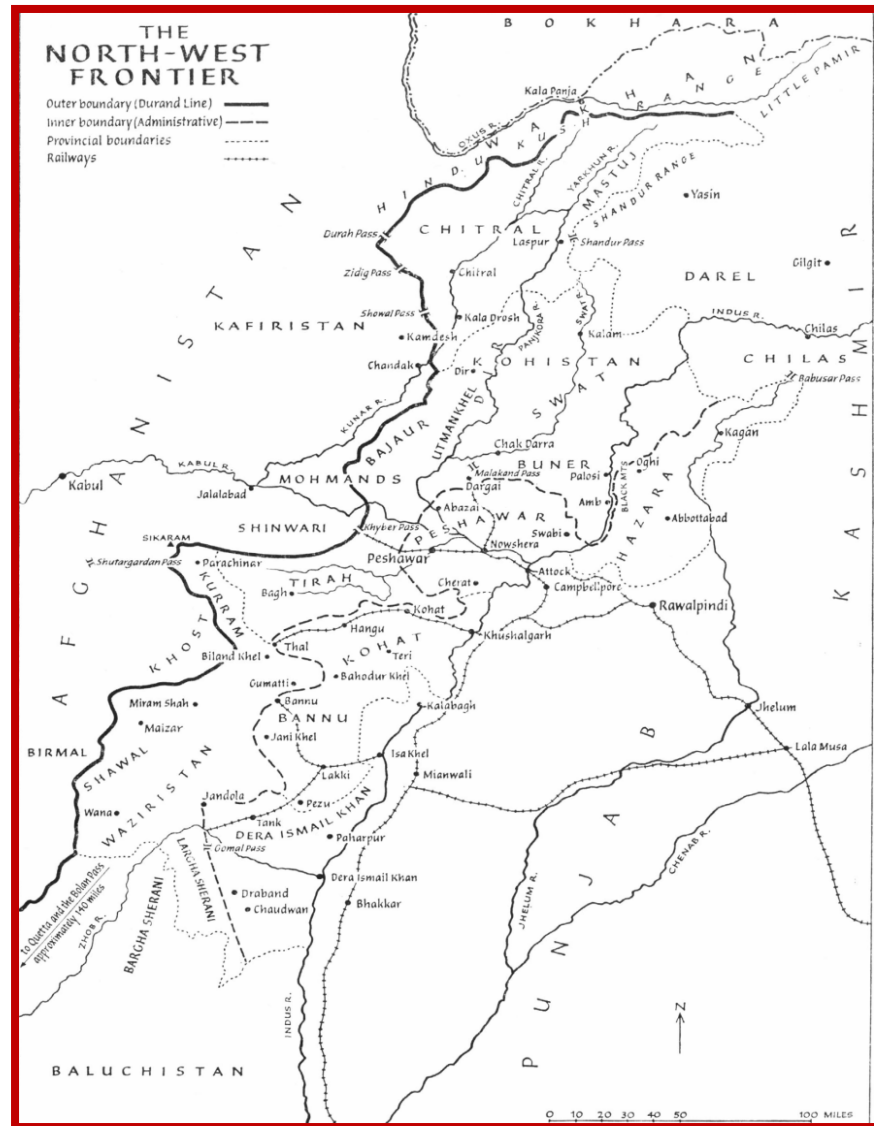


AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Hindu Kush Central and Southern Asia are separated by the Hindu Kush mountain range. The range was known to the ancient Greeks. Marco Polo saw the range on his journey to the court of Kubla Khan. Yet, through the centuries, the Hindu Kush remained unvisited except by a small number of explorers. Its geographic and political importance were not known. The Hindu Kush is more than 965 kilometres long, with many mountains reaching to 6,000 meters or higher. The region has precipitous gorges and rushing grey-green rivers.

Here geography jostles with ethnology, strategy with history. Tribal territories lie along the Hindu Kush. Starting in the north, southward, the tribal areas are Chitral, Kohistan, Bajur, Khyber, Tirah, Waziristan, and Baluchistan. Allegiance was clan-centric. Ibn Battuta, the Moorish traveller who passed through Kabul in 1333, described the indigenous people as, “...a tribe of Persians called Afghans...They hold mountains and defiles, possess considerable strength and are mostly highwaymen.”

During the nineteenth century Afghanistan assumed strategic significance as a buffer state between the British-Indian and Russian empires. The “Great Game” was to prevent Russian control of India’s frontiers and of Afghanistan. Nevertheless, Britain became involved in major conflicts; First and Second Anglo-Afghan Wars.



The History ³



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Lord Auckland has a Plan As often happens, the beginning of *great* events is innocent. On 27 November 1838, Lord Auckland, the Governor-General of India, was in Ferozepore. Ferozepore was a small town near Lahore in the Punjab. He was accompanied by Sir Henry Fane, the Army's Commander-in-Chief. They were in Ferozepore to attend a military review and to meet Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the ruler of the Punjab. For Ranjit Singh had been arm-twisted into part-financing Britain's military venture into Afghanistan. After the review, the Army would march to Kabul (for what would become the First Anglo-Afghan War of 1838-42). For the review, the Punjabi and British soldiers were dressed in parade uniforms. Lord Auckland and Ranjit Singh met on parade while each was seated on an elephant. The scene was magnificent. Included in the official exchange of gifts was a portrait of Queen Victoria. Ranjit Singh, on receipt of the portrait, after a long pause; declared himself happy to receive the gift. He also received some obsolete artillery pieces.

Britain left the sub-continent in 1947. During the proceeding century, India's North West Frontier had witnessed, if not continuous warfare, then continuous raiding. *En ferus hostis* (Behold a fierce enemy) was true.



Maharaja Ranjit Singh
(1780-1839)
also called "*Sher-e-Punjab*" (The Lion of Punjab)
Ruler of the Punjab and the Sikh Empire



George William Eden, 1st Baron Auckland
(1784-1849)
Governor-General of India
(1836-1842)

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The Mughal Empire Emperor Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire, recounts in his autobiography; he hired tribesmen from the Hindu Kush to aide him in his conquest of India. At the same time, Babur's main adversaries were the same tribesmen on their own ground. The tribesmen were centrally placed on his lines of communication, which had to be secured and maintained if he were to succeed.

Babur mentions the local tribes by name. His autobiography is the first written record mentioning Hindu Kush tribesmen. Prominent tribes were the Yusufzais (Babur married a Yusufzai woman), Afridis (who, then and now, straddle the Khyber Pass), Orakzais, Darwesh Khels, Bannuchis, Wazirs, Dawaris, Marwats, Mahsuds, Bhattanis, and the Baluchis. To make the territory safe meant sending punitive expeditions to establish order. He complained the Bangash do not pay their taxes. He prayed; if Almighty God were to grant to him a wish, his first effort would be to end their plundering ways. If the Bangash were a thorn, he never dominated the Wazirs.

Successive Mughal emperors faced continuous tribal revolt. They never suppressed the tribesmen.

The British Raj During the early nineteenth century the British established supremacy over the Indian subcontinent except for Baluchistan, Sindh and the tribal areas in the Hindu Kush. Ranjit Singh had replaced Kabul as the nominal ruler of the tribal areas.

Equally worrisome, Russia was advancing southeast-wards in Central Asia. The British government in London was worried. They felt their Indian Empire was threatened. This perceived Russian threat, the "Great Game" as it was called, is what got Britain involved in the North West Frontier and the tribal areas.



Emperor Babur
(1483 -1530)
Founder of the Mughal Empire

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The First Anglo-Afghan War, 1839-42 London and Calcutta, the headquarters of the East India Company, both received intelligence that indicated the Emir of Afghanistan was engaged in secret negotiations with Imperial Russia. The Czar wanted to establish a military attaché in Kabul. If Russia established a mission, there was no doubt in English minds northern India would be threatened. Accordingly, in 1833, the Government of India declared war against Afghanistan.

Lord Auckland had arm-twisted Ranjit Singh into supporting the British foray through a financial contribution and allowing passage through his territory. On conclusion of the military review at Ferozepore the Bengal Army, as it was now called, marched north on 30 November 1838. The 9,500-man force negotiated the mountainous terrain, up through the Khyber Pass. The Bengal Army overcame Afghan resistance, occupying Kabul in early 1839. For a while, relations were cordial between the Afghans and the British. By 1841 there had been an increasing number of attacks against the British. One obvious solution was to withdraw, to quit Afghanistan. The decision was delayed. The consequence was that attacks increased in number and ferocity. With delay meant the return journey through the Khyber Pass would be in winter, with below zero temperatures and deep drifts of snow. The return route to India was via Jalalabad, then the pass. From the start, the Bengal Army was harassed by tribesmen. Few made it back to safety to re-count the disaster. Of those who did, Captain Doctor Brydon was one of the few. Never had an army been so defeated.



Remnants of an Army
Painting by Elizabeth Butler of
Dr William Brydon (1811-1873) entering Jalalabad.
He was an Assistant Surgeon in the Bengal Army that had
earlier occupied Kabul. He was one of the few British soldiers
who successfully made the retreat from
Kabul

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Annexation of Sindh and the Punjab, 1843-45

As a consequence of Britain's defeat in Afghanistan, to rehabilitate their prestige, Britain forced a war on Sindh, and defeated Baloch forces of the Taipurs. Britain won the battles of Miani and Dabo. Sindh was annexed in 1843. After Ranjit Singh's death, a series of revolts spread across the Punjab. The English fought two wars in the Punjab against the Sikhs; in 1846 and again in 1848-49. The Punjab was incorporated into the Indian Empire. Beyond the annexed provinces of Sindh and the Punjab, lay Pathan and Baluch tribes in the hills.

The Sandeman System With the acquisition of territory came problems; administrative, but chiefly; security. Major Sir Robert Sandeman, a Political Agent, instituted a system based on the occupation of central points in force. The points were linked by all-weather roads. The tribes were left to manage their own daily affairs according to custom. For issues outside tribal control, matters were handled through tribal chiefs and *maliks*. The system was adopted, and local levies of tribesmen were raised to form *khassadar* regiments. These regiments performed local guard duties in lieu of British troops. Their duties consisted of protecting merchants, keeping the roads open, and, in the event of trouble, capturing the tribesmen. Khassadar regiments had variable success, in Baluchistan they were successful. Maliks were paid subsidies. They, in turn, disbursed funds to the tribes.



Major Sir Robert Sandeman
Political Agent for Baluchistan
(1877-92)

Sandeman was one of the great Frontier figures. He was commissioned into the Bengal Army in 1856. In 1876 he skilfully negotiated the treaty with the Khan of Kalat, which allowed the British to use Quetta as a secure base for its operations in southern Afghanistan, primarily Kandahar. "*Sinniman Sahib*", as the lawless Baluchis called him, was remarkable. In addition to gaining the confidence of the tribesmen, he sponsored irrigation and forestry schemes, built roads, collected land-revenue, and developed the local judicial system based on tribal *jirgas* (councils)

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Maliks at Maidan Jirga

**The Orakzai tribe *maliks* attend Sir William Lockhart's *jirga*
In the photograph, Lockhart is in the dark tunic, back to the camera
Circa 1890**

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Emir Sher Ali Khan In the interim, Britain signed a treaty with Emir Sher Ali, the King of Afghanistan. Britain had assumed control of Pishin and Sibi territories, less Kurram and Khyber. In the south of Afghanistan, at this time, British interests did not include Kandahar.



Emir Sher Ali Khan
(1825-1879)
Emir of Afghanistan
(1863-1866 and 1868-1879)

Sher Ali Khan was the Emir of Afghanistan, 1863 to 1866 and again from 1868 until his death in 1879. He was the third son of Dost Mohammed Khan, founder of the Barakzai Dynasty in Afghanistan.

Sher Ali Khan seized power when his father died, but was ousted by his older brother, Mohammad Afzai Khan. Internecine warfare followed until Sher Ali Khan defeated his brother and regained the title of Emir. His rule was hindered by pressure from both Russia and Britain while he kept Afghanistan neutral. In 1878, the neutrality fell apart when the Second Anglo-Afghan War erupted. As the British Army entered Kabul, Sher Ali Khan fled to northern Afghanistan. Using Mazar-e-Sharif as his base, he travelled further north to Russia. He sought political and military support from Russia. The Russians refused his request. He returned to northern Afghanistan. He died 21 February 1879 in Mazar-e-Sharif. He left his throne to his son Mohammad Yaqub Khan.

Sher Ali Khan was closely affiliated to India. He had married one of the daughters of a prominent tribal chief of the Gakhars, Khan Bahadur Jahandad Khan. After partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947, the Gakhars became part of Pakistan.

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Emir Sher Ali Khan and his Court
Kabul, Afghanistan

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The Prelude to Further War The Punjab Government, under direction from the British Government in Calcutta, followed a policy that minimized tribal raids into India. If the tribes raided, then the Punjab Government was to respond with reprisal expeditions. The policy was non-aggressive, with no interference in tribal affairs.

Following Britain's defeat in the First Anglo-Afghan War, 1838-42, the British Government realized the task of ruling the North West Frontier was beyond their resources in India. Britain adopted the policy of "masterly inactivity."

The policy of "Masterly inactivity," on the part of Britain, required the Punjab Government to raise a proxy force, the *Punjab Frontier Force*. Defence was organized through a string of forts along an administrative boundary. Roads were built to sustain the forts and for communications. Simultaneously, conciliatory measures were adopted with the tribes. Agreements were concluded with individual tribes to maintain the peace. If the tribe observed their side of the bargain, they received a subsidy. Tribesmen were allowed into British administered areas for purposes of trading. However, the system broke down. During the period 1849 to 1899; the Punjab Government mounted 62 expeditions.

In 1849, Britain annexed the Punjab. On conclusion of the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-80; Britain abandoned its policy of "Masterly inactivity" and assumed the more aggressive, "Forward Policy."



*Emir Sher Ali Khan with advisors
Charles Chamberlain and Sir Richard Pollock
Kabul, Afghanistan*

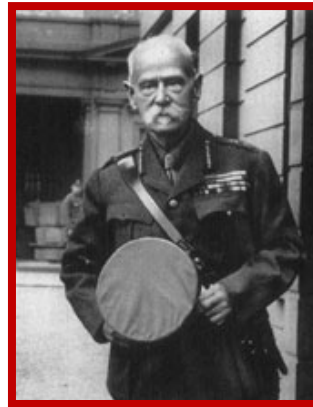
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The Second Anglo-Afghan War, 1878-80 Britain, in 1876, adopted the aggressive “Forward Policy.” The policy change was due to several events; Britain had conquered Sindh in 1843 and the Punjab in 1849. Imperial Russia during this period had sent military missions to Turkestan, as well as a military attaché to the Emir of Afghanistan.

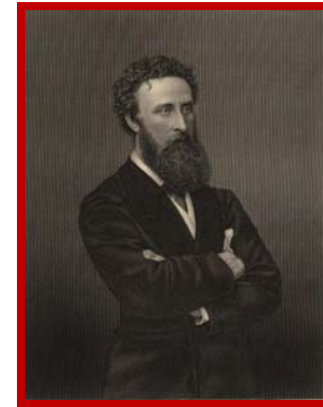
Benjamin Disraeli became Prime Minister for the second time in February 1874. He was alarmed by Russia’s advance across Central Asia towards Afghanistan. He felt it was a matter of time before Russian and British forces would confront each other. Accordingly, Britain sought to increase her influence in Afghanistan. In 1876, Lord Lytton, the Governor-General of India, wrote to Emir Sher Ali Khan of Afghanistan. Lord Lytton proposed to the Emir that Britain send an envoy to Kabul. The Emir refused. Lord Lytton declared war on Afghanistan on 7 November 1878; for what would become the Second Anglo-Afghan War. Britain captured Kabul, and later, Kandahar. However, the Emir fled Kabul and died in exile in Mazar-e-Sharif. His son and designated heir, Mohammad Yaqub Khan, signed the Treaty of Gandamak on 26 May 1879.



Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister
(1804-1881)
1st term: February-December 1868
2nd term: February 1874-April 1880



Major-General Frederick Roberts
Commander Kurram Field Force
Commander Kabul-Kandahar Field Force
Second Anglo-Afghan War 1878-80



Edward Robert Lytton Bulwer-Lytton
1st Earl of Lytton (1831-1891)
Governor-General and Viceroy of India
(1876-1880)

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Treaty of Gandamak

26 May 1879

The Second Anglo-Afghan War 1878-80

Mr. Jenkyns, Major Sir Louis Cavagnari, Emir Mohammad Yaqub Khan, General Daoud Shad, Habibullah Moustafi

In the photograph, the 34 year old Emir is wearing the white clothes he favoured. The six foot tall Daoud Shad, from the Ghilzai tribe, was Commander-in-Chief. Daoud Shad had served under the former Emir, Sher Ali. He was rated a competent commander.

Habibullah Khan was also a trusted confidant of Sher Ali. He was now the *moustafi* - prime minister; he too enjoyed Mohammad Yaqub Khan's trust

Emir Mohammad Yaqub Khan reigned from February to October 1879

Gandamak is a memorable site for both the British and the Afghan peoples. It was at Gandamak, during the retreat from Kabul to Jalalabad, First Anglo-Afghan War, that the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot fought their last desperate rear-guard action. On the morning of 13 January 1842, the 44th was reduced to about forty persons, all ranks. The Afghans had surrounded the 44th and offered surrender. Tradition holds a sergeant in the 44th bellowed back, "*Not bloody likely!*" The remaining members of the 44th were massacred, with only Captain Thomas Souter, who had wrapped the Regimental Colour about his body, and Captain Doctor William Brydon eventually making safety at Jalalabad

Photograph by John Burke; Gandamak, Afghanistan

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The Treaty of Gandamak The British defeated Emir Sher Ali's forces. British troops wintered in Jalalabad, and waited for the new Emir, Mohammad Yaqub Khan, to accept their terms. One of the key figures in the negotiations was Sir Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari (1841-1879). Major Cavagnari was a half-Irish, half-Italian aristocrat, descended from the royal family of Parma on his father's side. He had been brought up in England. He had served with the East India Army in the 1st Bengal Fusiliers, then he transferred to the political service working for the Deputy Commissioner at Peshawar. Lord Lytton, in 1879, appointed him to the Kabul mission, with the Emir refusing to accept the mission. The refusal was one of several causes which led to the Second Anglo-Afghan War.

Emir Mohammad Yaqub Khan, in May 1879, travelled to Gandamak, a village outside Jalalabad. He entered into negotiations with Cavagnari. The negotiations resulted in the Treaty of Gandamak. In the treaty, the Emir ceded Pishin and Sibi territories, plus Khyber and Kurram, but not Kandahar. The treaty also allowed the British to send an envoy to Kabul. Cavagnari took up the post of British Resident in Kabul in July 1879. Cavagnari was the wrong man for the delicate diplomatic assignment. He was considered reckless and arrogant, even by the British. The situation in Kabul was tense and eventually some Afghan troops, who had not been paid by Mohammad Yaqub Khan, rebelled and attacked the Residency, killing Cavagnari and the British staff in September 1879. The Second Anglo-Afghan War continued, even though there was a treaty. British troops were recalled to Kabul. Kabul was occupied a second time. Mohammad Yaqub Khan abdicated. He took refuge in the British camp. He was sent to India in December 1879.



*Sir Louis Cavagnari with Afghan servants
British envoy to Emir Mohammad Yaqub Khan
Kabul, Afghanistan*

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The “Scientific Frontier ” and the Durand Line, 1893 Lord Lytton had put forward the idea of establishing a boundary to separate India from the tribesmen. The debate focused on; “*Should there be a boundary to separate India from the North West Frontier?*” If the answer is “Yes,” then; “*Where should the boundary be placed?*” Central to the debate was the resolve to safeguard northern India from incessant tribal warfare and raiding.

Since much was at stake, the debate produced two opposing views – the “forward” and the “backward” propositions. The backward group said the Indus River should be the frontier line. The tribesmen were troublesome and fanatic, therefore they would never tolerate interference. Further, it was difficult and expensive in manpower and resources to fight in the Hindu Kush mountains. Safeguarding British cantonments could not always be guaranteed.



Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice
5th Marquess of Lansdowne
(1845-1927)
Governor-General and Viceroy of India
(1888-1894)

The forward group said the frontier should be from Kabul through Ghazni to Kandahar. The position was based on the view; the only way to control tribesmen was to occupy tribal territory. Supporting points to this proposition were; the Indus River was not a natural frontier to contain raiding tribesmen, secondly; exploitation of the Hindu Kush’s mineral wealth would pay for military expeditions, and thirdly; the mountainous area would be a “buffer zone.”

British foreign policy towards the North West Frontier oscillated between the backward and forward propositions. Lord Lansdowne, Governor-General and Viceroy of India, proposed a compromise. The boundary between India and Afghanistan would be drawn on “scientific lines” in keeping with defence requirements. The dividing line came to be known as the Durand Line.

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A Contentious Line on a Map Sir Mortimer Durand, in 1893, concluded an agreement with Emir Abdur Rahman Khan of Afghanistan. The agreement fixed the Afghanistan-Indian boundary, from Wakhan in the north to the Persian border in the south, i.e.; at the junction of Persia (modern Iran), Afghanistan and Baluchistan. Some tribal areas were adjusted.

Adjustment of tribal areas was as follows: Britain retained the right to exercise control in Asmar, Swat, Bajar, and Chitral. Britain acquired the right to control the Birmal sector of Waziristan. Afghanistan retained the right to administer the remainder of Waziristan. A clause in the treaty said:

The Government of India will at no time exercise interference in the territories lying beyond this line on the side of Afghanistan, and His Highness the Emir will at no time exercise interference in the territories lying beyond this line on the side of India.



Sir Henry Mortimer Durand
(1850-1924)
Diplomat and civil servant of colonial India

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The Durand Line from the Afghan Perspective Lord Lansdowne, in 1893, appointed Sir Mortimer Durand to represent the Government of India at the boundary talks with Afghanistan. Durand visited Kabul. Durand's mandate was broad; he was to settle the exchange of territory required by the proposed boundary between Afghanistan and Russia, and other questions with Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.

Emir Abdur Rahman Khan ably expressed his views during the boundary negotiations. He was tenacious and he demonstrated a strong insight on all issues. The exchanges were amicable. The existing cordial relation between the Afghan and Indian governments was confirmed. An understanding was reached regarding establishing the border between the two countries. In acknowledgement of his cooperation the annual subsidy Afghanistan received was raised from £80,000 to £120,000.

Later in 1895-96, Abdur Rahman Khan conquered Nuristan Province, formerly called Kafiristan. He forcefully converted Nuristan's population to Islam. Queen Victoria, in 1895, invited him to Britain for a state visit. Due to ill health he was not able to visit. Nasrullah Khan, his second son, represented him in England. In retrospect, he was a strong ruler who re-established his country following the defeat of the Second Anglo-Afghan War. ⁴



Emir Abdur Rahman Khan
(1840-1901)
Emir of Afghanistan
(1880-1901)

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Afghanistan prior to the establishment of the Durand Line

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“Hit and Run” Policy and War with the Tribes, 1897-98 In the beginning, Britain had adopted a policy of conciliation. Frontier duties were abolished, free trade was established, medical facilities were built, and tribesmen were recruited into the army as local levy troops to assist in guarding the region. The policy failed as it did not address the root cause, regional economic failure. The tribesmen continued to raid British territory for plunder. To stop the incessant raiding; fines, blockades, and expeditions were imposed. The aim was to force the tribesmen to come to terms. This policy was called, “Hit and Run.” It too failed.



The Old Pathan
Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams
The National Geographic Magazine
November 1921

These policies and the insertion of British forces, specially into Waziristan; was seen by the tribesmen as an intrusion to their independence. In June 1897, the Political Agent, with an escort, visited a levy post at Maizar, a Wazir village, North Waziristan. The Agent was hospitably received, but suddenly attacked. All the British personnel were either killed or wounded. Other tribes seeing this act followed suit, attacking British garrisons at Malakand and Chakdara. By August, the Mohmand tribesmen had attacked at Shabqadr, and later the Afridi and Orakzai tribes attacked Tirah and the Khyber Pass. The Samana forts were attacked, with the garrison, “...wiped out to the man.”

The revolt had spread quickly and had involved the bulk of the tribes: the Darwesh Khel Wazirs, the Mohmands, the Swatis, and the Orakzais.

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“Withdraw and Concentrate” Policy After the 1897-98 war with the tribes, the controversy between the backward and the forward propositions for strategic defence assumed new meaning. Now the controversy was whether the tribal territory up to the Durand Line should be occupied or should the British fall back to the Indus River. The tribes, who were neither consulted nor considered in previous decisions, did not like this continued interference in their affairs. They resented the loss of their independence, uprisings and raids continued.

Lord Curzon, Governor-General and Viceroy of India, 1899-1905, adopted a “withdraw and concentrate” policy. The policy had the following points; withdraw from advanced and isolated military posts, employ local levy tribesmen to defend tribal areas, concentrate British forces at strategic second-line defence locations, and improve rail and road networks along with telegraph for better transport and communication requirements.

By January 1899, about 10,000 British troops were garrisoned on the North West Frontier. Curzon’s policy redistributed British troops as follows; personnel were removed from the Khyber Pass area, less Fort Jamrud and the Kurram Valley, except Thal and Waziristan. British troops were stationed at Chakdara, Malakand, and Dargai.

Curzon’s “withdraw and concentrate” policy is often discredited. However, the Frontier was relatively “quiet” during the first nineteen years of the twentieth century.



George Nathaniel Curzon
1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston
(1859-1925)
Governor-General and Viceroy of India
(1899-1905)

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“Quiet” on the Frontier The North West Frontier did have success stories. In many instances, success can be attributed to unique individuals noted for their dedication, intuitive understanding of tribesmen and their culture, and linguistic skills. One example is Colonel Sir Robert Warburton, Royal Artillery.

Colonel Warburton served 18 years, 1879-97, in the Khyber region. He spoke Persian and Pashto. He kept the region quiet through force of leadership and knowledge of Afridi tribal culture. This is what Colonel Warburton said about the Afridi tribesman:

The Afridi lad from his earliest childhood is taught by the circumstances of his existence and life to distrust all mankind ... Distrust of all mankind, and readiness to strike the first blow for the safety of his own life, have therefore become the maxims of the Afridi. If you can overcome this mistrust, and be kind in words to him, he will repay you by a great devotion, and he will put up with any treatment you like to give him except abuse.

In the late nineteenth century the fighting strength of the Afridis was estimated at 27,000. The estimate was considered excessive as it was based on the number and size of Afridis villages. The tribesmen derived their strategic importance from their geographical position, which gave them command of the Khyber and Kohat roads. Colonel Warburton, within one month of stepping down from his duties; the Khyber region was swept by an Islamic fundamentalist revolt. The British Army deployed thousands of soldiers before peace was restored.



An Afridi Pathan
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Circa 1918

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Political Agent at Fort Jamrud

**Group of Khyber chiefs and khans with Captain Tucker, political agent for Fort Jamrud
The Jamrud agency was established by Colonel Sir Robert Warburton**

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Not all was “Quiet” on the Frontier Lord Curzon and his supporters could state there were no major conflicts. True, during the previous 50 years prior to 1900, the Punjab Government had sent 40 expeditions against the tribes. Curzon’s policy was “firm”, but was it “quiet”? The North-West Frontier Province had been created. The NWFP was the “Key to the Frontier Arch.” Curzon, in 1905, asserted in an address to the United Services Institution, the following:

...for seven years we have not had a single frontier expedition, the only seven years of which this can be said since the Frontier passed into British hands...in the five years 1894-9 the Indian taxpayer had to find 4½ million pounds sterling for Frontier warfare, [but] the total cost of military operations on the entire North-West Frontier, in the last seven years has only been £248,000, and that was for the semi-pacific operation of the Mahsud blockade.

The facts were accurate, the boast was vain. The Zakka Khels, who lived in the Bazar Valley, south of the Khyber, had been raiding the Peshawar region. By 1908, their raiding had resulted in 32 deaths, with a further 29 and 37 persons respectively wounded and kidnapped for ransom. Policy may have changed, but tribal raiding was as endemic as ever.



*Prisoners taken at Rakhni by Coke’s Rifles
55th (Coke’s Rifles) Frontier Force
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India’s) Lancers
Circa 1918*

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Did the “Great Game” end? Throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century, Russian advances across Central Asia towards Afghanistan fuelled British fears about safeguarding their Indian possession. The fear of Russian presence in Kabul, had been one of the causes of The Second Anglo-Afghan War. The rivalry in Central Asia between Britain and Russia was known as the “Great Game.” With the signing of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, Russia now acknowledged Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf as British spheres of influence. With the rise of Soviet Russia, Joseph Stalin, too occupied elsewhere, did not involve himself in Afghanistan.

Who will control Afghanistan remained a British concern. During the First World War, Turkey and Germany tried to get Emir Habibullah Khan of Afghanistan to align with the Central Powers. Afghanistan followed a strict neutralist policy. During the 1920s, Germany sent a police liaison team to Afghanistan to instruct Kabul police in, “police procedures.” When Adolf Hitler came to power in January 1933, German presence became sinister.

Muhammad Saadi al Keilani, known as Shami Pir, was a Turkish citizen who had been a religious leader in Damascus, Syria. In the 1920s he travelled to Germany and married the daughter of a senior German police official. In 1938, Shami Pir travelled to Waziristan and Afghanistan. His presence resulted in tribal unrest. The British, already plagued by the Fakir of Ipi’s religiously inspired tribal revolt; were reluctant to confront another Islamic religious leader. Through trickery, the British bribed Shami Pir. He voluntarily left the North West Frontier. But, the story continues. In May 1945, when Allied Forces occupied Berlin, whom did the British find? Shami Pir had been a Nazi agitator and sympathizer all along.

Save Me From My Friends
A nineteenth century political cartoon depicting
Emir Sher Ali Khan between his two “friends,”
the Russian bear and the British lion
in the “Great Game” of geo-political positioning between
the imperial powers, “Who will control Afghanistan?”



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Emir Habibullah Khan Habibullah Khan was the Emir from 1901 to 1919. He was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the eldest son of Emir Abdur Rahman Khan, whom he succeeded by right of primogeniture in October 1901.

Habibullah Khan was a secular, reform-minded ruler. During his reign he brought Western medicine and engineering technology to Afghanistan. In 1904, he founded the Habibia school as well as a military academy. He put in place progressive reforms. In particular, he instituted legal reforms and repealed many of the harsher penalties of the criminal code. In Afghanistan, as elsewhere, reforms are often resented. Habibullah Khan was the Emir. As the Emir he enjoyed a *certain* immunity, but Habibullah Khan could be attacked through his government. One of his chief advisors was Abdul Lateef. In 1902, Abdul Lateef was sentenced to death for apostasy. He was stoned to death in Kabul. Other reforms included dismantling the repressive internal intelligence organization that had been established by his father.



Emir Habibullah Khan
(1872-1919)
Emir of Afghanistan
(1901-1919)

During the First World War, Habibullah Khan kept Afghanistan neutral. He was under considerable pressure from Sultan Mehmed V of the Ottoman Empire, and spiritual ruler of Islam, to align with the Central Powers of Germany and Austria. Always independent minded and seeking ways to advance Afghanistan; Habibullah Khan reduced tensions with India. He signed a friendship treaty in 1905, followed by a state visit in 1907.

Habibullah Khan was assassinated while on a hunting trip to Laghman on 20 February 1919.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



The Three Emperors

Kaiser Wilhelm II
Germany

Mehmed V
Turkey

Franz-Joseph
Austria

Sultan Mehmed V, of the Ottoman Empire, was also the spiritual head of Islam
To the chagrin of the Central Powers, Emir Habibullah Khan kept Afghanistan neutral during the
First World War

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

The Third Anglo-Afghan War, 1919-1920 It was April 1919. The First World War had dragged to its bloody conclusion only a few months earlier; the British Empire had lost a million dead and several million wounded. Britain and her Empire was exhausted and longed for peace. In India, many British troops were due for repatriation and looked to the day they would march to Bombay to board home-bound ships. The Indian Army too had been strained to its limits, having sent more than one million men overseas to fight. The last thing anybody wanted was to march across the Indus River up into the Hindu Kush Mountains. Nobody wanted a hot-weather campaign against the Afridi tribesmen. Before the crisis was over, more than 340,000 British and Indian troops were deployed, along with 185,000 transport animals.



Emir Amanullah Khan
(1892-1960)
Emir of Afghanistan
(1919-1929)

The First World War altered the *status quo*. The British were now obliged to maintain military posts at strategic points. Regular troops performed militia duties of policing tribal areas. Concurrently, Britain built roads, opened schools and medical clinics in tribal areas. The tribesmen resented British presence.

Emir Amanullah Khan, ruler of Afghanistan, in April 1919, due to wide anti-British sentiment from his own people, declared war. The British surprised the Emir, in addition to the numbers of troops deployed; they also sent forward, "...aeroplanes, wireless and high explosives." The Afghan Army was defeated. The Treaty of Rawalpindi was signed in 1919. During the war, British forces occupied tribal territories. Britain continued to occupy tribal areas until she left India at partition in 1947. During the period between the First and Second World Wars, the Wazir-Mahsud insurgency persisted with intense ferocity.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Treaty of Rawalpindi
8 August 1919
Landi Khana, Khyber Pass

The Treaty of Rawalpindi, signed 8 August 1919, amended 22 November 1921; was between the United Kingdom and Afghanistan
Britain recognized Afghanistan's independence, with no extension of the British-Indian empire beyond the Khyber Pass and no further subsidies would be paid to Afghanistan
Afghanistan commemorates the event as *Afghan Independence Day*
(The treaty formally made Afghanistan a buffer state, the neutrality she had always sought between Britain and Russia)

In the photograph, the Afghan delegation has just arrived
(See the middle distance, just beyond the tent and the British soldiers on parade)
The double line of white stones marks the Durand Line

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

War with Waziristan In 1919, on the outbreak of the Third Anglo-Afghan War, British troops withdrew from Wana and other posts. Local levy troops deserted and turned against their British officers. The Wazirs and Mahsuds sent raiding parties into Derajat and Zhob districts, even making an incursion into the Punjab. For the British, this resulted in a full military campaign. Lord Chelmsford, the Governor-General and Viceroy of India, in August 1920, stated:

As the result of hard fighting we have occupied a central and dominating position in Waziristan... For many years... we followed the policy of non-interference with its inhabitants... We hoped that if we left them alone, they would leave us alone. This hope, has, I regret to say, proved fallacious, and the time has now come when we can no longer shut our eyes to the fact. We have had a campaign...against Waziristan on an average every four years. Since 1852 we have had seventeen of these military operations, and since 1911 we have had four, including that just concluded.

The 1919-20 war in Waziristan was different from nineteenth century operations. The campaign benefited from military technology that resulted from the First World War; among equipment, mountain howitzers and aeroplanes. Fighting on the Frontier was rated as, “...*unparalleled hard fighting.*” Britain sent forward “*hardened*” troops to overcome terrain and climate, and fierce tribesmen. Operations were continuous; 1930-31, 1935, 1936-39, and 1940.

The tribesmen also attacked Afghanistan. Emir Mohammad Nadir Shah, in 1933, requested British assistance to repeal a strong force of Nazir and Mahsud tribesmen who had crossed the Durand Line and had attacked Matun in Khost Province. British assistance included air operations.



Mahsud Prisoners at Tank
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Circa 1920

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Frederic John Napier Thesiger, 1st Viscount Chelmsford
(1868-1933)
Governor-General and Viceroy of India
(1916-1921)

Lord Chelmsford's Vice-regency was marked by unrest in India. The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were adopted, which gave greater authority to local Indian representative bodies. The premier incident that tainted both Chelmsford and his administration was the Amritsar Massacre of 1919 and the subsequent imposition of martial law. In response, the Indian National Congress boycotted the first regional elections of 1920. Chelmsford returned to Britain, characterized as authoritarian, his administration incompetent



Emir Mohammed Nadir Shah
(1883-1933)
Emir of Afghanistan
(1929-1933)

Mohammed Nadir Shah on becoming Emir introduced a new constitution in 1931. He reformed the army by establishing a central command, restored law and order, re-established schools, built hospitals, constructed new dams, started new industries, linked the south to the north with roads and maintained the balance of power between the British and the Russian empires. However, many Afghans were against establishing Afghanistan as a buffer state once again. Consequently, the Emir was assassinated by a young activist student on 8 November 1933

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

The Turbulent Twenties Britain re-considered its options on conclusion of the Third Anglo-Afghan War, 1919-1920. Three options were considered:

- I. Withdraw troops west of the Indus River, give the tribes the responsibility to maintain own law and order;
- II. “Close border” policy of establishing a strong military and police cordon around tribal areas following contours of the foothills and the Punjab Plain; or
- III. “Forward policy” with sufficient and firm occupation of mountainous country as far west as the Durand Line, with a view to securing the tranquility of the Indus Valley lowlands.

The Government of India finally occupied tribal territory in September 1922. The policy was adopted on conclusion of the 1919-20 Waziristan campaign. The policy was called the, “Modified Forward Policy.” The policy required building roads, maintaining 4,600 *khassadars*, local tribesmen, and 5,000 British troops at Wana and Razmak. They would perform guard duties. The *khassadar* soldiers would patrol roads, provide escorts, and intercept raiders. They were paid a monthly stipend of 20 to 30 rupees for expenses of housing, food, and clothing.



An Unidentified Burning Village
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Circa 1919

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



South Waziristan Scouts
The unit was originally raised as the
South Waziristan Militia
After the 1919 troubles
the *khassadar* regiment was
re-raised and re-organized

Fort at Wana, Waziristan
Circa 1920



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

The Terrible Thirties During the 1930s, hostilities assumed a new level of viciousness – by the tribesmen and the British Army. The tribesmen had learned to set booby-traps. They rigged conventional munitions, such as a grenade, to a command wire or, in the alternate, set a victim-initiated device such as a trip wire or hidden pressure plate to step on. If personnel were captured by either side, the capturing-side would invariably torture and kill the person. Arthur Swinson in his book, North-West Frontier, Frederick A. Praeger, New York, 1967 on page 322 relates the following:

...John Masters has told how a wounded British officer, who had fallen into enemy hands, was later found “castrated and flayed, probably while alive and his skin pegged out on the rocks not far from the [British] camp.” Soon afterwards his Indian troops captured a Pathan and, to the fury of the commanding officer, brought him back. Both the prisoner’s thighs were broken, but the commanding officer ordered that he should be pegged out on the ground in the blazing sun, without food or water. It was also ordered that every soldier who happened to pass him should kick him in the testicles. When the prisoner eventually expired the troops carried him out and dumped him on the exact spot where the skin of the British officer had been found.

During the period 1936-37 and 1937-39, Waziristan revolted. The revolt started with the conviction of a Moslem man for the kidnapping of a Hindu girl. The Fakir of Ipi, an Islamic mystic-religious leader from the Tochi Valley of the Tori Khel tribe of the Utmanzai Wazirs of North Waziristan, claimed the girl had converted to Islam. The revolt was on the basis the British had, “...interfered with religion.” The Wazir and Mahsud tribes supported the Fakir. The tribes raided British administered areas 29 times, kidnapping 31 persons. At the height of operations, Britain fielded 50,000 troops. The Wazir revolt was the last major action of the inter-war years. The British attempt to pacify Waziristan resulted in:

....several major incursions into tribal territory during the hundred years of British presence in north-west India. On each occasion the tribes and the mountains won a strategic victory, despite local tactical reverses, and the bulk of the Indian Army’s troops were forced to withdraw back on the plains of the Indus Valley.... the British forgot that you can annex land but not people.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Indian Army Machine-Gunners
4th Battalion, 15th Punjab Regiment
On operations near Ladha, Waziristan
1933



A Wazir Tribesman
In over a century of conflict
the clothing had not changed
but the Lee-Enfield had replaced the
jezail
(a single-shot, muzzle-loading rifle)
Circa 1930



Operations against the Fakir of Ipi
1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
Resting at a halt near Razmak
1936

The Medals ⁵



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Campaign Medals British campaign medals are medallic symbols for service in a particular battle or campaign. They are awarded for being present at a designated event, without regard to the recipient's rank or achievements, in contrast to gallantry awards. Since medals are the official recognition of an individual's contribution; they are usually bestowed publicly. In instances where the recipient may no longer be serving – either retirement or posthumously – the intent is still to award publicly. In cases of death, the recipient's next of kin receives the award as a keepsake for remembrance, but not for wear.

Campaign medals are worn in chronological order of award from the centre of the recipient's left chest outwards. Gallantry awards are worn on the left – as viewed – and foreign awards to the viewer's right. In instances in which dates of campaigns may overlap, the date of the order authorising the award is taken as the date of precedence.

We will now examine the principle parts of a medal.

Clasp A clasp, also known as a "bar," is a single-faced metal bar carried on the ribbon attached to the medal. A clasp is awarded for a named event, a date may also be inscribed. A clasp has side flanges to enable it to be attached to the medal, usually joined to the suspender. In instances where the recipient has more than one clasp, successive clasps are attached by either rivets or wire to



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

the lower clasp. As medals are worn by precedence, clasps too appear in sequence. The common practice is for the clasp nearest the suspender to be the earliest designated for a campaign.

Metallic Content British medals and clasps were made of solid silver. However, bronze versions of the same medal were often issued to Indian troops. Ironically, today; the bronze version of a medal may have greater monetary worth.

Ribbon Medals are worn suspended from their own specific ribbons. At first, ribbons were woven silk but as the nineteenth century progressed cotton was increasingly used. Today, a ribbon may be woven using synthetic fibre. A ribbon's colour and design often had symbolic significance. The crimson and green of the Afghanistan Medal of 1878-80 is the heraldic presentation of Great Britain and Islam respectively.

Obverse The medal's front that bears the reigning sovereign's portrait and titles.

Reverse The medal's rear presents a decorative design that is either symbolic or representational. A symbolic design is the India General Service Medal of 1854-95, Victory bestowing a crown of laurel on a seated Duke of Wellington. A representational design is the column of marching soldiers with horses and elephant on the Afghanistan Medal.

Swivel Suspension and Claw The suspension is the means of attaching the ribbon and clasp(s) to the medal by a swivel and claw. The suspension's design may be either straight or floral, respective examples are the Afghanistan Medal and the India General Service Medal. Stars, such as the Kabul to Kandahar Star of 1878-80, had a ring to join ribbon and medal.

Exergue A designed area often found on the lower reverse of a medal, containing either the dates or name of a campaign. The Afghanistan Medal's exergue records the campaign dates for which the medal was awarded, 1878-79-80.

Naming Most British awards are named. The recipient's name is usually found around the lower rim. Naming occurs at the Mint. In addition to the recipient's name, their service number and regiment may also appear. Naming a medal places – with certainty – a person to a designated event. Text may appear in various styles, such as script or block lettering.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Afghanistan Medal 1878-80 The medal was instituted 19 March 1881 for award to those who participated in the Second Afghan War 1878-1880. The silver medal has a diameter of 36mm with a swivel suspension. The obverse portrays the head of a veiled and crowned Queen Victoria, with the legend: VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX. The reverse depicts a British Army column marching into Afghanistan with Fort Jamrud of Khyber Pass fame in the background. The foreground shows soldiers on foot and horse with an elephant carrying a mountain gun. The legend along the upper rim is AFGHANISTAN with campaign dates of 1878-79-80 in the exergue.

Randolph Caldecott, an illustrator of children's books, designed the medal's reverse image. Sir Joachim Boehm did the art work for Queen Victoria's portrait. There was a problem, for the Queen was no longer the 18-year old who had been depicted for so long on coins and stamps. When she was shown the medal's intended image of her as a mature woman, she was not amused. Accordingly, she found every excuse to delay approval of the medal. The medal was engraved by Leonard Charles Wyon, Chief Engraver to the Royal Mint.

The medal could be awarded with up to six clasps. Clasps were granted for battles. Major-General, later Field Marshal, Sir Frederick Roberts, VC of "Bob's your uncle" fame, approached Queen Victoria and requested a clasp for KABUL, an operation. The ribbon is 32 mm, green with crimson edge stripes. The clasps on display are: ⁶

- ★ **KABUL.** Awarded for participation in operations at and near Kabul from 10 to 23 December 1879.
- ★ **KANDAHAR.** Awarded for actions at and near Kandahar on August 31 and raising the siege of Kandahar garrison on September 1, 1880.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Elephants as a Strategic and Logistic Resource The Second Afghan War began at dawn on 21 November 1878 when Indian Army forces crossed into the North West Frontier. Lord Lytton, Governor-General, the previous day had sent his telegram to Lord Cranbrook in the Foreign Office, London; the message, *Jacta est alea!* ('The die is cast.'). The force was grouped in three columns as follows: Sir Sam Browne, Sir Frederick Roberts, and Sir Michael Biddulph commanded respectively the Khyber, Kurram, and Quetta columns. Browne was to capture Ali Masjid, expel the garrison, and occupy Landi Kotal and other points he might select. Roberts would occupy the Kurram Valley. Sir Donald Stewart was to link with Biddulph at Quetta and head for Kandahar. None of the columns were in fighting form. Browne and Biddulph each commanded forces of about 10,000 personnel, with Roberts having about 6,500 troops. Many units were not up to strength, with sickness throughout. All supplies had to be transported over land, most of it by pack-trains of mules, camels, and elephants. By noon on the 21st, Browne's column was under fire at Ali Masjid, an assault by two of his brigades had to be abandoned. On the 22nd, the Afghans abandoned Ali Masjid, which allowed Browne to push swiftly towards Jalalabad with skirmishing en route.

Roberts' initial objective was Peiwar Kotal. The element of surprise was not his, for the Afghans had been alerted and were returning fire in strength. His field force nevertheless continued their advance to within 150 yards of the Afghan position. Roberts had a dilemma; only the 29th Punjab Regiment had advanced, the remainder of his force lagged behind. "*Attack with the force at hand or wait for the column to arrive?*" The decision had been made for Roberts, for a reconnaissance had shown the Afghan position could only be taken in strength. At this critical moment, Mr. Adams, the padre, hurried up to Roberts and reported he had sighted the lagging column, which included the elephants carrying the mountain guns. Before the column arrived, the Afghans attacked the 72nd Highland Regiment. The situation was in the balance, which force would win? At noon on the 21st the elephants finally lumbered forward with the guns. Colonel Perkins, in the interval, had found a superb position from which to fire the guns. The Afghans put up a stiff fight.

Prominent on the reverse side of the Afghanistan Medal is an elephant. When Roberts made his famous 310-mile dash in August 1880 from Kabul to Kandahar his supply train consisted only of pack animals – no wheeled-transport. He had to travel light and quickly if he were to rescue the besieged garrison. Again, elephants were integral to moving his mountain guns not only to the area of operations, but once at location; moving the guns tactically forward as before.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Loading Mortars and Field Guns on Elephants



Mule Pack Train



*Kabul to Kandahar Field Force
After raising the siege of the Kandahar garrison
British and Indian soldiers with
elephants and mahouts*

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

“Bobs” Frederick Sleigh Roberts, one of the most successful generals of the Victorian era, was born at Cawnpore, India, the son of General Sir Abraham Roberts.

He was educated at Eton, Sandhurst and Addiscombe before he entered the British-Indian Army as a Second Lieutenant with the Bengal Artillery. He fought in the Indian Mutiny, saw action during the siege and capture of Delhi, and was present at the relief of Lucknow. In January 1858, he won the Victoria Cross. On 2 January 1858 at Khodagunge, India, on following the retreating enemy, he saw in the distance two sepoys going away with a standard. He immediately gave chase, overtook them just as they were about to enter a village. Although one of the sepoys fired at him, he was not hit. He took possession of the standard, cutting down the man who was carrying it. Also on the same day he saved the life of a sowar who was being attacked by a sepoy.

After serving in the Umbeyla and Abyssinian Campaigns of 1863 and 1867-68 respectively, Roberts fought in the Lushai Campaign, 1871-72. Six years later, Roberts was promoted to the rank of Major-General. He was given command of the Kurram Field Force, for what would be called the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-80. His brilliant leadership as the commander of the Kabul-Kandahar Field



Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar
V.C., K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
(1832-1914)

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Three Commanders

General Sir Arthur Hardinge, C-in-C Bombay
General Sir Frederick Roberts, C-in-C Madras
and General Sir Donald Stewart, C-in-C India
Roberts would succeed to the India appointment in
1885

Force had brought his name to the attention of the public. Thereafter, for the rest of his life, he was pursued by the press as a national hero. At Kandahar, he raised the siege of the trapped British garrison. He defeated Emir Mohammad Yaqub Khan.

He briefly served as Governor of Natal and Commander-in-Chief of British forces in South Africa. Roberts was promoted Lieutenant-General in 1883. He returned to India, appointed Commander-in-Chief in Madras, a post he held for four years. In 1885, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief for the whole of India. He was promoted to General in 1890.

In 1895, Roberts returned to Great Britain and became Commander-in-Chief of British forces in Ireland. He was made a Field Marshal in 1895. Two years later, he returned to South Africa to command British troops fighting in the Boer War. He conducted the relief of Kimberley, followed by the advanced to Pretoria. After one year in command, he handed his command to Lord Kitchener.

Roberts served as the last Commander-in-Chief of the British Army for three years before the post was abolished in 1904. For the last ten years of his life, he received many honours. He died of pneumonia at Saint Omer, France, in November 1914; while visiting Indian troops fighting in the First World War. He was buried at Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. His two sons had pre-deceased him. His daughter, by special writ, succeeded to his title.

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Kabul to Kandahar Star 1878-80 The bronze star was awarded to the relief force that marched from Kabul to Kandahar to relieve the besieged British garrison. General Roberts commanded the force. Kandahar was liberated 31 August, with further local fighting taking place on 1 September.

The bronze, five-pointed rayed star with downward point was cast from captured Afghan cannon. Tiny orbs separate the points of the star. The obverse has the monogram VRI (Victoria Regina et Imperatrix) in the centre and is surrounded by the legend KABUL TO KANDAHAR / 1880. The medal's dimensions are 62 x 48 mm, suspension is from a ring by a crown. The medal's reverse is plain with a hollowed centre around which the recipient's name was engraved. The ribbon was first used for medals issued during the First Anglo-Afghan War of 1838-42. The medal was awarded in companionship with the Afghanistan Medal with the clasp KANDAHAR.

The ribbon is 38 mm, the colours represent an Indian "*Sunrise in the East*;" shading from red, to white, to yellow, to white again, and finally to blue.

General Roberts proposed a special medal to reward those who had loyally marched with him from Kabul to Kandahar. However, it was Roberts's second-in-command, General John Ross, who put forward the romantic notion that the medal should be in the form of a gun-metal star. This immediately gave it a link to the ultimate medal, the Victoria Cross. The VC had been cast from captured Russian guns of the Crimean War. It was Muhammad Ayub Khan's guns which had been superior at the battle of Maiwand that would constitute the medal's content.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Background to the India General Service Medals The India General Service Medal was first issued in 1854. The medal was last issued in 1939. During the intervening years the medal was re-issued four times in accordance with the succession of sovereigns: Victoria, Edward VII, George V, and George VI. The legends on the obverse also reflected the evolving role of the British in India. In 1854, Victoria's portrait bust was accompanied by the text VICTORIA REGINA. When the Afghanistan Medal of 1878-80 was issued, the nomenclature is VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX. Acknowledging Indian culture, the early medals of George V are inscribed KAISAR-I-HIND. On later medals the legend observes the sovereign's imperial role of OMN(IBUS) REX ET INDIAE IMP(ERATOR). Except in several instances when bronze medals were issued to indigenous levy troops, all medals were silver. Instances of a bronze issue include the Afghanistan Medal and the India General Service Medal of 1854-1895.

India General Service medals were minted by both the Royal Mint, London and the Calcutta Mint, India. Medal issue depended on the recipient's location. If the recipient was a British soldier still on India service, the soldier received the Calcutta mintage. If the recipient had returned to Great Britain, they received the London mintage. To detect where a medal was minted, the distinguishing feature is the fineness of the medal's claw. London medals had finer workmanship. All medals on display were minted in Calcutta.



Queen Victoria



King Edward VII



King George V



King George VI

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

India General Service Medal 1854-1895 The displayed clasp, WAZIRISTAN 1894-5; was awarded for the punitive expedition against the Waziris, 19 October 1892 to 13 March 1893. The medal was the first of several general service medals that were issued to cover minor campaigns in India, unlike previous medals that were awarded many years or decades after the action. The medal was always awarded with a clasp, 23 different clasps were issued during the 41-year life of the medal. ⁷ Most awards were for service on the northern frontiers of India, particularly the North West Frontier. Additional awards were for expeditions to Persia and Burma. The silver medal has a diameter of 36mm with a swivel suspension. The obverse portrays the head of a young Queen Victoria, with the legend: VICTORIA REGINA. (The portrait remained the same throughout the medal's issue.) The reverse depicts the winged figure of Victory crowning the seated Duke of Wellington with a laurel wreath. Wellington is portrayed wearing Classical attire with a Field Marshal's baton in his left hand. A bronze issue of the medal was awarded to indigenous levy transport drivers, servants and sweepers.

The ribbon is 32 mm wide. The ribbon's crimson and blue are the heraldic colours of the British Army.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

India General Service Medal 1895-1902 The displayed clasp, WAZIRISTAN 1901-02; was awarded for the expedition against the Waziris, 23 November 1901 to 10 March 1902. The medal was instituted and awarded initially to the defenders and relievers of Chitral, in the Hindu Kush Mountains. The medal was extended to cover additional Frontier campaigns. A total of seven clasps could be awarded. ⁸ The silver medal has a diameter of 36mm with a swivel suspension. The medal spanned the reigns of two sovereigns: Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Accordingly, there are two extant obverse designs. The first design is of a veiled and crowned bust of Queen Victoria with the legend VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX. The second design portrays King Edward VII in field marshal's uniform with the legend EDWARDUS VII REX IMPERATOR. The reverse portrays a British and Indian soldier jointly holding a flag between them. The reverse legend is INDIA / 1895. The obverse was updated to reflect the change in sovereigns, the reverse design remained the same throughout the medal's life.

The ribbon is 32 mm wide. The ribbon's crimson and green are the heraldic colours of Great Britain and Islam.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

India General Service Medal 1908-1935 The medal could be issued with up to 12 clasps. ⁹ On display are six clasps presented in order of issue. The clasps are:

- ★ **NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1908.** Awarded for the Zakka Khel and Mohmand expeditions.
- ★ **AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919.** Awarded for service during the Third Afghan War, 6 May to 8 August. The war began when Afghan regulars, aided by tribesmen, invaded India.
- ★ **WAZIRISTAN 1919-21.** Awarded for service against the Tochi Wazirs, Wana Wazirs and the Mahsuds tribesmen, May 1919 to January 1921.
- ★ **WAZIRISTAN 1921-24.** Awarded for service in establishing the Razmak and Wana Cantonments, and road building projects throughout Waziristan, 21 December 1921 to 31 March 1924. These projects were part of Imperial India's, Forward Policy of tribal containment. The road projects were subjected to incessant tribal raiding.
- ★ **NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1930-31.** Awarded for service during the Red Shirt and Afridi Rebellions, 23 April 1930 to 22 March 1931. The Afridi uprising was the traditional Frontier tribal revolt, the RedShirt Rebellion was political in nature, inspired by India's Independence Movement . This was the first political revolt on the Frontier.
- ★ **NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1935.** Awarded for operations against the Mohmands, 12 January to 3 November 1935. Captain G. Meynell, 5/12 Frontier Force Regiment (Guides), was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

The medal was issued in both silver and bronze versions. The bronze version was issued to Indian troops up to 1912, thereafter; all personnel received the silver version. The medal has a 36mm diameter with mintage in London and Calcutta. The medal has a swivel suspension. The medal has three obverse versions, respectively 'A', 'B', and 'C'. The first version portrays King Edward VII in field marshal's uniform with the legend EDWARDUS VII KAISAR-I-HIND. The second and third versions portray King George V crowned, wearing coronation robes. The respective legends are GEORGIUS V KAISAR-I-HIND and GEORGIUS V D. G. BRITT. OMN. REX. ET. INDIAE. IMP. The collection displays the three obverse versions of the medal.

Throughout the medal's issue life, the common reverse design depicted Fort Jamrud. Below the fort is a cartouche with the legend INDIA, within a tied wreath of oak and laurel. The fort is at the southern entrance to the Khyber Pass.

The ribbon is 32 mm wide, blue with green edge stripes.



Obverse 'A'



Obverse 'B'

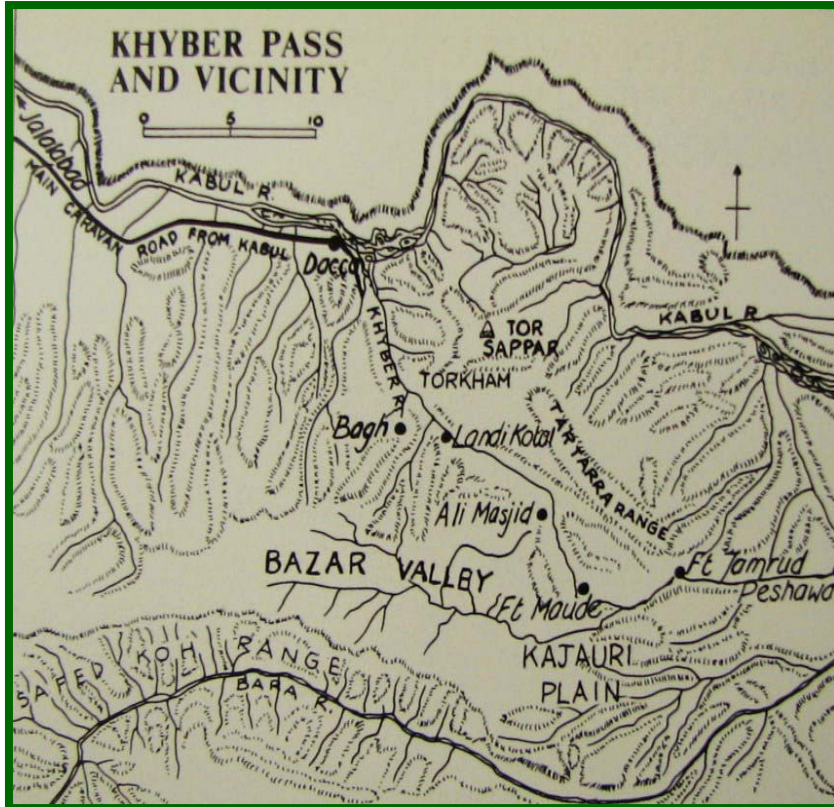


Obverse 'C'



Common Reverse

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Khyber Pass and Vicinity
Kabul River to the north, paralleled by the
Jalalabad-Peshawar Road
Fort Jamrud is at the southern entrance to the famed pass



Fort Jamrud
Circa 1930



Road Construction in the Khyber Pass
Sappers building a road for communications
during the Second Anglo-Afghan War
Circa 1878

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

India General Service Medal 1936-1939 The medal could be issued with up to two clasps. On display are the two clasps presented in order of issue.

Events in the North West Frontier were always popular with the British public. Accordingly, The Times newspaper reported in their 20 November 1937 edition; Wazir tribesmen questioned why they did not receive British-Indian medals when they were the instigators of the fighting!

The 36mm diameter silver medal was minted in London and Calcutta with a swivel suspension. The medal's obverse portrays a crowned King George VI with the legend, GEORGIUS VI D(IE):G(RATIA): BR(ITANICUS): OMN(IBUS): REX ET INDIAE IMP(ERATOR). The reverse design shows the Tiger of India bridging a pass in the Himalaya Mountains. Above the Tiger is the legend, INDIA.

The ribbon is 32 mm in width. The ribbon's colours, being symbolic of the sun rising over the Sham Plain, consist of a wide central khaki stripe with red borders, with green edge stripes.

- ★ NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1936-37. Awarded for service in operations against the Fakir of Ipi in Waziristan, 24 November 1936 to 16 December 1937.

- ★ NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1937-39. Awarded for continued service against the Fakir of Ipi in Waziristan, 16 December 1937 to 31 December 1939.



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



In Queen Victoria's Army, not all Medal Recipients need be Soldiers

Queen Victoria awards the *Afghanistan Medal of 1878-80* to members of the 66th Foot at Osborne House. She also awarded the medal to Bobbie the dog. Bobbie had accompanied the 66th Foot throughout the regiment's tour in Afghanistan, including the ill-fated engagement at Maiwand (for which no clasp was awarded). Bobbie is commemorated in portrait and photography

Bobbie died the following year when he was run over by a hansom cab

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Subedar Major Bahadur Mial Singh
45th (Rattray's) Sikhs

Rattray's Sikhs is one of the oldest and most honoured units of Indian soldiers. Captain Thomas Rattray, in 1856, toured Punjabi villages; he offered to wrestle with any man on condition he would join the British Army if he lost. Rattray recruited over 1,500 men. The unit first distinguished itself during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Rattray's Sikhs was one of two Indian units who remained loyal. (Mial Singh was probably one of Rattray's original recruits.) The unit served heroically during the Second Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-80, in one case; charging a larger force repeatedly until they succeeded.

Subedar major was the highest rank an Indian officer could attain in the British Army; the title is used today by the Indian and Pakistani armies for junior commissioned officers

In the photograph, Mial Singh is wearing the silver turban *quoit* hat badge, his medals are the *Maharajpoor-Punniar Star, 1843* and the *Indian Mutiny Medal, 1857-9*

Circa 1880

The Album ¹⁰



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



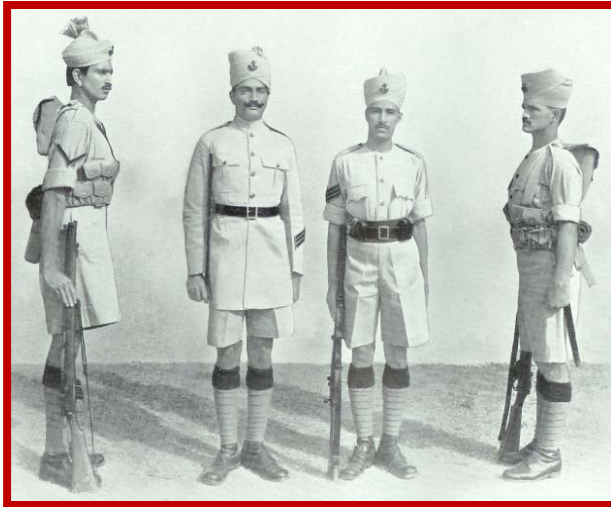
**Captain Cuerden in Field Service Order
Lieutenant Inwood in Review Order and
Lieutenant Brack in Drill Order**



**Jemadar Feroz Khan (Punjabi Musalman) in
Field Service Order
Subadar Ganesha Ram Bahadur, O.B.I., I.D.S.M. (Jat)
in Review Order and
Subedar Mul Singh (Rajput) in Drill Order**

***Indian Army Infantry Uniforms Circa Mid-1930s
1st Battalion, 6th (Wellesley's) Rajputana Rifles
Photograph by
Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. James, O.B.E., M.C.***

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



**Punjabi Musalman in Field Service Order
Rajput in Drill Order, Jat in Drill Order, shirt sleeves and
Jat in Field Service Order**



**AFGHANISTAN
NORTH WEST FRONTIER**



Other Ranks Mess of the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Private W. A. Collett is at the far right
Nowshera, December 1918

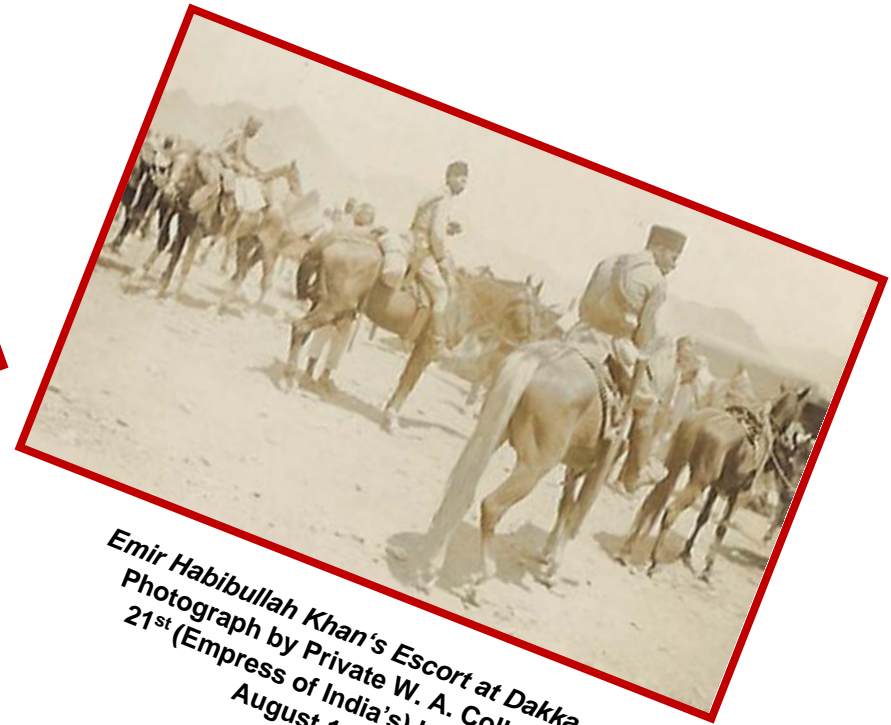


Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Nowshera, December 1918

**AFGHANISTAN
NORTH WEST FRONTIER**



**British Camp at Dakka
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
August 1919**



**Emir Habibullah Khan's Escort at Dakka
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
August 1919**

**AFGHANISTAN
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*Group of the Boys at Dera-Ghazi-Khan
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
August 1919*



*Downed Aeroplane, Dragged through River
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
August 1919*



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER



Subadar Major Mansur Khan, OBI, IDSM
55th (Coke's Rifles) Frontier Force

A Tradition of Service

Subadar Major Mansur Khan wears his own medal group, right, representing many years of active service, and that of this father, left, who had also served and attained the rank of *Subadar Major* (the senior Indian officer rank). Around his neck he wears his own and his father's Orders of British India

The photograph exemplifies British genius at empire building. Subadar Major Khan, a Sikh, has wholeheartedly adopted British values as his own. During the First World War the British-Indian Army sent more than one million men to Europe. At partition, in 1947, regiments were assigned to Pakistan and India. To this day, these regiments perpetuate the traditions of the Raj-era

Circa 1912

The Notes ¹¹



AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

Notes

1. “North West Frontier” may be spelt either as “Northwest ...” or “North-West ...” Spelt as three distinct words conforms with usage on the clasps.
2. The presentation displays the *Afghanistan Medal 1878-80* and the *Kabul to Kandahar Star 1878-80*. Also on display are four separate issues of the *India General Service Medal: 1854-1895; 1895-1902; 1908-1935; and 1936-1939*. In all, between the six separate medals, a total of 50 clasps could have been awarded. Many clasps were for different actions on the North West Frontier. The *India General Service Medal* was also issued for service in Burma and Persia.
3. The picture on the opening page to The History section shows Saddle Staff Sergeant Simpson, D.C.M. 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers protecting a mortally wounded officer from the attacks of tribesmen.
4. Afghanistan's *loya jirga – council of elders* – of 1949 declared the Durand Line invalid. The *jirga* argued the boundary was *ex parte* on their side, as British India had ceased to exist as of 1947 with the independence of Pakistan. This declaration had no effect as there has never been a move to enforce such a declaration due to long periods of constant wars with other neighbours in the region. More importantly, there was no time limit mentioned in the Durand Treaty. World courts have universally upheld the principle of: *uti possidetis juris*, i.e.; binding bilateral agreements with or between colonial powers are "passed down" to successor independent states, as with most of Africa. A unilateral declaration by one party has no effect; boundary changes must be made bilaterally. Thus, the Durand Line boundary remains in effect as the international boundary between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and is recognized as such by most nations. The Durand Line, like all international boundaries, has no expiration date, nor is there any mention of such in any Durand Line documents. The 1921 treaty expiration refers only to other 1921 agreements.

The Durand Line artificially divides the Pashtu people, it continues to be a source of tension between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Frequent press statements from 2005 to 2007 by Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

calling for the building of a fence to mark the Afghanistan-Pakistan border have met with resistance from numerous political parties within both countries. Pashtu leaders on both sides of the border do not recognize the Durand Line.

As of 2003, Pakistan has established military patrols and posts to within one or two kilometres of the boundary in the Yaqubi area, Mohammad Agency. Pakistan has also established military posts to within yards of the boundary in the Angoor Adda area of South Waziristan.

5. The picture on the opening page to The Medals section shows Regimental Sergeant Major Ryder, D.C.M. of the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers rescuing a fellow soldier whose foot was caught in a stirrup.

6. Afghanistan Medal 1878-80 The medal could be awarded with up to six clasps. In addition to the clasps on display, additional clasps, in order of issue were: ALI MUSJID for the battle of Ali Musjid, 21 November 1878; PEIWAR KOTAL for the battle at Peiwar Pass, 2 December 1878; CHARASIA for the battle of Charasia, 6 October 1879; and AHMED KHEL for the battle of Ahmed Khel, 19 April 1880.

7. India General Service Medal 1854-1895 The medal could be awarded with up to 26 clasps. In addition to the clasps on display, additional clasps, in order of issue were: PEGU for the second campaign in Burma, 28 March 1852 to 30 June 1853; PERSIA was a combined naval and army expedition, 5 December 1856 to 8 February 1857; NORTH WEST FRONTIER for 15 different campaigns spread over 19 years, 3 December 1849 to 22 October 1868; UMBEYLA for an expeditionary force in Hindustan, 20 October to 23 December 1863; BHOOTAN for a four-column force against Bhootan, December 1864 to February 1866; LOOSHAI was an expeditionary force to recover an abducted planter and his daughter, 9 December 1871 to 20 February 1872; PERAK was an expedition against the Perak tribes, included a naval brigade, 2 November 1875 to 20 March 1876; JOWAKI 1877-78 an expedition to pacify the Afridi tribesmen near the Kohat Pass who objected to new road construction through their territory, 9 November 1877 to 19 January 1878; NAGA 1879-80 was a punitive expedition against the Naga tribesmen, December 1879 to January 1880; BURMA 1885-87 a campaign to annex Burma, 14 November 1885 to 30 April 1887; SIKKIM 1888 was a three-cornered fight with Sikkim, included Tibet, 15 March to 27 September 1888; HAZARA 1888 an incursion to the Hazara

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

tribal area, known as the Black Mountain Expedition; BURMA 1887-89 to suppress bandit activity, 1 May 1887 to 31 March 1889; CHIN LUSHAI 1889-90 a two-column force, one column fought the Chins the second column fought the Lushais, 15 November 1889 to 30 April 1890; SAMANA 1891 for operations in the Miranzai Valley and the Samana Heights, 5 April to 25 May 1891; HAZARA 1891 a repeat of the Black Mountain Expedition to the Hazara tribal area, 12 March to 16 May 1891; N.E. FRONTIER 1891 the Manipur Field Force expedition against the Rajah of Manipur, 28 March to 7 May 1891; HUNZA 1891 an expedition to the Hunza and tribal area, 1 to 22 December 1891; BURMA 1889-92 for a series of 11 expeditions against Burma; LUSHAI 1889-92 for a series of small expeditions into the Lushai Hills, 11 January 1889 to 8 June 1892; CHIN HILLS 1892-93 a punitive expedition against the Chins, 19 October 1892 to 10 March 1893; and KACHIN HILLS 1892-95 a series punitive expeditions into the Kachin Hills, 3 December 1892 to 3 March 1893.

8. India General Service Medal 1895-1902 The medal could be awarded with up to seven clasps. In addition to the clasps on display, additional clasps, in order of issue were: DEFENCE OF CHITRAL 1895 awarded for the defence of Fort Chitral. The garrison was commanded by Brevet Major C.V.F. Townsend, C.B. (later Field Marshal and the disaster at Mesopotamia, modern day Iraq, during the First World War), 3 March to 19 April 1895; RELIEF OF CHITRAL 1895 awarded to five separate relief expeditions, (a) Lieutenant General Sir R.C. Low, G.C.B., crossed the Frontier at Shergarh, 2 April to 15 August 1895; (b) Brevet Colonel J.G. Kelly, C.B., A.D.C., marched from Gupis to Chitral, 26 March to 20 April 1895; (c) Captain F.J. Moberly, D.S.O., 37th Bengal Infantry, crossed into the Frontier at Mastuj; (d) Lieutenant S.M. Edwards, D.S.O., 2nd Bombay Infantry crossed into the Frontier at Reshan; and (e) Captain C.R. Ross, 14th Bengal Infantry, who proceeded from Mastuj to secure the detachment under Lieutenant Edwards at Reshan; PUNJAB FRONTIER 1897-98 awarded to all troops who proceeded from (a) Edwardesbad, 10 June 1897 to 30 January 1898; (b) troops beyond Jallalabad, 26 July 1897 to 23 January 1898; (c) all personnel in action at Shabkadar, 9 August 1897; (d) all personnel forming the Mohmand Field Force; (e) all personnel at Fort Jamrud, Hari Singh-ka-Burj, Bara and outposts in the Peshawar Valley south of the Jamrud-Peshawar line, 23 August 1897 to 6 April 1898; (f) all personnel at posts Samana and beyond Kohat to Parachinar, 27 August 1897 to 2 October 1897; (g) all troops in the action at Ublan Pass, 27 August 1897 and subsequent actions at Samana to Kohat, 2 October 1897; and (h) all personnel forming part of the Tirah Expeditionary Force who proceeded to either Kohat or Peshawar, 2 October 1887

AFGHANISTAN NORTH WEST FRONTIER

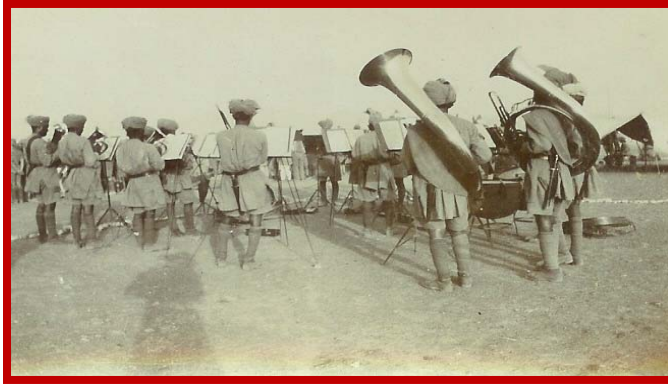
to 6 April 1898; MALAKAND 1897 to personnel at Jallalabad who took part in the relief of Malakand and Chakdara, 26 July to 2 August 1897; SAMANA 1897 for operations at Samana and Kohat to Parachinar, 27 August to 2 October 1897, and the subsequent action at Samana, 2 October; and TIRAH 1897-98 awarded to the Tirah Expeditionary Force, included Kurram Moveable Column and the Peshawar Column who marched beyond either Kohat or Peshawar, 2 October 1897 to 31 January 1898.

9. India General Service Medal 1908-1937 The medal could be awarded with up to 12 clasps. In addition to the clasps on display, additional clasps, in order of issue were: ABOR 1911-12 for service against the Abor tribe in North East India, 6 October 1911 to 20 April 1912; MAHSUD 1919-20 for service against the Mahsuds tribesmen, their fighting ferocity, during the Third Afghan War. The bar was awarded for service under Major General Skeen of the punitive Derajat Column, 19 December 1919 to 8 April 1920; MALABAR 1921-22 for putting down the Moplah Rebellion, Malabar in Western India, 20 August 1921 to 25 February 1922; WAZIRISTAN 1925 to personnel of the Royal Air Force for operations against the Wazirs, 9 March to 1 May 1925; BURMA 1930-32 for service in putting down the Saya San Rebellion, 22 December 1930 to 25 March 1932; and MOHMAND 1933 for the Mohmand Column, commanded by Brigadier Claude Auckinleck, later Field Marshal, 29 July to 3 October 1933.

10. The photograph on the opening page to The Album section shows the Queen's Own Guides, North West Frontier Province, Khyber in 1878 with Major Wigram Battye, seated far left. He died shortly after the photograph was taken at Futtehabad, just outside Jalalabad on 2 April 1878. Maj Battye was leading the Guides when he was shot in the leg, with subsequent shots to his arm and upper torso. His horse received two shots and fell. Resaldar Mahmoud Khan, an Indian soldier, tried to save Maj Battye. Regrettably, he too was shot before either could be rescued. Maj Battye shot four Afghan attackers before he died. Lieutenant Walter Hamilton, standing far right, was Maj Battye's friend. Lt Hamilton won a Victoria Cross at Futtehabad when he rescued Dowlut Ram, a sowar whose horse had fallen. Lt Hamilton shot three Afghan attackers. Lt Hamilton died 3 September 1879 while storming the residency at Kabul. He was buried in an unmarked grave. Colonel Jenkins, standing fourth from left, Commanded the Guides. At the time of the photograph Col Jenkins was waiting to go on secondment with the rank of Acting Brigadier-General to command the Peshawar Valley Field Force.

**AFGHANISTAN
NORTH WEST FRONTIER**

11. The photograph on the opening page to The Notes section shows Indian Officers, Guides Infantry of the North West Frontier Province, circa 1896.



And the Band Played On
Brass Band of the 25th (Miranshah) Punjab Regiment
Photograph by Private W. A. Collett
21st (Empress of India's) Lancers
Circa 1918

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