

The 2nd

Afghan War:

1878 – 1881

1. 1863 – Dost Mohammed’s son, Sher Ali, succeeds him to the throne:

A) Man of many mood swings:

I. Many believe he is insane.

2. Early 1870’s – Russia starts new advances into Central Asia:

A) Many border raids are carried out on the Northwest Frontier.

B) Russian supported and armed Afghan groups carry out raids into Punjab:

I. Which....Is a part of British India.

C) England becomes very paranoid about Russia’s aims:

I. For India!!!

(1) Via....Afghanistan.

3. 1877 – Turkey and Russia go to war:

A) England is very watchful of the situation.

4. 1878 – Russia & England attempt to

send Diplomatic Representatives to the Afghan Court:

A) August 1878 – Sher Ali makes a decision:

I. Russian Representative is accepted.

II. British Representative is refused admittance into Afghanistan!!!

5. England is outraged!

A) Give Afghanistan an ultimatum:

I. Accept the British Representative or,....War!

6. November 20, 1878 – Deadline expires:

A) Afghanistan refuses to budge!

7. 3 English Anglo-Indian Armies will invade Afghanistan out of India....

36,000 Troops and 148 Artillery Pieces:

A) Southern Column:

I. 12,800 Troops.

II. Commander....Major General, Sir

Donald Stewart.

III. Destination....Kandahar.

B) Northern Column:

I. 17,700 Troops.

II. Commander....Lt. general, Sir Sam Browne.

III. Destination....Kabul.

C) Center Column:

**I. 5,500 Troops – 18 pieces of Artillery
– 2,000 Animals – 3,000 Camp
Followers.**

**II. Destination....Sweep up the 60 mile
long, Kurram Valley.**

**III. Commander....46 year old, General,
Lord Frederick Roberts:**

(1) Born – India – Sept. 30, 1832.

**(2) Growing up....Meningitis....Loses
sight in right eye.**

(3) Small – 5 feet 4 inches tall.

(4) School at Eton.

(5) Dec. 12, 1851 – Army.

(6) Great Horseman.

(7) HATES Cats!

(8) April 1852 – India.

(9) May 17, 1859 – Marries:

a. 6 Children....Only 3 live to adulthood.

(10) Jan. 1, 1875 – Quartermaster General of India.

8. England has only 2 objectives in the War:

A) Occupy Kandahar.

B) Occupy the Kurram Valley.

9. British Anglo-Indian Army:

A) Rifles:

I. Martini-Henry.

II. Snider.

B) Rifled Artillery:

I. Range of up to 5,000 yards.

C) Communicate by:

I. Telegraph.

II. Heliograph.

D) Main weaknesses:

I. Move slowly.

II. Sometimes inefficient.

III. Petty rivalries and jealousies among officers.

IV. Suffer in the VERY hot & cold weather conditions of Afghanistan.

E) Medicine:

I. Harsh.

II. Many men will die of Cholera, Typhoid, and Pneumonia.

10. Afghans:

A) Know the rugged country in which they live!

B) Use the rugged mountains to their advantage.

C) Are a hard, war-like people.

D) Are very mobile.

E) Well armed.

F) Accurate with firearms.

G) Have 379 pieces of Artillery.

H) 50,000 Regular Troops & 140,000 Irregulars.

11. Stewart advances almost unopposed:

A) Reaches Kandahar:

I. Has lost 12,000 Camels to the cold weather.

12. Browne....At Ali Masjid....At the mouth of the Khyber Pass....Defeats a force of Afghans:

A) Goes on....Takes Dakka.

B) Goes on....Takes the filthy capital of the region, Jalalabad.

13. November 21, 1878 – 5:00 – Morning – Robert's Column heads out.

14. November 25, 1878 – Roberts occupies Kurram Fort.

15. December 2, 1878 – Battle of Peiwar

Kotal (“Kotal” is a Ridge):

A) Roberts and 3,100 Troops attack a well-entrenched Afghan Army of 3,500:

I. Afghans are defeated and retreat.

II. British losses....20 killed & 72 wounded.

16. December 6, 1878 – The Roberts Column moves on.

17. December 24, 1878 – Sher Ali flees Kabul:

A) Leaves his son, Yakub Khan, on the throne.

B) Takes refuge with the Russians.

18. January 1879 – Roberts defeats an Afghan Army at Matun:

A) British lose....3 killed & 4 wounded.

19. May 26, 1879 – At Gandamak – Yakub

- Khan signs the Treaty of Gandamak:**
- A) Cedes the Kurram & Khyber Valleys to the British.**
 - B) Gives British control of Afghan foreign policies.**
 - C) Allows for a British Representative in Kabul:**
 - I. He is to be....Major, Sir Louis Cavagnari.**

20. July 14, 1879 – Cavagnari, his Staff, and 75 Troops under Lt. Walter Hamilton head for Kabul.

21. July 1879 – The Cavagnari Delegation arrives in Kabul:

- A) Entire group is housed in an area called “The Residency.”**

22. The Stewart & Browne Columns are withdrawn from Afghanistan:

- A) The Roberts Column remains in the**

Kurram Valley.

23. Late August 1879 – Afghan Troops from Herat – Take over the garrison at Kabul:

A) Start stirring up the people against the British.

24. September 3, 1879 – The Residency Massacre:

A) Mob gathers outside the Residency.

B) Grows to 1,000's.

C) Shots are fired.

D) Cavagnari, Hamilton, and the 75 Troops attempt to defend the Residency.

E) Cavagnari is shot thru the head and killed.

F) Hamilton is killed.

G) Most of the Troops are killed.

H) Ladders and siege guns are brought into place.

- I) Remaining Troops are offered surrender....REFUSE!**
- J) Last 6 Indian Guards charge out....All are killed.**
- K) 12 hour battle is over!**
- L) Bodies are mutilated (Cavagnari's head is cut off and displayed in the market) and burnt!**
- M) Afghans have lost 400 killed!!**

25. September 5, 1879 – 1:30 – Morning – Roberts gets telegram telling him of Massacre!

26. Roberts and his Army head for Kabul... 80 miles away – A 5 day march:

A) Orders from British Head of Indian Affairs to Roberts:

I. "All such persons captured and denounced by your informants are to be promptly executed."

27. Stewart is ordered to hold Southern Afghanistan and Kandahar.

28. Roberts takes the offensive:

A) Wins battles on:

I. September 27th.

II. October 2nd.

III. October 5th.

B) He hangs or shoots anyone captured who has fought against his forces!

29. October 6, 1879 – Battle of Charasia:

A) Large group of villages.

B) Held by a large Afghan Army.

C) Roberts attacks with 4,000 Troops.

D) Afghans retreat.

E) Afghans lose 300 killed and all 18 of their Artillery pieces.

F) Roberts loses 18 killed & 70 wounded.

30. October 9, 1879 – Roberts occupies

Kabul – Finds the remains of the bodies in the Residency:

- A) Imposes martial law.**
- B) Offers rewards for those involved in Residency Massacre.**
- C) Builds 2 gallows.**
- D) Usually hang in batches of 10.**
- E) 49 total will be hanged for the Residency.**
- F) Many others hanged for various other crimes.**
- G) Last Residency Massacre hanging is on November 18th.**

31. October 12, 1879 – Yakub Khan surrenders to Roberts.

32. Roberts and his Army occupy the Fort of Sherpur outside of Kabul:

- A) Has 7,000 men.**
- B) Winter is coming on.**
- C) Walled, strong position with a 4 1/2**

mile perimeter.

D) Roberts strengthens it.

E) November....Receives reinforcements.

33. Tribes start massing in the mountains around Kabul:

A) Declare a “Jihad” or, Holy War!

B) Roberts knows about them.

34. Roberts fights a series of small actions around Kabul.

35. December 7, 1879 – Roberts holds a War Council:

A) Knows 3 Afghan Armies are approaching him from the North, West, and South.

36. December 11, 1879 – Roberts sends out Brig. General Massey with 300 Cavalry:

A) To scout and try to find the enemy.

- B) Strict orders on the route to take.**
- C) Massey disobeys orders...Takes an alternate route:**
 - I. Stumbles into 10,000 Afghans!!!**
- D) Fighting retreat:**
 - I. Loses 4 Artillery pieces to the Afghans.**
- E) Roberts hears the distant firing:**
 - I. Leads a relief column out of Sherpur.**
 - II. Save Massey's force, BUT, are forced to retreat, flee, and scramble back to Sherpur!**
- F) McPherson comes out of Sherpur.... Gives covering fire....Make it back in:**
 - I. British force has lost 30 killed & 47 wounded.**

37. Sherpur:

- A) 5 mile perimeter, or 8,000 yards to defend.**
- B) Roberts has:**
 - I. Strengthened the fortress.**

II. Dug trenches.

III. Built a Blockhouse.

IV. Strung Barbed Wire around the perimeter.

V. 7,000 men to defend the position.

C) Fortunately for the British:

I. Mohammed Jan has no siege artillery.

38. December 12, 1879 – Roberts sends a telegram to Brig. General Charles Gough at Jagdalak:

A) Bring force to Kabul!

39. December 21, 1879 – Gough's force starts:

A) Will face...Snow, Fog, Low Clouds, and almost Freezing Temperatures throughout the entire march!

40. December 22, 1879 – A servant informs Roberts that Mohammed Jan

will attack early the next morning!

A) Roberts prepares!

**41. December 23, 1879 – Battle of
Sherpur:**

**A) 1 hour before dawn...30,000 Afghans
attack:**

I. Screaming: “Allah il Allah!”

**II. Primarily armed with swords and
shields.**

**III. British rifles & artillery cut them to
pieces!**

**IV. Some get right up to the wall
before being killed.**

V. 10:00 – Morning – Retreat!

**B) Afghans regroup – 11:00 – Morning –
2nd Attack:**

I. Ends at Noon.

II. Same results...Retreat!

C) Afghans have lost 2,000 to this point!

I. Start retreating towards Kohistan.

D) Roberts has lost 12 killed & 48

wounded.

42. December 24, 1879:

- A) Morning – Gough’s force arrives.**
- B) Roberts re-occupies Kabul.**
- C) Yakub Khan abdicates his throne.**

**43. Roberts writes Massey up for his
disobeying orders:**

A) Massey is relieved:

I. Sent to India:

(1) Has very POWERFUL friends:

- a. Promoted to Major General and
given command of Ceylon!!!**

**44. General Stewart is ordered from
Kandahar to Kabul:**

A) To take over for Roberts.

**45. End of March 1880 – Stewart turns
over command at Kandahar to Major
General Primrose:**

A) Heads for Kabul with:

I. 7,249 Troops.

II. 7,272 Camp Followers.

III. Over 11,000 Animals.

46. April 19, 1880 – Battle of Ahmed Khel:

A) At Ahmed Khel...Stewart is attacked:

I. Almost surrounded.

**II. Afghans are only stopped by British
firepower & discipline!**

III. Stopped right at the British line!

IV. After an hour...Afghans retreat.

**V. Stewart loses 17 killed & 24
wounded.**

VI. Afghans lose 1,200 killed!

**47. May 2, 1880 – Stewart reaches Kabul –
Takes command.**

**48. July 1880 – At Herat – Yakub Khan's
brother, Sirdar Ayub Kahn:**

A) Starts gathering forces to attack

Kandahar!

49. July 22, 1880 – British install Abdur Rahman as the new Amir of Afghanistan!

50. Late July 1880 – Khan heads for Kandahar:

A) Goal: Take Kandahar, seize the Amirship, and rule Afghanistan!

51. Governor of Kandahar has 5,000 Troops under Major General Primrose:

A) He appeals for help.

52. Primrose sends out a force under General Burrows to deal with Sirdar Ayub Khan!

A) Burrows has 2,600 men.

53. July 27, 1880 – Battle of Maiwand:

A) Near the village of Maiwand.

B) Burrows stumbles upon the 26,000 Afghans and their 32 pieces of Artillery!

C) 4 hour battle in intense heat!

D) British line crumbles!

E) British flee...Becomes a route:

I. In groups.

II. Towards Kandahar.

III. One group of 100 are surrounded in an orchard:

(1) All but 11 are killed.

(2) They charge out with fixed bayonets...All killed!

F) Villagers kill any British stragglers along retreat route!

G) Brig. General Henry Brooke comes out of Kandahar with a relief column to provide cover for stragglers coming in!

I. British lose 969 killed and 177 wounded...40% of the force!!!

II. Afghans have lost 5,000 killed.

54. July 31, 1880 – Roberts is ordered to march to the relief of Kandahar!

A) From Kabul to Kandahar...313 miles!

B) Roberts has 10,000 men!

I. Cavalry commanded by Hugh Gough.

II. Infantry is commanded by Major General John Ross.

III. 18 Artillery pieces.

IV. 7,800 Camp Followers.

V. Over 8,000 Animals.

55. August 5th & 6th, 1880 – Afghans arrive at Kandahar:

A) Surround!

B) Primrose has 4,900 Troops to defend the walls!

56. August 8, 1880:

A) Khan opens a siege on Kandahar.

B) Roberts and his 7 mile long column head for Kandahar!

57. Roberts march is one of endurance:

- A) Hot days! Cold nights!**
- B) Constant shortage of water!**
- C) Average 14 miles per day!**

58. Kandahar:

- A) Primrose has 450 sick & wounded:**
 - I. Has 3,250 to defend the walls.**
 - II. Does have plenty of food.**

59. August 12, 1880 – Primrose attacks Khan:

- A) Forced back into Kandahar.**

60. August 13, 1880 – Khan closes the ring around Kandahar a little bit tighter.

61. August 16, 1880 – Cavalry patrol out of Kandahar is ambushed:

- A) Big fight.**
- B) Retreat back losing 108 killed & 116 wounded.**

62. The Afghans learn of Roberts' approach:

A) Start withdrawing from Kandahar.

63. August 27, 1880 – Roberts is so sick he has to be placed in a sick cart:

A) He has 550 on his sick list.

B) Has lost 19 killed or missing on the march.

64. August 31, 1880 – Roberts marches into Kandahar:

A) Assumes command.

B) Afghans return and surround city:

I. 12,800 of them with 32 artillery pieces.

C) Roberts has 11,000 men and 32 pieces of artillery.

65. September 1, 1880 – 9:00 – Morning – British artillery opens fire on the Afghans:

- A) Roberts attacks!**
- B) Afghans are defeated...Start retreating...Becomes a route:
 - I. Pursuit and killing go on for 15 miles and into the late afternoon!****
- C) Afghans lose:
 - I. 1,200 killed & 1,200 wounded.****
- D) British lose:
 - I. 40 killed & 228 wounded.****
- E) Battle ends the military aspect of the war.**

66. British have a problem of supplying the Troops in Afghanistan:

- A) Brigade by Brigade they are sent back to India.**
- B) British decide to get out of the country.**

67. Roberts is sent to India...VERY sick!

- A) Due to an Intestinal Ulcer he is ordered to take leave:**

I. October 1880...Sails for England.

68. War totals:

A) British/Indian Army:

I. 1,850 killed in action.

II. 8,000 die of disease.

B) Afghan deaths...Multi-thousands.

69. Sher Ali abdicates the throne:

A) April 1881...British turn Kandahar over to Abdur Rahman.

70. May 1881 – Last British Troops leave the country:

A) Anglo-Afghan Peace for the next 39 years.

71. Frederick Roberts:

A) Very sick...Reaches England.

B) In England, he and Wolseley become rivals!

C) 1895...Irish Command.

D) Retires.

E) Boer War...Volunteers...Accepted:

**I. He & Major General, Sir Herbert
Kitchener...Defeat the Boers.**

**F) WW I...Visits the Western Front on the
evening of November 13, 1914:**

I. Is cold and rainy.

II. Gets sick, turns to pneumonia.

**III. November 14, 1914 – 8:00 – Night –
Dies!**