THE KHYBER ABLAZE

25/11/15

Being a member of the Victorian Military Society, I read their quarterly magazine Soldiers of the Queen. Many of the articles are about the North-West Frontier. I decided to purchase a boardgame on that theatre of war to get a better idea of what went on. I came across The Khyber Ablaze, a print and play game by Berserker Games.



COMPLETE GAME



SETTLEMENT MARKERS



BRITISH UNITS



A Solitaire Game of Uprisings on the North-West

Background

The Khyber Ablaze is a semi-historical simulation of the many Afghan and Pakistani tribal uprisings during the Victorian Era. The game begins shortly after a Pathan Leader, Ahmed Khan, has stirred up the natives in the whole region and is poised to launch assaults on British Settlers to drive them back to Great Britain.

Game System

The game is fun and easy to play, the only reference required during play is two doublesided game Reference Cards. I particularly like the three combat tables, Attack Effects, Fire Effects and Melee Effects. Combined, the three tables give a really good 'ebb and flow' feel to each battle.

Objective

Player takes command of the British Forces along the Northwest Frontier. The Player's Objective is to attempt to capture three of the four Afghan Controlled Key Settlements (Samangan, Konduz, Herat or Kandahar) before the Campaign Deck is exhausted. If the British have not captured three Pathan Key Settlements before the last Campaign Card is played, the Pathans Win.

If the Ahmed Khan's Pathan Forces Capture a number of Key British Settlements whose Fortification Values total twenty or more, they win.



I made a plan to first neutralize the launch points for Pathan Offensive Action which are the settlements of Nok Kundi, Sukkur, Zhob, Gujranwala, Kwost and Ghazni.

I would then head inland to capture three of the four Pathan Key Settlements whilst leaving garrisons at the subdued launch points.

1870 Start

(see image)

General (Gen) Hart (6*) in Delhi.

Colonel (Col) Hamilton (4) in Lahore.

Col Abbot (2) in Peshawar.

*Number in brackets shows quantity of British Line Infantry battalions in Leader's Column. Support units might also be attached.



INITIAL SET-UP

BATTLE OF SIALKOT



SIEGE OF OUETTA