Birmingham Medal Society Meeting Thursday 6th July 2017

Present: 15 members, apologies received from Mick Atkinson, Reg Cook, Pat Knight, Roy Painter, Mark Platt, Martin Harrison and Dave Seeney. Ten members sat down for an evening meal beforehand and were joined by 3 members who enjoyed a drink and the opportunity to discuss mutual medallic interests.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked those members of the Birmingham Medal Society who supported 'Antelope Day' at St John's House & Gardens at St.John's House, Warwick on 8 July. Those thanked included Dave Seeney, Mick Atkinson, Daniel Rees, John Scott, Sue and Paul Handford who he had briefly met that morning at St John's House. The President complimented Paul Handford on his excellent display of medals and was pleased to see friends from the Cheltenham Branch of the OMRS supporting this event.

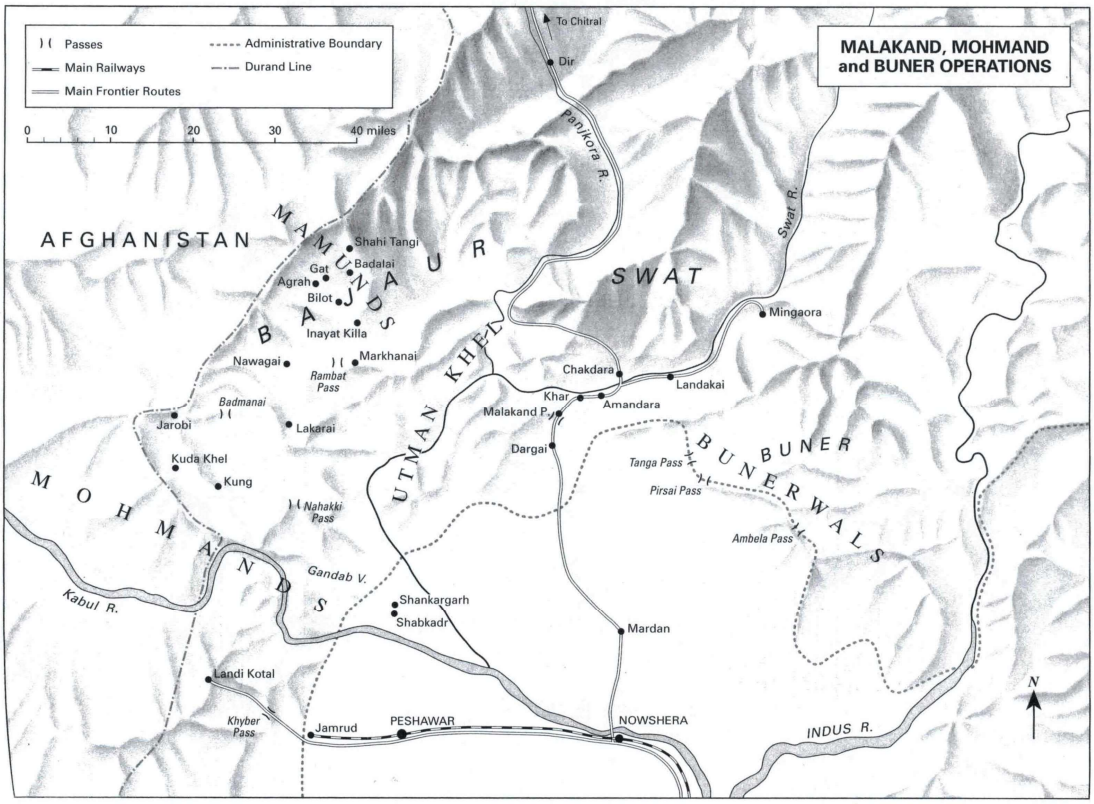
The President introduced the subject for the evening – A Members Own 'Afghanistan and The North West Frontier.' He distributed two very useful maps. One covering the main passes, railway routes and boundaries on the Afghan Border., The other covered the Malakand, Momand and Buner Operations 1897-1898.

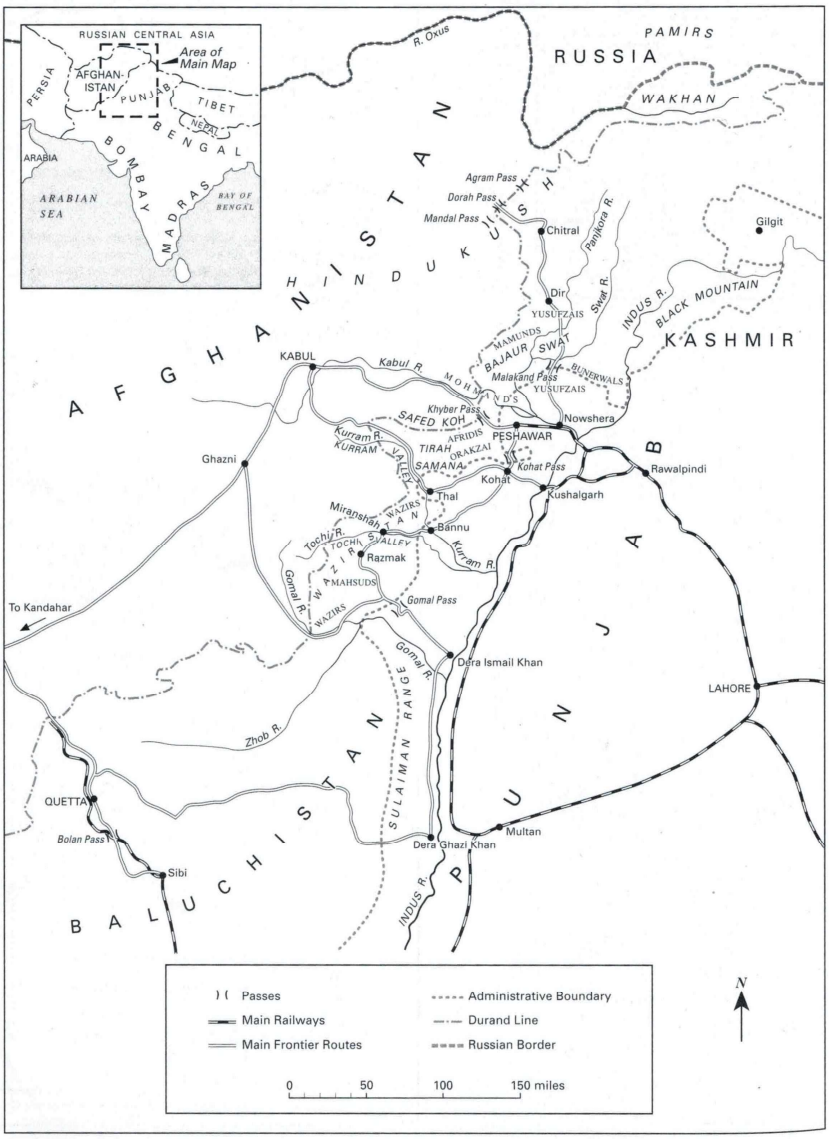
He briefly covered the First Afghan War of 1838, which included the destruction of an Army in 1842 during the Retreat from Kabul – the only redeeming feature being the defence of Jalalabad and the subsequent final victory recovering Kabul in September 1842. The Second Afghan War followed in 1878-79, includes the action at Maiwand and Lord ROBERTS march Kabul to Kandahar.

Throughout much of the period 1847 onwards to 1947 the British and Indian Armies experienced conflict on the North West Frontier leading to retaliatory expeditions, burning of settlements, recovery of weapons and continuous unrest on the Frontier. None more so than during the period 1897-98 which is well covered in Michael BARTHORP's illustrated book 'The Frontier Ablaze' and in FINCASTLE and ELLIOT LOCKHART's 'A Frontier Campaign.'

To illustrate the nature of the fighting in 'The Malakand 1897' the President spoke briefly about Lt. CLIMO's involvement with the 24th Punjabis in the defence of the Bazaar at the Malakand when hundreds of sword wielding insurgents commenced looting, slaughtering anyone who had not got away in time. CLIMO lead a bayonet charge to clear them out. The insurgents then attacked the Commissariat Lines and fighting continued for much of that day and night. Lt COSTELLO subsequently received a VC.for his bravery in the defence of the Malakand. Here are CLIMO's Miniatures he subsequently became a Lt-General and commanded during the Third Afghan War and the Campaign in Waziristan 1919-20.

Lt Gen Climo's Miniature Medals


MALAKAND, MOHMAND and BUNER OPERATIONS
Passes
Main Railways
Main Frontier Routes
Administrative Boundary
Durand Line
0 10 20 30 40 miles
AFGHANISTAN
To Chitral
Dir
Panjkora R.
Swat R.
MAMUNDS
BAJAUR
SWAT
Shahi Tangi
Badalai
Gat
Agrah
Bilot
Inayat Killa
Mingaora
Nawagai
Markhanai
Rambat Pass
Chakdara
Landakai
Khar
Amandara
Malakand P.
UTMAN KHEL
Badmanai
Jarobi
Lakarai
Dargai
BUNER
BUNERWALS
Tanga Pass
Pirsai Pass
Ambela Pass
Kuda Khel
Kung
Nahakki Pass
MOHMANDS
Gandab V.
Kabul R.
Shankargarh
Shabkadr
Mardan
Landi Kotal
Khyber Pass
Jamrud
PESHAWAR
NOWSHERA
INDUS R.
N


RUSSIAN CENTRAL ASIA
Area of Main Map
AFGHANISTAN
PERSIA
PUNJAB
TIBET
NEPAL
BENGAL
BOMBAY
MADRAS
ARABIA
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
R. Oxus
PAMIRS
RUSSIA
WAKHAN
HINDUKUSH
Agram Pass
Dorah Pass
Mandal Pass
Chitral
Panjkora R.
Gilgit
Dir
YUSUFZAIS
Swat R.
INDUS R.
BLACK MOUNTAIN
KASHMIR
MAMUNDS
BAJAUR
SWAT
KABUL
Kabul R.
BUNERWALS
Malakand Pass
YUSUFZAIS
MOHMANDS
Khyber Pass
SAFED KOH
Nowshera
Kurram R.
KURRAM VALLEY
AFRIDIS
TIRAH
ORAKZAI
SAMANA
PESHAWAR
Ghazni
Kohat Pass
Kohat
Rawalpindi
Thal
Kushalgarh
Miranshah
WAZIRS
Bannu
Tochi R.
TOCHI VALLEY
Kurram R.
Razmak
WAZIRS
MAHSUDS
Gomal R.
Gomal Pass
To Kandahar
Dera Ismail Khan
LAHORE
Zhob R.
SULAIMAN RANGE
QUETTA
Bolan Pass
Sibi
Dera Ghazi Khan
Multan
INDUS R.
BALUCHISTAN
PUNJAB
Passes
Main Railways
Main Frontier Routes
Administrative Boundary
Durand Line
Russian Border
0 50 100 150 miles
N

The evening developed into a most interesting discussion with speakers including Andrew Bostock, John Scott, Ken Weston and John Barker talking about examples of medals covering the conflict in Afghanistan and North West Frontier during the period 1839-1924. It being agreed that the subject would be expanded to take into account more recent conflicts in Afghanistan as well as the role of the Royal Air Force during the Third Afghan War.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm