The Marathas who had established their supremacy over almost the entire North and South India by the middle of the Eighteenth Century, after the fall of the Mughals, came in conflict with the East India Company, who had discarded its trading mantle and adorned the robes of soldiers and statesmen. Governor Generals like Robert Clive and Warren Hastings were clear in their mind that their aim was to establish political supremacy in India at an appropriate time.

Three Anglo Maratha wars were fought between the period 1774 and 1818, a period which coincides with the decline and fall of the Maratha power. The process of extinction of Maratha power was delayed by the able statesmanship of Nana Phadnis assisted by the Barbhai Council and the power of sword wielded by able soldiers. However, the lack of unity among them after the battle of Kharsa, the Shindes, the holkars, the Bhonsales and other members of the Maratha Confederacy hastened the liquidation of Maratha power.

The Anglo Maratha Wars are of interest to a soldier as they represent a conflict between the armies of India organised on the system of Ganimi Kawa or guerilla warfare and the East India Company's forces which were either European or Indian trained by European officers for conventional warfare. In the last decade of the 18th Century
The British Approach to Asai
however the Marathas had raised some regiments which were equipped with modern weapons and trained by European officers. After the defeat of Panipat in 1761 the Marathas had learnt that Ganesh Kawa alone would not defeat well-equipped armies. But lack of facilities for manufacture of guns, attitudes of the Maratha soldier towards infantry and the diehard leaders who were not ready to learn new tactics were some of the handicaps which the Maratha army could not surmount. The European mercenaries were time servers and had no loyalty to their masters. The feudal character of the Maratha State and the unified command and control of the East India Company were two systems which were poles apart. The Maratha diplomacy, particularly after the death of Nana Phadnis, failed to combat the situation created by the East India Company, who had great persons like Lord Wellesley, Wellington and Lake in its service. The result was a foregone conclusion.

As a part of the research programme of the History Department of the University of Poona, the First Anglo Maratha War (1774-1783) has been studied in great detail by Dr. M.R. Kantak and the Third Anglo Maratha War has been ably covered by Dr. (Mrs.) Sumitra Ganguli.

In this thesis, it is proposed to deal with the Second Anglo Maratha War (1802-1803) during which Lord Wellesley, the Governor General had prepared the Master plan for gaining supremacy over the Marathas by a systematic two pronged
advance, one in the South commanded by General Arthur Wellesley and another in the North, personally lead by General Robert Lake, the Commander-in-Chief. After the treaty of Vasai (1802-3), Bajirao II ceased to wield power and the Company's forces systematically fought and defeated the forces of Daulat Rao Shinde and Raghujir Bhonsale, taking care to keep Yashwant Rao Holkar out of the conflict and later defeating him in 1805, bringing the Second Anglo-Maratha War to a close.

The Third Anglo-Maratha War was thus a last flicker of the flame before it was finally extinguished in 1818.

In writing this thesis original sources and secondary sources available in English and Marathi, have been used. Wellesley's Dispatches and Wellington's Dispatches give a detailed day by day account of the events. Wellington describes the military aspect of the battles while Wellesley combines the political effects of the success in battles with his diplomatic moves in his reports to the Directors of the Company and the President of the Board of Control. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of Marathi sources. As there was no unified command and no military hierarchy, there are no reports by field commanders to their masters about the battles. Letters by Bajirao II, Yeshwantrao Holkar, Daulat Rao Shinde, Haripant Phadke, deal mainly with their relations with each other and their moves to get the better of each other. Letters by junior persons to their
friends and relatives are vague and do not throw light on the enemy tactics, own moves, phases of the battle, casualties, battle orders, daily battle progress and so on. Officers of the Company’s Army, like Major John Blackston, Colonel James Welsh who were present in the campaign have written their memoirs which throw light on the campaigns. In short, Marathi sources do not help much in constructing the military history of the 2nd Anglo-Maratha War. Hence the present thesis draws heavily from the contemporary English sources for presenting a picture of this episode of the 2nd Anglo Maratha War in the history of India.

Among the secondary sources, biographies of Duke of Wellington and histories of important battles have been consulted. Those written in Marathi by S.M.Paranjape and Nanasaheb Shinde are based on English source material. Some material for the history of Holkar, Shinde, Nagpurkar Bhonsle and Gaikwad lacks in details of the battles.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. A.R.Kulkarni, Professor and Head of the Department of History, Pune University, my supervisor and guide, who in spite of his busy schedule and various scholarly pursuits found time to guide me in my work.

I would like to thank the Director of Pune Archives and his staff for their cooperation. I would like to thank Shri G.H.Khare and staff of the Bharat Itihas Samahodhak Mandal for their assistance.

I am also grateful to H.Q., Southern Command and the
Deccan College who allowed me free access to the libraries.

K. G. Pitre
Brigadier