Preface

The origin of this thesis can be traced to my childhood interest in matters military. Before going to sleep I would ask my father to tell me stories. He would tell me about the German Blitzkrieg and the Japanese advance in Singapore. I little realized that, from these bedtime stories, I would develop a strong interest which in turn would shape my career.

While doing my Ph. D. I went through cycles of depression and frustration. I am indebted to my supervisor for his constant encouragement and his generosity in accepting my idiosyncratic behaviour. My thanks to Professor Neeladri Bhattacharya for critical comments on my earlier drafts. I am thankful to Professor Seema Alavi and late Professor P.S. Gupta for reading part of my drafts. And I greatly appreciate Professor Dharma Kumar’s affectionate help during the early stages of the research.

This thesis would not have been possible without the moral and financial support from my parents and my sister. I also thank Suhrita for forcing me to complete the thesis as quickly as possible, just as the German generals pressurized by their Fuehrer would like to finish an operation.

This Ph. D exemplifies a type of military history which is something more than operational details. But that does not mean that only social and cultural dimensions ought to be considered in accordance with current fashion.

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MAP SHOWING PRINCIPAL RECRUITING REGIONS OF THE COLONIAL ARMY

- Regions which supplied recruits before 1857
- Regions which supplied recruits between 1857-80
- Regions which supplied recruits between 1880-1913
Map No. 2 Showing the Different Groups whom the Handbook Writers wanted in the Colonial Arm

Map No. 3 Showing the Different Regions from where the Handbook Writers wanted the Indian Army to Recruit