Preface

In the history of the Indian freedom movement, the formation of the Indian National Army (I.N.A.) during the Pacific War had a deep significance. For the first time a national army was raised, manned and officered completely by the Indians, to achieve India's independence by force. No doubt, the use of violence was not unknown in India's independence movement. The terrorists had used it in the initial decades of this century. But the objective of their activities was limited: to terrorise the ruling class. Again, there was nothing new in the demand for India's freedom in the forties of this century, as the Indian National Congress had adopted the achievement of independence for India as the object of its political struggle as early as 1929. But in view of the non-violent method followed for over two previous decades in India's freedom movement, the plan to regain freedom from the ruling power with the help of a well organized army was, indeed, a revolutionary measure.

In this dissertation an attempt has been made to study the history of the Indian National Army. While to a large measure the study is bound to narrative, the writer has concentrated on describing and analysing some important aspects of the story. How was the idea of raising a national army mooted? What were the factors which actually delayed its formation in 1942? What were the causes of its dissolution soon after its formation? What were the circumstances under which the I.N.A. was revived and what
were the factors which turned it into a revolutionary army? What would explain the failure of the I.N.A. in the Imphal Campaign (1944) to achieve its objective? What was the impact of the trials of the I.N.A. officers at the end of the World War II? These are some of the questions which the study endeavours to answer. No comprehensive and analytical study is available on the subject.

The writer was conscious of the importance of using official records in an attempt to trace the history of the Indian National Army. But a special problem confronts a research worker in view of the paucity of documents on the subject. Many records of the I.N.A. were destroyed in 1942 when the army was dissolved by an order of its commander. On another occasion, with the declaration of Japan's surrender to the Allies in 1945, many more records were destroyed before they could be captured by Allied forces.

But the difficulty in the task of documentation was, to some extent, removed with the availability of the papers of the I.N.A. courts martial, the materials collected by the now-defunct I.N.A. History Committee and the Government of India. The writer, thanks to the field-research in Thailand, Malaya, Singapore and Japan arranged by the Indian School of International Studies in 1963, was able to make use of, or collect, many publications of the Indian Independence League which were available in those countries. The writer was fortunate in securing from the Japanese War History Office the photostat copies of the surviving Japanese official records and the Japanese official
publications regarding the Indian independence movement in East Asia. English translation of these materials has been used in this dissertation. Although these materials have hardly been used before, these were not enough to fill in certain gaps. The writer was compelled to approach with questionnaire a large number of persons to gather additional information. During the war, many of these persons held very high official position in the Japanese army, the British Indian army, the I.N.A. and the Provisional Government of Free India. They were closely connected with the events, and on some points, they proved to be the only source of information at present. Care has, however, been taken to evaluate these information and the notes of discussion have been used only after validation.

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The dissertation was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Tara Chand who was the Head of Department of South Asian History and Institutions of the School when the work on the topic was taken up. His valuable guidance continued to be available to the writer even after Dr. Tara Chand retired from the School. The writer feels personally grateful to him for his affectionate encouragement in the work on the present dissertation.
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origin; Major-Gen. Iwakuro and Lt. Gen. Isoda who were in charge of liaison between the Japanese army and the I.N.A.; the War History Office of the Government of Japan; Col. Mehta, the Military Attaché of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo; the National Library of Singapore; the Library of the University of Singapore; Mr. G. Sarangapani, Editor, Tamil Murasu, Singapore; Mr. Maheboob Rahman, the Deputy Indian High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur; Mr. Sivaram, the Editor-in-Chief of the Malayan Times, Kuala Lumpur; Mr. P.P. Narayanan, the Secretary-General of National Union of Plantation Workers, Kuala Lumpur; Dr. M.K. Lukshumeyah, the ex-President of the Indian Independence League, Kuala Lumpur; Indian Information Centre in Kuala Lumpur; Mr. N.S. Gill, Indian Ambassador in Thailand; Pandit Raghunath Sharma, Director of the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge, Bangkok; the Bangkok National Library; Messrs. N. Raghavan, S.A. Ayer, ex-ministers of the Provisional Government of Free India, Gen. Mohan Singh, the ex-G.O.C. of the I.N.A. in 1942; Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, a senior officer of the I.N.A.; Mr. Deb Nath Das, an ex-advisor to the Provisional Government of Free India; Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Secretary of the Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta; the Library of the Indian Council of World Affairs; National Archives of India; and Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad, Director of Combined Inter-Service Historical Section, India and Pakistan.

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