ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To my family, friends and all those in the light of whose presence I have found motivation, strength and hope during my journey in the trenches dug by Helen Dunmore of the World War I and II, and of historical and contemporary settings -- in particular, my research Guide, Prof. Dr.A.G.Joshi. Thanks him for seeing my potential and encouraging me to write down my ideas on paper as clearly as possible. Thanks for his meticulous supervision.

I offer my deepest gratitude to Helen Dunmore, who has always been a valuable source of comfort and support for me, and who has smoothed this path for me. Not only Dunmore supplied me all primary sources but also allowed me to share her views.

A special vote of thanks to be extended to Dr. P.A.Attar, Professor and Head, Department of English, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for the courtesy he always rendered.

Special thanks go to my husband, Chadrakant, and my son, Archiet who tolerated their holiday-schedule being determined by my research priorities. I am grateful to their love, patience and support; my mother Malini Patil, for always inspiring me to fight for my ideals as a brave woman and giving me support for this research; to the loving father Shri Arvind Patil, who made me fond of war and historical stories. More importantly, the stories triggered my curiosity as to what they might sound if they were told from a woman's point of view. I express my thanks to my father-in-law Prof. D.A. Kadam for his encouragement.

Warm thanks go to my sisters and brother, who assisted and supported me as friends while I am working on my research. Thanks are due to the library staff at OUCIP,EFL and Osmania University, Hyderabad, Goa University, Goa, American Information Centre and British Council Library, Pune and Mumbai for bibliographical and data research.