CONCLUSION

The 18th century was a much disturbed period in the history of India. A number of European military adventurers took service with various rulers in different parts of the country. Here, they enjoyed good salaries, respect and high status. They increased and modernized the armies of the Indian rulers according to European pattern. One of these European military adventurers was George Thomas, a native of Ireland, who came to India in a ship named 'Superb'. After taking part in some naval battles, he deserted the British navy and joined the service of Polygars, a great warlike tribe in southern India. Later on, he joined the service of Nizam of Hyderabad where he organized a group of Pindaries which was called 'Irish Pindaries'.

Then, he came to northern India to get more fame in the service of other rulers. With his independent 'Irish Pindaris' he joined the army of Begam Samru of Sardhana. He served her for about 4 years and increased and disciplined her army into European pattern. He was promoted to the rank of a General by the Begam after the battle of Gokulgarh where he rescued the Mughal Emperor from the rebels with his fighting techniques, great courage, bold resourcefulness and effective discipline. He also fought against other rebels as well as the Sikhs. The Begam was so pleased by his honesty
and brilliant services that she even married one of her adopted daughters, Marie, to him. In Begam Samru's service he got a number of presents and some jagirs. He remained loyal and honest to her throughout his service. Ultimately, he became a victim of treachery and intrigue. One of his contemporary officers, named Levassoult, a French Officer, was haughty and notorious who later married Begam Samru. He successfully intrigued against George Thomas. Thomas was dismissed by the Begam, and she made Levassoult her commander-in-chief. It was a great shock to Thomas when he was insulted by the Begam inspite of his brilliant and honest service. He was even deprived of his possessions which he had received earlier as reward for his successful victories. He had to leave the service of Begam, and he alongwith his family took shelter at Anupshahar in British territory. For sometime he led the life of a plunderer.

Though he lost the service of Begam, yet he did not lose his courage and he continued to increase his independent force. Then he joined the service of Appa Khandi Rao, one of Sindhia's governors in Mewatty region. In his new master's service he enjoyed good salary as well as status, and he supported him fully on a number of occasions. Collecting sufficient revenues, defeating the rebels, capturing a number of forts and even rescuing Appa from the fort of Koteputli were some of the big successes and achievements of
Thomas. Appa was much pleased with him, and he not only twice adopted Thomas as his son and conferred upon him a title of Jowruj Jung but also gave him some important jagirs as reward. Here, Thomas built up a small town called 'Georgegarh' or 'Jehazgarh' where a small fort was erected. But after some time his relations with Appa deteriorated over the question of a Brahmin prisoner. Then, the incidents of Narnaul and Gosains occurred and Appa wanted to capture or kill Thomas. But George due to his energy, courage and resourcefulness escaped from Appa's clutches. Afterwards, their relations improved. However, Appa even then twice tried to kill him, but Thomas remained loyal to his master. He showed his honesty and devotion towards his master by helping him to increase his revenues and army, casting a number of cannons, suppressing rebels and even defeating the Sikhs in upper Doab.

On the other side, a revolt broke out in Begam Samru's estate where the rebels put Zafaryab Khan, a step-son of the Begam, on the throne of Sardhana. Later on, the rebels captured the Begam; her husband committed suicide. She sent a message to Thomas to rescue her from the clutches of rebels. Thomas by his energetic and bold action came to the rescue of the Begam. This incident illustrates his affection and regard for the Begam and kindness of heart. Although the Begam was earlier very rude to him, and had even snatched his jagirs, but Thomas showed his loyalty, affection and honesty towards her. Inspite of her maltreatment he helped her in time of difficulty and distress.
After the death of Appa Khandi Rao, Thomas served in the army of Vaman Rao, a nephew of Appa Khandi Rao. But Vaman Rao's conduct towards him was far from good or friendly. Their relations deteriorated when Vaman Rao grabbed some of Thomas's jagirs which were given to him by his previous master, Appa Khandi Rao. Afterwards, Thomas joined the army of Bapu Sindhia, a Maratha governor in upper Doab. He suppressed a number of revolts and repelled the Sikhs while in the service of Bapu Sindhia. But, like Vaman Rao, Bapu Sindhia also deceived him, and he even seized Thomas's territory.

Thomas again had to spend his life in loot and plunder. He looted a number of towns as well as villages with his small independent force. On that occasion the political condition of India particularly in northern India was very disturbed and confused. Ultimately he thought that he should increase his power by creating an independent kingdom for himself.

Thus Thomas served for about 12 years in the armies of northern India chiefs like Begam Samru, Appa Khandi Rao, Vaman Rao, and Bapu Sindhia. He served them with honesty, increased their armies and fashioned them in European mould, increased their revenues, suppressed their rebels, captured a number of cities, towns and villages for them and even rescued few of them in distress; but they proved to be selfish and self-centred. They not only took away his property which had been given to him for his bravery, but they also tried to
capture and kill him. All this disgusted Thomas. That is why, he was completely fed up with these selfish chiefs, and he thought of becoming an independent ruler by creating his own state.

At that time on account of disturbed and confused condition, a number of powerful chiefs were thinking to establish their supremacy over the territories of Punjab. There was general disorder and disunity among the sardars of the Misls in Punjab. The rear of Shah Zaman's attack and certain other causes had created confusion in Punjab. There were a number of European adventurers serving the armies of various rulers in India. Among them many were more powerful and bold in fighting. But Thomas was different from his contemporary adventurers in one respect. His agility of mind, warlike tactics, magnetic personality and the conditions prevailing in Punjab induced him to create an independent state of his own. Many adventurers were already getting good status, salaries and high ranks in their masters' armies. They therefore did not think of making their own independent state. But certain circumstances helped Thomas in creating his own independent kingdom. He was free from any chief's service. Deprived of employment and means of livelihood and finding the political condition favourable he envisaged and independent territory in Haryana, then a part of Punjab. He secured remarkable success in his aim. He made Hansi his capital which was situated in the heart of
Haryana. No other European military adventurer in India could attain such distinction of carving out an independent state. He is the only example in the history of European military adventurers who came as a common sailor and became an independent raja of a territory in northern India. Here, he established his factories, issued his coins, built a number of forts and consolidated his administration. He organised his army on European pattern. Such achievements on the part of Thomas reveal his untiring capacity, high ambition and brilliant mind.

He became a famous raja among the contemporary chiefs of northern India. Vaman Rao now made an alliance with him. He had to fight a number of battles against many people like the Rajputs, the Sikhs and the Mewattis etc. In these battles, he not only defeated these chiefs but also collected a large ransom from them as well as recruited a large number of the troops in his army from their territories.

Various rulers like the rajas of Jaipur, Bikaner, Jind, Patiala, Nabha and others feared his rapidly growing power. Among them the chiefs of Patiala and Nabha were terribly afraid of him. The Marathas and other powers were also watching his activities, for Thomas had largely extended his estate by looting and defeating the sardars of various places.
While creating an independent state and winning a number of battles against various chiefs, Thomas showed his loyalty towards the British. He even sent a message to the British expressing his wish to enter their service, but unfortunately his desire was turned down by the British. After creating an independent state, Thomas thought of conquering the whole of Punjab but his ambition could not be fulfilled. This task was too ambitious even for a man of Thomas's ability and resources.

His enemies were busy in making alliances with other powers. His neighbouring chiefs like Raja Bhag Singh of Jind, Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala and Raja Lal Singh of Kaithal etc. became uneasy due to his continuous raids. So they along with other powers made an alliance with Gen. Perron, Maratha general and governor in northern India. Gen. Perron was very much concerned about Thomas's growing power. He wanted to crush Thomas's power. Gen. Perron asked him to join Maratha service, but Thomas refused to do so. Then Gen. Perron and other chiefs declared war against him. Thomas was alone, and in spite of repeated requests for help from various quarters he could not get/support. Ultimately he was defeated in the battles of Georgegarh and Hansi where he surrendered himself to Col. Louis Bourquin, a deputy of Gen. Perron.

After his downfall, the Marathas took possession of all his territories which later on passed into the hands of the
British when they defeated the Marathas in 1803. Thomas, leaving his family at Sardhana, marched towards Calcutta for going to his native country, Ireland. On the way, he met Lord Wellesley at Lucknow. Here, he expressed his idea that he wanted to win the whole of Punjab for the British. Lord Wellesley was impressed by his personality and the ambitious idea of Thomas. Thomas narrated his story of his life to Col. William Francklin at Benaras. He died on 22nd August 1802 at Berhampur near Murshidabad where he was buried in an old cemetery.

Such was the remarkable European adventurer, George Thomas, raja of Haryana state. He served a number of chiefs for several years. He increased their armies, drilled and disciplined them in European fashion, cast a number of cannons and collected sufficient revenues for them. He suppressed a number of revolts and captured a number of cities, towns as well as villages. He built and repaired many forts and also captured a number of them from the enemies. But these chiefs whom he served proved to be faithless and selfish.

His establishment of an independent state of Haryana was a remarkable achievement. He issued his own coins, built armour factories, formed an administrative system and from time to time extended his territories. Although he obtained good revenue from his state, but he was always in need of money. He fought against various chiefs and but for few
battles he won all. He was a bold, brave and fearless man. Ultimately the combined powers, to whom he had become a terror, defeated him at Hansi and he had to surrender himself to them.

Thomas left four sons and a daughter. One of his sons later served in the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore. Thomas was a brave fighter, a good administrator and a man of principles. Historians have admired his strength of character, military abilities and physical stamina. His troops were loyal and devoted to him. After his final defeat many of them did not join the service of any other chief of India. Some of them became beggars or turned Sadhus.

Inspite of his many good qualities, he also had some bad habits. He was very much fond of wine. Sometimes he used to drink day and night. At times he was boastful. He became angry very quickly. But, on the whole, he was a good tempered, tactful, active, honest, shrewd, bold and pleasant man.

The fascinating story of Thomas's military adventures full of high drama, courage, and romance lends a peculiar charm and interest to an age otherwise dull, confused and devoid of great qualities.