

Acknowledgements

This book is the outcome of laborious research and study that have dominated the best part of the last five years. These years have been, without any doubt, the most tiring and stressful of my life, and I recall the words of my mentor, who said to me once, full of kind honesty, that ‘academic research is not good for the soul’. But while writing these lines and looking back to what I have achieved thus far, I can only say that all of this was worth it! Being a part of the British – or shall I say, Scottish – educational system has taught me a great deal, both as a researcher and a person.

I owe my mentors, Matthew Strickland and Marilyn Dunn, a great debt of gratitude for their helpful guidance, their smiles and encouragement. I sincerely hope I will not let them down! I would like to thank the academic and administrative staff of the Department of History of the University of Glasgow and the Scottish Centre for War Studies, the staff of the Glasgow University Library and the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame, for providing me with an ideal working environment. Special thanks are owed to Matthew Bennett and Caroline Palmer for encouraging this young researcher to publish his work. Also, I am grateful to Ioannis and Serdar for the very relaxing “wine-nights”, which I hope I did not ruin with my complaints about work.

Finally, this work is dedicated wholeheartedly to my parents for their endless encouragement and support throughout my career.