

# The Dark Man of Kongu Region – Theeran Chinnamalai

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Kongu Kaviyarasu the name kongu nadu originated from the term Kongu meaning nector or honey in sangam tamil metamorphically referring to the honey or nector like landscape and people living in the western region of tamil nadu. Theeran chinnamalai was born in 1756 in Kongu region. Theerathagiri was the name kept to theeran chinnamalai by his parents. He belonged to the noble family Palaiya Kottai pattakarar. Theeran chinnamalai took charge of administration and safety of the kongu region under his control. Theeran chinnamalai along with his two brothers learnt martial arts, life archery, silambum etc. He formed Kongu Youth Organisation and trained martial arts to the Village Youths. During the hyder ali period, the land tax of Koongu region was sent to him, to the Mysore. Theeran Chinnamalai rescued all the taxes and told that Chinnamalai between Sivan Malai and Chennaimalai took away the tax. People of Kongu region named as Theeran chinnamalai after that incident.

Theeran chinnamalai had many disputes with the Mysore King Hyder ali. But after the death of Hyder ali in 1782, His son tippu sultan regined as the Mysore King. Theeran Chinnalamai and his Kongu Troops joined Tippu's army against British Troops. Theeran Chinnamalai become the caption of the infantry in tippu's army. He looked like the pioneer of the good leader. After becoming the caption of the kongu region Theeran Chinnamalai propogated the patriotism, courage, valor to the soldiers.

The courageous fight of the Kongu troop was the main reason for the triumph in war against the british troop with more than forty thousand soldiers in the mavalli region. In 1799, Tippu sultan died in the Srirangapattinam war. Many soldiers were caought and arrested by the British. Theeran Chinnalamalai gathered his entire Kongu troop and went towards the river Cauvery in the South. The british troops followed them to a long distance but couldn't trace them. After returning from Mysore Theeran Chinnamalai was more active and more vigorous in the politics of Kongu

region. The reble mission led by hteeran Chinnamalai to get the support of Dhoondaji Waugh was called the First Mission of Kannada Rebels".

He gathered Virupachi Gopalanaicker, thali Ethuluappa Naicker, dindugal Lakkma Naicker, Paramathi appachi Gownder, Chinnamaruthu, Madurai Muthu Karupadevar, Thanjai Gnanamuthu, Malabar Kerala Varma and formed dingudal Warrior Troop. Theeran Chinnamalai was the head of the troop. The Coimbatore troop was under the control of British. IN 1800 JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> ON MOHARAM DAY, Theeran Chinnamalai decided to destroy the fifth regiment of british cavalry that garrisoned the fort of the Coimbatore revolution. The dindugal worriors troops hiden in and around the present Coimbatore region.

Coimbatore fort was spied. On receiving secret information from tahisildar, british smelt the rebels activities and forty two rebels were captured , put to trail and were publicly executed. Despite the initial setback at Coimbatore the patriots carried on the struggle unabated. In the first polygar war theeran chinnamalai defeated with his small troops the cornel Maxwell . Many british battalions were died in that war.

In the second polygar war , British collected more than ten thousand soldiers and faced the theeran Chinnamalai troop at the bank of river Noyyal. It was held for two days and at the end of the war Theeran Chinnmalai cut the head of the British leader and kept in a plate and showed to all the houses in the Kongu region not to worry about the British anymore.

In the third polygar war Carnal Harris marched towards River Cauvery to face the Theeran Chinnamalai like a blot from the blue. Theeran Chinnamalai had no time to gather his troops. Theeran Chinnalamai shot Harris horse in its chest. In great agony the horse returned back started to run uncontrol. Other horses also followed

d the same and theeran chinnamalai chased them upto annur . That was the brilliant trick of Theeran Chinnamalai that without killing the horse he shoot it and watched the horse running.

Theeran chinnamalai ruled the kongu region for more than five years. British planned to attack Theeran Chinnamalai in odanalai fort. On getting the secret information that he and his fort were to be attacked by the cannons, Theeran Chinnamalai along with his brothers and cook Nallappan hid in Karumalai near the Palani malai. The cook Nallappan betrayed them and had a hand in glove with british in catching the Theeran chinnamalai and his brothers in Karumalai. Theeran chinnamalai and his brothers were hanged on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1805.

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