

Genl R. S. Douglas to the Duke of Exeter
Removed from numerical order

Enclosure -

(21041 - 2)

London Oct. 27. 1813.

My Lord,

In a moment of the most poignant distress
Inaturally turn to your Lordship as an old friend of my
Fathers, and, may I add, of mine -

I have learnt with the deepest grief that R. S. the
Princ. Regent has received an unfavorable impression con-
-cerning me from certain representations & letters which
have been written home respecting Sir John Murray's affair
before Tanagora - - To you, my Lord, I look with the hope
that you will assist me by soliciting His Royal Highness, if he
has heard one party, to hear the other - I do not ask your
Lordship to give any opinion or to use any influence in
my behalf - I ask only to be heard - that the Calumnies
& groundless Rumours circulated by a personal Enemy
may not remain without reply -

Sir John Murray has been censured for losing his Guns
at Tanagora, & R. Adm. Hallowell, from an old pique, has
most unjustly dragged forward my name to attach to it
part of the odium of the above measure -

The Duke of Exeter

Do

Do not understand, my Lord, that I am here giving an opinion on that affair, or implying that Sir John Murray was either right or wrong - but, whether he did well, or ill, I was not the originator or adviser of what was done - I knew had the least influence with Sir John Murray, and, in this case, as in all others, Sir John Murray decided for himself, as he had an undoubted right to do, without consulting me -

Whether or no I gave, or held any opinions after Sir John Murray had decided it would ill become me to discuss here, as it would be expressing a prejudgment of a Cause at a time when it is expected to be shortly brought before a Competent Tribunal; where I shall be ready to declare & stand by all I said, or did, in the execution of my Duty as Lt. Col. General. I shall shrink from nothing I really did, or said, and I feel confident that when all shall be known I shall stand in my proper light as a Soldier -

My Lord, when I tell you that adm. Hallowell addressed me on an open beach before officers of all Ranks, Surpriants, Soldiers, & Servants in terms too gross to be recited here, and when I tell you that in his rage and venom he avowed that he had long been watching for an opportunity

Gen R. S. Doulton to the Uxbridge Enclosure -
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"To lay hold of me, and now that he had got it he would hold
"me fast -" I say, my Lord, that after such a declaration
nothing more is wanting to put his accusations, his conduct,
and himself, in their true colours; & I shall not comment on
them - - but, it was with much pain that I saw an officer
of whom I had always spoken and thought, as I still
do, in the highest manner, I mean Colonel Adam, ranging
himself under the Admiral to join in this unjust
clamour against me - but after he had gone about the
whole fleet and army speaking of me as he did, I apprehend
to his nearest relations - to his best friends - say to them:
- self - whether or no I could pass over such conduct in
an inferior officer - - Setting all personal feeling out
of the Question my Duty demanded that I should notice such
a breach of discipline, and accordingly laid the circum:
-stances before Lord M. Boscawen -

I feel no animosity against Col. Adam, and before his
unprovoked treatment of me I had a very great personal
regard for him - but rather as a Soldier, nor as a
Man could I remain silent under such an attack, even if
well founded - Still more was I called on to repel it,
founded as it was wholly in error -

My Lord, it is heart breaking after serving so many years
with something more, I hope, than bare credit, to be thus
unjustly calumniated -- I rely on the justice which has
ever distinguished the Princes Regent, & I trust that if His
R. Highness will be gracious to be pleased to hear this letter,
any impressions which may have been made unfavorable
to me will be removed - and that His R. Highness will not con-
-demn on an ex parte statement one of his most faithful
servants, and one who has an honest pride in saying that
there is no part of his military career on which he looks back
with a blush, or in which he was not actuated by the most
perfect zeal and devotion for the Service; & that this is
his Character he appeals with confidence to His Royal Highness,
the Commander in Chief, and to the whole Army.

Pardon my Lord, this Trouble, for
Your Lordships ever obliged &
obed. Servant
W. Dowker

Gen. W. Dowker

Oct. 27. 1713.