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In 1805. I first had the honor to propose to Mr. Pitt, the construction of Fire Rockets for the annoyance of the Enemy's Coast, having by a series of experiments at my own cost, previously ascertained the powers of which this Weapon was capable - Mr. Pitt with other Ministers of that day, were in consequence pleased to attend in person an Experiment at Woolwich, and from their own conviction of the efficiency of the Weapon, ordered an establishment to be immediately formed, and in the Autumn of that year granted me an allowance of One hundred pounds p. Month, during the continuance of the service - which was at that time paid at the Secretary of States Office for the War department.

In 1806 - at the change of Administration which happened in consequence of the death of Mr. Pitt,

Colonel Congreves statements respecting the Rocket Service, from its commencement in 1805 to 1813.

Lord Howick then first Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Moira, Master General of the Ordnance, having also personally attended an Experiment, determined that the service should continue, and it was arranged, that the payment of my allowance should be transferred from the Secretary of States Office to the Navy Office, the application of this new Weapon having commenced in Naval operations for the annoyance of the Enemy's Coasts; It was accordingly paid to me at that Office expressly "as preparing stores for the annoyance of the Enemy" and it is here only necessary briefly to state, that these preparations and the receipt of this allowance, have proceeded ever since according to this establishment, that during this period a great variety of Rocket Equipments have been sent to all parts of the World; in five of which I have myself personally attended, and that in the present year, the average has been greater than in any other

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preceding Year; not less than four equipments, on a great scale, having been formed, and the People instructed under my direction for foreign service - namely - One of 3000 Rockets to Sir J. B. Warren on the American Station, by Admiralty order, with a detachment of Marine Artillery, - Another of the same force with a similar detachment to Dantzic - Another of 4000 Rockets now serving with the Army of the Crown Prince, and a fourth, which sailed last week of 3000 Rockets, equipped either for naval or land service, to Cadix - besides which I have now orders for 11,000 Rockets to be immediately prepared - and am now proceeding to make Rockets the actual weights and explosive powers of which will equal those of the 10 and 13 inch Shell.

Under these circumstances it seems fair to presume, not only that the confidence of the Government in this Weapon is

Colonel Congreve's statements respecting the Rocket Service, from its commencement in 1805 to 1813.

increasing, but that, if my services in the preparation of these equipments were deemed at their commencement worthy of the salary I have hitherto received, they are at least equally so, at the present moment. Of course the extension which I have made latterly, of the uses of this Weapon to the land service can not be considered as lessening my claim for its application as a naval implement of Warfare; nor render me less competent to receive my allowance from the Navy Board, where it has hitherto been paid; even had any specific remuneration been made me for this extension to military purposes: no such remuneration has however taken place, and here I must beg particularly to state, that being neither in the Army or Navy I have no other emolument whatever for my services than that above mentioned; that for this therefore I have not only produced a new and powerful arm; but have devoted myself entirely to the public service

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with a zeal, that has several Years induced disbursements far exceeding my allowance - that by constant and unremitting attention I have succeeded in bringing this Weapon to great perfection, not only as an auxiliary in naval, but in military operations - and that in the actual application of it to both of these purposes; I can affirm that the destruction of Enemy's Property occasioned by it has already very far indeed exceeded the whole expense incurred in the service, independent of the general effect which it is known throughout Europe to have produced in the different Expeditions, in which it has been employed.

I feel a confidence therefore that the foregoing statements must prove, that not only have I merited the allowance which the Government were pleased to grant me, but that the value of the services, for which that allowance was expressly granted, has in fact, hitherto at all events, continued to increase.

(signed) W. Congreve.

Colonel Longman
1813.