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TESTIMONIALS

OF THE SERVICES OF

LIEUT. GEN. SIR JOHN DOYLE, Bart.

I CERTIFY that Generals Leslie and Gould did represent to me the Zeal and Services of Major John Doyle, while he served under their Command, in South Carolina, in Terms of the highest Honour to that Officer: and that I have considered his Conduct during the whole American War, as highly meritorious.

7th December, 1790.

(Signed) HENRY CLINTON,
(late Commander in Chief.)

SIR,

CONCEIVING an Officer of your Rank and Character cannot possibly need any Testimonial of his good Services, when they are so universally known as yours are to the whole Army, I own I am at a loss to give an Answer to your's of the 15th Instant, which you have honoured me with, unless you are pleased to accept my best Wishes for your Success in any Promotion you may be soliciting.

I have the Honour, Sir, to be

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) W. HOWE.

Major John Doyle.

THESE Lines are to certify, that from the beginning of the late American War, Major John Doyle, then a Lieutenant in the 40th Regiment, appeared always to be a Young Person of distinguished Merit, he being immediately under my Command. But near the end of the War in South Carolina, when I had the Honour to be entrusted with the public Matters, I was strongly convinced of my former Opinion, where I employed him as a Partizan under my immediate Eye: and I think him to be a most *active, enterprizing, prudent, and brave Soldier*.

Given at Edinburgh, 19th January, 1791.

(Signed) ALEXANDER LESLIE,
Lieutenant General.

HAVING had frequent Opportunities as Quarter Master General, of observing the Conduct of Major John Doyle in different Situations in the last American War, I can venture to say that no Officer in the Army acted with more propriety and spirit than he did, and is in every respect a most deserving Officer.

(Signed) WILLIAM ERSKINE,
Late Quarter Master General.

London, May 8th, 1793.

I do hereby certify, that Major John Doyle, of the late 105th Regiment, served under my Command in South Carolina as Adjutant-General, some Part of the Time that I commanded the Army in the upper Part of that Province; that I always found him a zealous, enterprizing, and intelligent Officer; and that I found the greatest Aid from his Capability as an Officer; and that I have always entertained so high an idea of his Ability, that there is no Officer I would so soon wish to serve with, was I to have the Honour to be again appointed to a Command.

(Signed) ALEX. STEWART,
Major-General.

London, June 3d, 1796.

COLONEL JOHN DOYLE having applied to me for a Testimonial, relative to such Parts of his Service as I have had Occasion to witness, I most cheerfully comply with his Request. He was under my immediate Command in America for Part of the Year 1779, and for the Whole of 1780 and 1781.

In every Instance of the hard and trying Business of those Campaigns, he manifested the high Character he had before acquired for Courage and zealous Activity.

It was my Lot to see him in Circumstances of peculiar Difficulty, and I never observed more Firmness, Judgment, or ready Resource in any Man.

He has served long as Major of Brigade, in which Capacity he received the Thanks, in Public Orders, of Lord Cornwallis and myself upon separate Occasions, and experienced the same honorary Reward from Lieutenant-General Leslie, who succeeded me in the Command in Carolina.

Subsequent to my quitting that Province, he had the Opportunity of distinguishing himself much at the Head of Detachments. Latterly he was again under my Eye during the short Time which I passed on the Continent.

At the Attack which the French made on Alost, I had particular Reason to applaud the cool Intrepidity with which he repulsed them at one of the Bridges. Though he there received Two Wounds, he did not quit his Regiment until the Enemy had given up the Attempt.

I consider him as a most valuable Officer, full of active Resource, and fit to be confidently relied upon in any Situation of Danger.

(Signed) MOIRA,
Lieutenant-General.

EXTRACT OF A DISPATCH

From Lieutenant-General Hutchinson, dated June 29th, 1801, from the Gazette Extraordinary, 23d August, 1801.

"FROM Generals Craddock and Doyle, the General Officers employed immediately under my Orders, I have derived the greatest Assistance; and I beg Leave to recommend them as highly deserving His Majesty's Favour."

(Signed) J. H. HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant-General.

COPY OF A LETTER

From Lieutenant-General Hutchinson to Brigadier-General Doyle.

MY DEAR DOYLE,

Malta, December 22, 1801.

THOUGH I sincerely regret the Cause of your Letter, I am at the same Time extremely happy that you have given me an Opportunity of explaining my Conduct, and do assure you that I had no Intention of wounding your honourable Feelings, or of detracting from that Merit or those Services of which no Man can be more sensible than I am.

You will be convinced from what I said to you next Day, how perfectly satisfied I was with your Conduct; and, indeed, I had a Feeling at that Time, that you had ventured your valuable Life rashly, in quitting a sick Bed to do your Duty in the Field, to which your Health appeared to me to be entirely unequal. That Sentence, in my Letter, I confess to be confused and embarrassed, and not at all conveying my real Meaning; but I wrote in extreme haste, broken in upon almost every Instant, and under the Pressure of severe Pain.

Nothing can afflict me so deeply as the Wound it has given to your Feelings; but I hope you will do me the Justice to suppose, that it was not an intentional Act upon my Part, and that you will not entirely condemn me for one awkward Expression, occasioned by the Inadvertence of the Moment, and the Pressure of a Thousand disagreeable Circumstances.

Nothing can be so far from my Heart, as to do Injustice to those brave Men whom I was so fortunate as to command in Egypt, particularly one whom I have so much reason to love and esteem.

It was not only on the 17th of August that I had reason to applaud your manner of Acting, but during the whole Course of a long and arduous Campaign, your zealous Exertions gave me the greatest Reason to approve of your Conduct, and I shall ever acknowledge them to have been highly beneficial to the Public Service. You may be assured, that on all Occasions, and to

all Persons, I shall be ever ready to do you that Justice which you deserve: were I not, it would be a severe Accusation against my own Head and Heart. Believe me, what has happened has given me more pain than I can express.

Believe me to be,

My dear General,

Truly and affectionately your's,

(Signed) J. H. HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant General.

Brigadier General Doyle.

EXTRACT OF A DISPATCH

From General Hutchinson to Lord Hobart.

Malta, 9th January, 1802.

In my last, which alludes to the Capture of Alexandria, I have worded a Sentence, in so confused and inexplicit a Manner, as to render it doubtful whether Brigadier General Doyle was actually present or not with his Brigade on that Day; he not only was at their Head, but conducted himself, as he always does, in the most gallant and handsome Manner.

I am happy to have this Opportunity of doing Justice to the Merits of a most active, diligent, and zealous General Officer.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) J. H. HUTCHINSON.

Lord Hobart, &c. &c.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF LORD HOBART,

Secretary of State for the War Department, August, 1801.

"And although the Valour of all our Officers was so well known, as to render it unnecessary to mention particular Facts or Individuals, yet there was one Officer, whom he should name, because by Mistake no mention had been made of him in the Dispatch of Lord Hutchinson, and to pass him by without

Notice, would be doing an irreparable Injury to his Fame. The Officer he alluded to was General Doyle. It happened at the Time his Division proceeded to attack a Fort near Alexandria, that he was at the Distance of near Forty Miles, labouring under a severe fit of Illness. The moment he heard of the intended Attack, he got out of his Bed—rode over the Desert—joined his Troops—and fought with the same degree of Bravery, which he had always displayed on every former Occasion.” His Lordship then read a Letter from General Lord Hutchinson, in which that brave and noble Person expressed his Regret, that in a former Dispatch he had omitted the Name of General Doyle, of whom he spoke in high terms of Praise.

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Lieut. Gen. Sir John Doyle, Bt.

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