

= John Doukas (megas doux) =

John Doukas (Greek : ??????? ?????? , ca . 1064 ? before 1137) was a member of the Doukas family , a relative of Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos (r . 1081 ? 1118) and a senior military figure of his reign . As governor of Dyrrhachium , he secured the imperial possessions in the western Balkans against the Serbs . Appointed megas doux , he scoured the Aegean of the fleets of the Turkish emir Tzachas , suppressed rebellions in Crete and Cyprus , and then recovered much of the western coast of Anatolia for Byzantium .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

John Doukas was born circa 1064 , the second son of the domestikos ton scholon Andronikos Doukas , son of the Caesar John Doukas , and his wife , Maria of Bulgaria , the granddaughter of Tsar Ivan Vladislav of Bulgaria (r . 1015 ? 1018) . John was thus the brother @-@ in @-@ law of Alexios I Komnenos , who had married his sister Irene Doukaina . In 1074 , during the rebellion of the Norman mercenary Roussel de Bailleul , John , along with his elder brother Michael , was at his grandfather the Caesar 's estates in Bithynia . Roussel demanded that the Caesar give up the two as hostages in return for releasing their wounded father , whom he held captive . The elder John Doukas agreed , and the two were imprisoned by Roussel ; Michael managed to escape , but the younger John remained with Roussel until the latter 's defeat and capture by the Turks of Artuk later in the year .

After his father died in 1077 , John remained in his grandfather 's estates in Thrace , and was raised by him . It was there that he learned of the rebellion of Alexios Komnenos against Nikephoros III Botaneiates (r . 1078 ? 1081) in 1081 , and it was he who informed the Caesar of it . Together , they departed and joined Alexios 's forces at Schiza , where the latter was officially proclaimed emperor .

= = = Governor of Dyrrhachium = = =

In 1085 , when Alexios recovered the strategically important Adriatic port city of Dyrrhachium from the Normans who had occupied it , John Doukas was installed as the military governor (doux) of the local province . John remained there until 1092 , when he was replaced by John Komnenos , the son of the emperor 's brother , the sebastokrator Isaac . His tenure was apparently very successful . John repelled the Serbian incursions from Duklja and Ra?ka , and even , according to Anna Komnene , captured the Dukljan king Constantine Bodin (r . 1081 ? 1101) , before restoring him to power as a client of the Byzantine Empire . Thus John managed to restore order in the region of Albania and Dalmatia , which had suffered greatly during the Byzantine ? Norman wars of the previous years . Surviving correspondence from the archbishop Theophylact of Ohrid is a testimony to his success ; after John 's departure from the post , Theophylact expressed nostalgia for the time of his governorship and asked for his advice .

= = = Appointment as megas doux and campaigns against the Turks = = =

After being recalled to Constantinople in 1092 , John was appointed to the post of megas doux , i.e. commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the Byzantine navy . Although he is the first known megas doux and hence usually credited as the first to hold the post , there is evidence of its existence already in late 1085 , although its holder is not named . As megas doux , John was tasked with countering the naval threat posed by the Turkish emir Tzachas of Smyrna . Tzachas , formerly a Byzantine vassal , had built a fleet of his own and had seized several Aegean islands , raided others , and even had himself proclaimed basileus (emperor) . After participating in a synod that condemned Leo of

Chalcedon , John set forth to take back the island of Mytilene . His troops marched along the Anatolian coast to the point opposite the island , whence they crossed over . The fleet , which under Constantine Dalassenos had already recovered Chios , was to meet him there . The combined Byzantine force laid siege to Mytilene for three months , when Tzachas offered to cede the island in exchange for safe passage back to Smyrna . John agreed , but as the Turks set sail , Dalassenos , who with his ships had just arrived , attacked them . Tzachas managed to escape , but most of his fleet was captured or sunk . After this victory , John Doukas reinforced the defences of Mytilene and then led his fleet to recover the islands Tzachas had conquered , before returning to Constantinople .

Upon his return to Constantinople , he was tasked (late 1092 / early 1093) , along with Manuel Boutoumites , with the suppression of the revolts in Crete by Karykes and in Cyprus by Rhapsomates . The rebellion of Karykes was subdued easily , as the news of the imperial fleet 's approach caused a counter @-@ coup that overthrew him . At Cyprus , Rhapsomates 's initial resistance was overcome , and he himself was captured soon after . Eumathios Philokales was installed as the island 's new governor , and the fleet returned to Constantinople .

In 1097 , after the surrender of Nicaea to the Byzantines , Alexios named John as commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the Byzantine army in Anatolia , and tasked with recovering the Aegean littoral from the Turks . To avoid conflict and facilitate negotiations , he was given custody of the wife of the sultan of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum Kilij Arslan I (r . 1092 ? 1107) and the daughter of Tzachas , who had been captured at Nicaea . John gave command of the fleet to Kaspax , and marched against Smyrna . After a short siege , Tzachas agreed to surrender the city in exchange for his safe departure and guarantees of the inhabitants ' safety . The megas doux readily accepted and took possession of the city , naming Kaspax as its governor . Even before Kaspax could assume his duties however , he was murdered by a Muslim , and the enraged sailors of the fleet massacred the people of the city . John Doukas was unable to restrain them , and restored order only after the massacre had run its course . He then left the experienced general Hyaleas behind as doux of the city along with the entire fleet to secure the city , and continued his campaign . From Smyrna , John marched south to Ephesus . There , he defeated the Turkish garrison after a long battle , and took 2 @, @ 000 captives , who were resettled in the Aegean islands . Petzeas was installed as doux of Ephesus , and John with his army turned inland . He took the cities of Sardeis and Philadelphia , which he entrusted to Michael Kekaumenos , and reached Laodicea , which opened its gates to him . From there , he marched to the fortresses of Choma and Lampe , installing Eustathios Kamytzes as governor , and reached Polybotos , where most of the Turks who had survived at Ephesus had fled . Having caught them by surprise , Doukas 's army defeated them and took much booty .

= = = Later life = = =

John Doukas is no longer mentioned in the Alexiad after his 1097 campaign . It is , however , known from monastic documents that at some point he retired to a monastery and assumed the monastic name Antony . The date of his death is also not known , but in a typikon dated to 1110 ? 1116 he is mentioned as being alive , while in another typikon of 1136 , he is explicitly mentioned as having died .