



Left: John Trumbull's 1819 painting, *Declaration of Independence*, depicts the five-man drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence presenting their work to the Congress. It does not represent a real ceremony; the characters portrayed were never in the same room at the same time. (Painting courtesy of Architect of the Capitol)

Background: Scans of the original 1775 resolution authorizing the creation of the Continental Army, which changed the course of the war for American independence and the history of the world. (Photos courtesy of the National Archives)

of the whole to take into consideration the ways & means of raising money
also the state of America. —

Adjourned till to morrow at 9 o'clock —

Wednesday June 14. 1775

The Congress met & agreeable to the order of the day resolved itself
into a committee of the whole to take into consideration & —
after some time spent thereon ~~the~~ President refused the chair & would report
that ~~they~~ ^{having} not yet come to a conclusion they desired him to move for leave to
sit again, but at the same time they desired him to report some resolutions which
they had come into. The resolutions being read were adopted as follows

Resolved, That six companies of expert rifle men be immediately raised in Pennsylvania
two in Maryland & two in Virginia, ^(see infra p. 13. below) that each company as soon as complete
shall march & join the army near Boston to be there employed as light infantry
under the command of the chief officer in that army,

That the pay of the Officers & privates be as follows

a Capt. @ 20 dollars p month a Lieutenant @ 13 ²/₃ dollars
a Sergeant @ 8 dollars corporal @ 7 ¹/₃ dollars, drummer or ^{7 ¹/₃ doll}
privates @ 6 ²/₃ dollars to find their own arms & cloaths —

That each company consist of a captain three lieutenants four
sergeants, four corporals a drummer or ^{trumpeter} & fifty eight privates
That the form of the enlistment be ~~as follows~~ in the following words

"I have this day voluntarily enlisted myself as a soldier in the

observed B
as above

published for the government of the Army. —
Resolved that Mr. Washington, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Deane, Mr. Cushing & Mr. Hewes
be a committee to bring in a dra't of Rules & regulations for the government of
the Army.
A letter from the Convention of New York dated 10 June 1775 respecting
a vessel which is stopt there on suspicion of taking having provisions on board
for the army & navy at Boston was read & referred to the delegates of New York
Massachusetts bay Connecticut & New York.
Resolved that the Congress will to morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole
to take into consideration the ways & means of raising money & the state
of America. This to be a standing order until the business is completed.
Adjourned till to morrow at 9 o'clock

The Birth of the U.S. Army

Wednesday, June 14, 1775

The Congress met and agreeable to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration. After some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that not having yet come to a conclusion they desired him to move for leave to sit again. At the same time they desired him to report some resolutions which they had come into.

The resolutions being read, were adopted as follows:

Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; that each company consist of a captain, three lieutenants, four serjeants, four corporals, a drummer or trumpeter, and sixty-eight privates.

That each company, as soon as compleated, shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army.

That the pay of the Officers and privates be as follows, viz. a captain @ 20 dollars per month; a lieutenant @ 13 1/3 dollars; a serjeant @ 8 dollars; a corporal @ 7 1/3 dollars; drummer or [trumpeter] @ 7 1/3 doll.; privates @ 6 2/3 dollars; to find their own arms and cloathes.

That the form of the enlistment be in the following words:

I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said Army.

Upon motion, Resolved, That Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Philip] Schuyler, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, and Mr. [Joseph] Hewes be a committee to bring in a dra't of Rules and regulations for the government of the army.

A letter from the convention of New York, dated 10 June, 1775, respecting a vessel which is stopt there, on suspicion of having provisions on board for the army and navy at Boston, was read and referred to the delegates of Massachusetts bay, Connecticut, and New York.

Resolved, That the Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the ways and means of raising money, and the state of America. This to be a standing order, until the business is completed.

Adjourned till to Morrow at 9 o'Clock.