

EARLY AND INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

RESOLVES OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION OF DECEMBER, 1775.

1 January, 1776.

“ Resolved, That this province be immediately put in the best state of defence.

Resolved, That a sufficient armed force be immediately raised and embodied under proper officers, for the defence and protection of this province.

Resolved, That 1444 men, with proper officers, be immediately raised in the pay and for the defence of this province.

Resolved, That 8 companies of the said troops, to consist of 68 privates each, under proper officers, be formed into a battalion.

Resolved, That the remainder of the said troops be divided into companies of 100 men each.

Resolved, That two companies of the said troops, to consist of 100 men each, be companies of matrosses, and trained as such.”

14 January, 1776, Resolves were passed which authorized the troops to consist of a battalion of 9 companies, 7 independent companies, 2 companies of artillery and 1 company of marines. The officers were selected and their pay fixed. The Council of Safety was empowered to order these troops into Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania.