

BACKGROUNDS OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

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Military Obligation:  
THE AMERICAN TRADITION

*A Compilation of the Enactments of Compulsion  
From the Earliest Settlements  
of the Original Thirteen Colonies in 1607  
Through the  
Articles of Confederation 1789*

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PART 2. CONNECTICUT ENACTMENTS

THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

1947

safety; and of such their proceedings and resolves they do transmit authentic copies from time to time to the General Assembly of this Colony. That the said Delegates now appointed do repair to and take their seats in said Congress by the first day of January next, in case said Congress shall be then sitting, or as soon after as said Congress shall be convened; and that the said gentlemen who are now attending said Congress in behalf of this Colony do continue in their said office until the gentlemen now chosen and are directed to attend in manner aforesaid shall arrive at said Congress.

Whereas the committee appointed by this Assembly in May last for the purpose of procuring three thousand stand of arms for the use of this Colony &c. have now represented to this Assembly that they have proceeded in said business and procured a considerable number of said arms to be made [504] in this Colony, which are now in the hands || of said committee: but notwithstanding their utmost assiduity have not been able to procure the whole number ordered by said act within the time therein limited:

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That the said committee be directed and they are hereby directed, to purchase and receive for the use of this Colony all the stands of fire-arms which shall be made and compleated within this Colony, according to the direction of the aforesaid act, and shall be delivered to said committee at any time before the first day of May next; and the manufacturers of said fire-arms and gunlocks shall be entituled to and receive the same bounty as those are entituled to by said act who made and delivered to the committee any arms before the 20th day of October instant, the time therein limited.

See also original p. 138

**An Act in further Addition to an Act entituled An Act for the forming and regulating the Militia and for the Encouragement of Military Skill for the better Defence of this Colony.**

*Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That the chief officer of every troop shall cause the arms and ammunition of all under his command, and the chief officer of every company of foot shall cause the arms and ammuni-

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480. Conn.—*General Assembly, New Haven, 15 Hoadly; Act, Oct. 11–25, 1775, pp. 137–139.*

tion of all under his command, and also of all others dwelling within the limits of his company who are by law obliged to keep arms, to be reviewed on the first Monday of May and the first Monday of October annually, by requiring such persons to bring forth their arms and ammunition at a certain time and place by such officer appointed; and if any of the persons aforesaid shall not appear, being thereto required and duly warned, or shall be deficient in arms or ammunition, such persons respectively shall pay the same fine for non-appearance, and also for deficiency of arms or ammunition, and in manner as in and by said act is provided, saving and excepting as in said act is excepted; any repealing act, or any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

This act to continue and be in force for the term of one year from the rising of this Assembly, and no longer.

**An Act in further Addition to an Act entituled An Act for forming and regulating the Militia and for the Encouragement of Military Skill for the better Defence of this Colony.**

*Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That each and every trooper inlisted into and belonging to any troop of horse in this Colony shall, within three months from the first day of November next, furnish and provide himself with a suitable horse and furniture, a carabine and every other article of fire-arms and accoutrements which are by law already directed and prescribed for troopers, and the same constantly hold and keep in readiness for service. And that every person who shall hereafter inlist and be received into any troop of horse shall, within three months after such his inlistment, be compleatly furnished, provided and equipped in manner aforesaid.

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That every inlisted or to be inlisted trooper who shall neglect to furnish and provide himself in manner and within the time and times limited as aforesaid, shall be by the captain or chief officer of such troop discharged and dismissed from the same; and every person so discharged shall be liable and shall attend and perform military duty in the company of foot within