

FOR still greater security, I would advise the commanding Officer to procure a Plan of the circumjacent Country, by the Means which the Reader will find explained in the tenth Chapter, *of Surprizes*, Plan III. He will also find it necessary to take along with him one or two safe and intelligent Guides. The same tenth Chapter will likewise instruct him in what manner he may be enabled to judge of their Capacity, and consequently how best to determine in his Choice. Too many of these People is frequently dangerous: the more they are in Number, the more easy will it be for some of them to escape to the Enemy, who being apprized of your Intention, it may naturally be supposed, will frustrate your Enterprize.

ALL things being ready for the March, let your Van-guard A, Plan I. be ordered to proceed: It should be composed intirely of Cavalry. I am not a little surprized, that all the various Authors
who

who have treated of this part of the Art Military, have given so little Attention to this most essential Point. Many of them disregard it intirely; and the rest, not considering sufficiently the Business of this advanced Party, make it to consist of Infantry only. Nevertheless, if they would but consult the ordinary Occurrences that happen on a secret March, their Reason would convince them, that Cavalry are the most proper for this Duty.

WHETHER they are to secure the Peasants who might discover your Rout, or to attack the advanced Guard of the Enemy, whom, by chance, you may Encounter on the Road, and afterwards return to give notice of their Approach, it is incontestible that they will have greatly the Advantage over a body of Infantry in the same Situation; the latter being entirely incapable of giving Notice to the main Body time enough for them to put themselves in a proper Position to engage.

FOR the same Reasons, in the Night, your advanced Guard should be double the Number to what it is in the Day-time. In an open Country it may be advanced to any Distance, provided it remains in sight of the main Body; but in close Roads it should not, during the Night, be advanced above fifty Paces.

THE Van-guard will likewise order a Non-commissioned Officer, B. with six Light-horsemen to march about fifty Paces in the front of the Whole, divided into three distinct Parties; one in the Centre B. and the other two C. C. on each side of the Road. The Business of these small Parties, is carefully and in silence, to explore every Copse or Cover, and to be particularly attentive that there be no body of Men laid flat upon the Ground, or concealed behind the Trees, or in the Ditches.

AT the Distance also of fifty Paces, a Serjeant and ten or twelve Dragoons
D. D.

D. D. must march on each Flank of the main Body. If they should fall in with the Enemy, be they ever so numerous, the Serjeant must charge them at all Events; and, by that means, endeavour to retard their Progress till the Troops have had time to form.

EACH of these flanking Parties must also detach two Dragoons, who are likewise to march at the distance of fifty Paces from their Flanks, and to make good their Rout as well as the nature of the Country will permit. These are mark'd E. E. in the Plan. When they come at an impassable Thicket, or Hill, N. N. they must divide, and join again on the other Side. The moment they perceive the least trace or shadow of Troops, approaching or concealed, they must communicate their Suspicions to the Commander, by passing the Word from one to another.

THE advanced Guard should march slow, lest the Rear should be obliged to gallop. The rear Guard H. as it is chiefly intended to prevent the stragling of your own Men, needs not be very strong.

BOTH Quarter-masters and Officers should take care to keep the Men awake; for the irregular Motion of a Rider asleep will gall the Back of his Horse immediately, which alone is sufficient to retard your March. No one must be allowed to smook Tobacco, or to speak a single Word: When they have occasion to cough or spit, they must be ordered to put a Handkerchief to their Mouths, and not to make the least Noise.

IF your Command is sufficiently numerous, it will be best to march the Cavalry by Squadrons, and the Infantry by Platoons. They must alternately succeed each other, so that each Platoon F. F. F. will march in the Front of each Squadron

Squadron G. G. G. By this Disposition, you will not only keep an equal pace upon the March; but, on any sudden Alarm, may be instantly formed for Action, as we shall see anon.

WHEN the advanced Guard perceives any Troops of the Enemy at a Distance, whether by Night or Day, they are to send notice of it to the Commander; but not by any means to pursue them, lest they fall into an Ambuscade; unless it should happen to be a very open Country, where Ambuscades are impracticable. But if it should so happen that they fall in with the Enemy at once without the least previous Notice, as may be the case in the crossing of two Roads; in such a case, I say, the advanced Guard must, without hesitation, charge with all possible fury. They will in all probability succeed, be their Opponents Horse or Foot, provided they lose no time in deliberation. If on the contrary, your Van-guard should precipitately retreat, it is ten to one but

they throw the whole Body into disorder.

As soon as the Commander shall see the Van-guard engaged, he will order his Infantry to face to the Right or Left, whichever may be best to oppose the Cavalry of the Enemy. He will then march them out of the Road and form them, as may be seen by the Letters L. L. L. or, if in the Day-time, on the neighbouring Height M. The whole must front towards the Road, where the Cavalry remain in their order of March, and endeavour to conceal themselves till the Moment they are to attack. In the mean time the first Squadron must advance to sustain the advanced Guard. If the Enemy should return to the Charge, and seem determined to dispute your Passage, your Cavalry must feign a Retreat, till they have drawn the Enemy opposite to your Infantry, who by firing upon them in Flank, will in all Probability soon put them to rout. Your Cavalry
wil

will face about at the same Instant, and, as soon as the Firing ceases, pursue them full gallop; which must infallibly compleat their Destruction.

'Tis prudent, upon these Marches, to avoid, as much as possible, all Villages, Gentlemens Seats, and Farm-houses, especially if you march in the Night, lest you should be discovered by the barking of Dogs, or by the Peasants, who may apprize the Enemy of your Approach. It is easy to conceive, that in the Day-time, you are to shun all great Roads and open Plains in traversing an Enemy's Country.

If you find it impossible to avoid passing through a Village, you are to march in close Order, with as many File in Front as the whole Space between the Houses will contain, and to move forward as quick as you can: By this means you will, in a great measure, conceal your Numbers. Two or three Officers should

should continue in the Rear till the Whole have passed. No Man, upon any account whatsoever, must be suffered to stop or quit the Ranks, though it were but for a Moment. The same Precaution is necessary at the end of every Road which crosses that in which you are marching.

AT the approach of any Inclosure, Farm, Wood, Copse, &c. the whole must halt till it has been carefully reconnoitred; nor should you then pass without Circumspection and Order.

AFTER passing a Bridge, Defilé, or Ford, the advanced Guard should be drawn up at the distance of a hundred Paces till the whole have passed, and have again resumed their order of March.

THE Ancients, we are told, made use of Dogs to discover the Ambuscades of the Enemy; but, for my part, I should be so far from depending on such Spies,
that

that I would not suffer one of them to be kept by any of my Corps. Nothing can be more dangerous. It is more probable that they will discover you to the Enemy than the Enemy to you.

IT is always adviseable to retain the same Guides that marched out with you. If there should, during the March, be a necessity for another, the Quarter-master must be ordered to secure one as secretly as possible, and conduct him from the Village by some winding Road, that the Peasants may not know which way you are marching. Every Person, whether Traveller or Peasant, who is seen to have observed your Rout, must be obliged to march along with you, and not, on any account, suffered to escape.

WHEN your Troops want Refreshment in the Day-time, you are to halt in a Wood, and during the Night in the open Field; but never near a House, or in a Village, if it can be avoided. You must oblige

oblige the Country People to fetch any thing you may want from some neighbouring Place ; but they must deliver what they bring at so great a distance as not to be able to form any Judgment of your Strength or Quality.

DURING your Halt, you ought not to be sparing of your Centries. Six of your light Horse must always be mounted and ready to fetch in every Person that may come within sight of your Troops. When these Gentry become numerous, it is necessary to tye them together, and take good care that none of them escape till the Blow is struck. The Officers should be attentive that none of the private Men are suffered to pass the Centries. If you are under a necessity of making your Halt near to some Farm-house or Cottage, your first Business must be to surround it, and when you proceed on your March, you must oblige the Farmer to go along with you, threatening him first, in the Presence of his whole Family, with immediate

mediate Death, if any of them dares to stir from the House till his Return.

THE Quarter-masters should be provided with a good number of Nails, and every Horseman must have a Peck of Oats, and a Horse-shoe, in his Haversack.

THE best Season for secret Marches is the depth of Winter; for, at this time, both the Peasants and their Dogs keep within Doors, and the Enemy think more of guarding against the Cold, of which you that are upon the March are less susceptible, than of securing themselves against any Attempt upon their Lines or Garrisons.

IF you happen to come near any of their Posts in a stony Road, where the noise of the Horses Feet might discover your approach; the best way is to spread the Dragoons Cloaks, and let the Horses march over them. This Expedient was frequently of service to me in *Italy*.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the choice of Posts, and the Precautions necessary for their Security.

POSTS, in the military Language, are those Places where any number of Troops are lodged separately from the Army, which they are intended to cover and secure from insult. Their Situation is commonly determined by the Commander in Chief, unless some Partisan happens to have gained his Confidence; in which case, he generally gives him a discretionary Power to pitch upon such Places as shall appear to him most for the good of the Service and the benefit of his Corps.

A PARTISAN, in the choice of a Post, should previously examine whether it be so situated as to facilitate his Excursions
towards

towards the Enemy, when he shall be ordered to reconnoitre their Camp, to harrass, or surprize them ; whether he has any natural Defence in Front or on his Flanks, such as Rivulet, Morafs, or Wood, that may be easily cleared ; whether he will be able to preserve his Communication with the Army, and in case of necessity, to secure his Retreat ?

THESE Questions being answered in the Affirmative, he will proceed to take Possession in the following manner. The Foot are to continue under Arms in the Center of the Place, whilst the Cavalry make the Tour on the out Skirts. The Commander, escorted by twelve Hussars, will, in the mean time, take a more extensive Survey of the Country, that he may regulate his Plan of Operation accordingly. It would not be imprudent to send out, still further, small Detachments of Hussars ; they will enable him to make his Observations with more leisure and greater security.

HAVING

HAVING now form'd a distinct Idea of his natural Strength, and also of those Parts that are most expos'd to insult or surprize, he will then fix his main Guard, as for instance at D. Plan II. fronting towards the Enemy. He will also point out the adjacent Heights proper for posting the Videttes E. E. E. E. Their Number is determined by Circumstances and Situation. In a close Country not only your Videttes must be numerous, but all your Guards doubled. A non-commissioned Officer with eight Dragoons, should always be advanced fifty Paces in front of the Guard, ready to march upon the first Signal from any of the Videttes: See the Letter K.

THIS Guard being fixed, he will order another to be form'd in the center of the Village, which is called the ordinary Guard, and is compos'd both of Cavalry and Infantry. Sentries are to be posted at every Entrance into the Village, and Videttes upon all the neighbouring Heights,

Heights, at such a Distance as to see each other.

BESIDES, it will be necessary to mount a Piquet before the head Quarters (the Commander's Lodgings) which ought to be near the ordinary Guard. During the Day, half the Cavalry of the Piquet must keep their Horses bridled and ready to mount; but, if the Enemy is near, they must continue on Horse-back. The other half may unbridle till the Hour for Relief.

ACCORDING to the Plan which I have laid down for the Corps under the command of a Partisan, the main Guard may consist of a Captain of Cavalry, a Lieutenant, a Sub-lieutenant, Quarter-master, and Sixty private Men, including six Corporals, a Trumpet, and Farrier.

THE ordinary Guard should be composed of the same number of Cavalry as the main Guard, with an equal number

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of Officers and private Men of the Infantry.

THE Piquet is of the same strength and quality as the ordinary Guard.

A PARTISAN who commands a less numerous Corps, will provide for his Security in proportion to his Abilities. He must endeavour to post himself in some Hamlet, Country-house, Farm, or Convent: for the more extensive the place, the more fatiguing to the Troops that possess it, as your Guards, Videttes and Sentries, are proportionably numerous.

IF there should be any Copse or Cover, in the neighbourhood of your Post, without the Circle of your Patroles, that might veil the approach of the Enemy, it will be necessary to mount a Guard there during the Night, more or less numerous according to the importance of the Place.

THE Guards and Piquets being mounted, the Sentries and Videttes properly posted, and all the out Detachments return'd, the next Business is to barrack your Troops in the Gardens contiguous to the Commander's Quarters, and by clearing away the Hedges and filling up the Ditches, to level in your Front, a Space sufficient to contain your whole Force when drawn up in order of Battle.

IF there are Graneries, they will make excellent Stables for your Cavalry; but in case there are none, you must build Sheds for them as well as you can, taking care to leave a sufficient Opening in the Front for the whole to issue forth in proper order for charging.

THE Officers are to occupy the Houses adjoining to the Barracks; but it will be proper for one of a Company or Troop, to remain with the Men Night and Day, to prevent their going into the Village without leave.

THE Commander will indicate to all the Troops, the Place of general Rendezvous M. in case of Retreat. It should be at some distance from the Village, and such as may best secure his Retreat to the main Army.

AT the setting of the Sun, the main Guard must retire within the Post, and join the Piquet ; one half of the Cavalry of which must continue on Horse-back till the dawn of Day, when the main Guard are to resume their Station. Sentries and Videttes must be doubled, and every Opening, except that in the Front, block'd up by a double line of Waggon.

The Videttes are to be relieved every Hour by two Corporals of the ordinary Guard. They will march out together, but having past the post A. Plan II. they will divide their Command, and wheel round to the Right and Left, one relieving the Videttes B. B. B. and the other, those at C. C. C. which when they have performed

formed they are with the relieved Videttes, to make a reconnoitring Tour of two or three Miles, as you will see dotted in the Plan.

BESIDES this, the Captain of the main Guard will send out double Patroles which are constantly to march half an Hour after the relieving Parties during the Night, and to pursue the same Rout.

On the return of each, the Corporals must report to the Officer of the ordinary Guard, and the Patroles to the Captain of the main Guard.

It is prudent likewise, a little before the setting and rising of the Sun, to dispatch a grand Patrole, commanded by an Officer, with orders to examine scrupulously the entire *Environs*; especially such Places as are capable of concealing any number of Troops: For these probably are the Times when the Enemy will attempt to surprize you.

As Sentries are but Sentries, it is absolutely necessary to repeat to them each Particular of their Duty, every time they are posted. No smoaking, on any account; for the least Spark of Fire in the Night, may prove a sufficient guide to the Enemy. They are not to walk above five Paces to the Right, and as many to the Left, of their Post; nor are they ever to retire under cover, let the Weather be what it will. They are to suffer no Soldier to pass them; on any Pretence whatever: This will prevent Marauding and Desertion.

THE Videttes are to stop all Passengers, and conduct them to the next Sentry. The Sentry must pass the Word for the Corporal, who is to go along with them to the Commander. If there appears to be any number of People, the Vidette is to bid them stand the moment he perceives them; and make them keep their Distance till the Officer shall have sent a proper Party to reconnoitre them. If they appear to be of the Enemy, he will fire his Piece at them, and retire immediately.

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ON the first Alarm, both the main Guard and the Picquet are instantly to mount their Horses. They are each of them to detach a Subaltern with a Party of such as are best mounted to meet the Enemy. The remainder of the main Guard and the Cavalry of the Picquet are then, under the Command of their respective Captains, to march in order to support the first Detachments, and repulse, or at least detain, the Enemy till the Commander shall have time to form his little Army. If he finds their Force not too greatly Superior, he should, without hesitating a moment, put himself at the head of his Cavalry only, and charge them with all the Vigour and Impetuosity in his power. In the mean time the Infantry will have sufficient leisure to make an advantageous Disposition to support him.

WE must not here forget a very essential Circumstance, namely, that the moment the first Detachments march off; the whole Infantry of the Picquet should

retire to the place of Rendezvous assign'd in case of a Retreat, and should speedily be followed by a strong Party of Cavalry from the main Body. If your Rendezvous should happen to be so situated that the Enemy might possibly occupy it before you, and by that means, cut off your Retreat entirely: To prevent such a Disaster, it will be necessary for the Infantry of the Picquet to keep constant possession of it, together with a Lieutenant and twenty Horse, to be employ'd in Patroles and reconnoitring Parties.

SHOULD it seem that the Enemy are greatly superior, and that they are moving to surround you, the Commander must fall back his Troops to the place of general Rendezvous, where he is to halt till the whole have join'd, and then conduct his Retreat in the manner directed in the XIth Chapter of this Book, in which the Subject will be more amply discuss'd.

FOR

FOR your greater Security in a Post where you are likely to continue some time, and where you have reason to expect frequent visits from the Enemy, it may not be amiss to cause your People, with the assistance of the Peasants, to throw up slight Intrenchments in those Places that are most exposed, to secure the Woods by frequent Abbatis (Trees cut down) the Fords with Stakes, and your Front, by sinking Pits in the open Plain, into which their Cavalry must infallibly plunge if they should attempt a *Coup de main*. If in your Front, or upon either of your Flanks, there should happen to be a Bridge, as at N. which might facilitate the Approach, and Retreat of the Enemy, it must be instantly broken down, unless you imagine it may be of service to you, in which case you are to secure it by a strong Guard.

THAT the Commander may form his Plan of attack and defence to the greatest Advantage, he should take a very accurate
Survey

Survey of every Avenue to his Post, and regulate accordingly a Scheme of Operation suitable to each, whether it be to cut off their Retreat, or to take them in Flank by some blind Road convenient for the Purpose. He will not fail to inform his Officers of his Designs, and to hear their Opinions, especially of those of experienced Abilities. Such Precautions will be of infinite Service in his Attempts to surprize the Parties of the Enemy which will be sent to reconnoitre his Post.

IF they should approach you in the Night, you are not to attack them upon any account whatsoever: for it will be impossible to judge of their Strength, and they are supposed to be informed of yours.

LET no suspected Women come among your Troops: their Visits are dangerous on many accounts, as they will not only debauch

debauch your People, but may give intelligence to the Enemy.

No Defenter must be suffered to remain with you: if any of them come over in the Night, let them be detained by the Sentries till Day-break, and then conducted to the Army.

You are to suffer no body of Troops whatever to come within your Post, unless they can produce a proper Passport from the General, or that you are acquainted with some of their Officers. Give no credit to the Parole, nor their Uniform; but desire them politely, yet very seriously, to return by the way they came, or otherwise that you will treat them as Enemies. You are to continue under Arms till they have passed all your Guards. This Conduct will teach other Detachments to take proper Precautions for their admittance.

THE Officers should be ordered to remain as constantly as possible with their respective Corps, Troops, and Companies. Their Hours of Repast should be so contrived, that the private Soldiers should never be left entirely without Officers.

It is as necessary to be careful of our Provisions in the Field, as if we were at Sea. The Officers should be satisfied with a few Dishes, and those of plain, wholesome, Food. Indulgence of every kind has always been an Enemy to military Virtue.

THE Bed of a Partisan is the same with that of his Troops, *viz.* his Cloak, and a little Straw. He must never strip but in the Day-time, in order to change his Linen. It will be advisable for him to rise frequently during the Night, and visit his Out posts; especially in bad Weather, for it is then that he has most reason to expect Attempts from the Enemy.

Nothing

Nothing encourages a Soldier so much as the frequent Presence of his Commander. The rest of his Officers will not fail to follow his Example. This I myself have frequently experienced, to my very great Satisfaction, as I found it to have a happy Influence on my whole Corps.

DURING the Campaign of 1757, one of our Partisans wrote to *M. de Maillebois*, that he had seized a very advantageous Post, and had taken every necessary Measure to prevent his being surprized. It happened that I was detach'd the Night following, to reconnoitre the Enemy. By chance I fell in with this Post: but how was I astonish'd, to find every Man in the Place, both Officers and private Men, fast asleep! It was now dawn of Day. I had scarce time to awake them before the Enemy appear'd. Fortunately, I was ready to receive them. We amused them till Noon, when we were joined by the Army.

NOTHING

NOTHING can be more dangerous for a Corps than to have an indolent and delicate Commander, embarrassed with an useless train of Domesticks, superfluous Equipage, Camp-beds, Kitchen-furniture, and, in short, every other Appendage of Luxury and Effeminacy. Such fine Gentlemen generally pass their whole Time in Bed, or at Table, abandoning the Security of their Posts solely to the Vigilance of their Guards, who, not being answerable for the Conduct of their Commander, most certainly neglect their Duty, and are easily surprized. When the Place is lost we hear loud Complaints, and every one endeavours to exculpate himself by impeaching another; but the Equity of the General will soon cast the whole Reflection upon the Commander. How many Instances of this kind does our last Campaign in the Electorate of Hanover afford? How many of our Parties were surprized and taken with all their Baggage, which was sacrificed, through the Negligence or Inexperience
of

of our Commanders, to the laudable Vigilance of our Enemies ?

A WISE Partisan is convinced that he cannot too attentively, watch every Motion of the Enemy, who will frequently cause false Alarms with a design to throw you off your guard, and deceive you into an idle Security, which sooner or later will certainly prove fatal.

I AM by no means of the same Opinion with those who despise a false Alarm, and, in order to spare their Men, never make them stand to their Arms till they are assured of a real Attack. On the contrary, I think myself authorised by Experience to maintain, that upon the least alarm from the Videttes, you should beat to arms immediately: And though the Troops which 'are approaching should prove to be a Detachment from your own Army, the instant you are apprized of it, you should reconnoitre, receive, or pursue

sue them, with all the Attention that the Custom of War requires.

I AM far from being apprehensive that such Accuracy and Diligence, as I have recommended for the security of a Post, will prove an unnecessary Fatigue to your Troops: on the contrary, it will contribute greatly towards inuring them to Hardships, augment their Courage, Watchfulness and Dexterity; whilst, on the other hand, the inactivity of a Corps palls upon the Spirits, and softens the Heart of the Soldier.

A PARTISAN who adheres scrupulously to these Maxims, need be under no apprehensions of a Surprize. Were he even situated in the most woody and inclosed Country, it will be impossible for the Enemy to advance within a quarter of a Mile of his Post, without his being apprised of their Approach, either by the Videttes or Patroles. Five Minutes being sufficient time to form, he will have at least

least ten Minutes more to consider what Steps are most prudent to be taken; whether it be advisable to attack, defend, or retreat.

WHEN a Partisan establishes his Post in an Enemy's Country, his first care must be to provide for the Subsistence of his Corps. He will immediately send out Parties, as far forward as possible, to oblige the principal Villages to supply him with all the Forage and Provisions in their power; reserving those that are nearest, particularly that of which he is in possession, till the last Extremity.

As it is above all things required, that he should send constant Intelligence of all his Proceedings to the General, he must be very careful to secure his Communication with the Army.

C H A P. IX.

Precautions necessary in Reconnoitring.

RECONNOITRING Parties are small Detachments sent out to bring intelligence of the Enemy, or of a particular Country or District: if the first, it is to observe their Position, March, or Force; but if the Country be the Object, they are to give an account of its Roads, Advantages, and Embarrassments. Whichever be the Design, it is necessary for the commanding Officer to be accompanied by a skillful Geographer or Drafts-man; who must be mounted on one of the very best Horses, that, in case your Escort should at any time happen to be dispersed by a superior Force, he may stand the better chance to escape with his Papers and his Discoveries.

ALL

ALL Parties detach'd with a design only to reconnoitre, should consist of twelve to twenty Men at most. No Officer, of what Rank soever, can object to the insignificance of the Command. Though he marches with a small Number, the Expedition is of the last Importance to the Service, and frequently of infinite Advantage to his Prince. If he is successful, he cannot have a stronger Recommendation to his General, as there is no Duty which requires more Fortitude and Abilities.

IT is self-evident that your Success depends entirely on your Intention being kept secret, and that unless you can conceal your march from the Enemy, you may as well continue in your Camp. Now there is nothing plainer than that you have a better chance to escape their Observation with a small Detachment than with a large one.

As these Parties are to march as expeditiously as possible, it is generally advisable to compose them entirely of Cavalry; unless your Object is at a considerable Distance: in that case you may augment the Party with thirty Foot, who are to continue in some place of Ambuscade about half way on the Road, where the Cavalry will leave the Provision they may have made for their Refreshment.

As to the Precautions to be taken upon the March, I must refer the Reader to Chap. VII. with this difference only, that your flanking Parties are to consist of no more than two private Men, who are always to keep the commanding Officer in sight.

THE Partisan, who is detached in the front of an Army, should have his Instructions in writing. He will so regulate his March as to reach the Place, where he is to begin his Observations, about break of Day. Whenever he is obliged
to

to halt, his Troops must front towards the Enemy ; and, if there is any high Ground near the Place, he will detach a Corporal with two private Men, to take a View of the Country in the mean Time. When he comes near the Enemy's Camp, he must not, on any account, halt in or near a Village.

THE Particulars, of which the Officer as well as the Geographer, are to take special Notice, are Hills, Vallies, Woods, Lakes, Morasses, Rivers, Rivulets, Fords, Bridges, Roads, Boundaries, difficult and dangerous Passes, Bye-ways, Meadows, Fields, Heaths, Distance and Strength of Castles, Villages, Farm-houses and Mills ; also to whom the Country belongs, and what it produces.

THE moment you are discovered by the Enemy, though you might not have finished your Observations, you must assemble your Troops and rejoin your Infantry, which we are to suppose were left

in a Wood, or in some other Place secure from the Enemy's Cavalry. After having taken a little Refreshment, you will return to compleat your Remarks. If you are obliged to retreat as far as your Post, it will be necessary to defer your Business till the next Day. The precise Hour of Noon is the Time when you have the least to apprehend; for it is then that detached Parties are the least frequent.

You are, at any rate, to avoid coming to Blows, even though you were assured of Success, unless it should be in your Return, and that you are near enough your Post to be heard by the main Guard, who will not fail to cover your Retreat.

IF at any time you should be under a necessity to cut your way through a body of Troops who may have intercepted your Retreat, the only means of Safety is, to charge them full Speed without the least Hesitation. If the Observations you have made are of Importance to the Army,
you

you must do all in your Power to save the Geographer, though you were to sacrifice the rest of your Detachment.

WHEN you are sent out with a Design to reconnoitre the Enemy's Camp, their Numbers and Position, you must approach them with great Caution. The dawn of the Day is by no means the best time for this Business, as you will then infallibly fall in with some of their Patroles or reconnoitring Parties. You must therefore be beforehand with them, and advance towards them in the Night. Their Position and Extent may be easily discovered by the Fires at their quarter Guards and advanced Piquets; and it is no less easy to know if they are about to change their Situation, by the extraordinary Noise in their Camp. There are also many other Particulars that may be observed in the Night, as you have it in your Power to advance within so little a way of their Camp, without the least Danger.

UPON the whole, Mid-day is the best time for the Geographer to make his Observations. From the Hours of Twelve to Three he may pass from the Summit of one Hill to another, without much Risk; for, as I have already said, there are seldom any Parties detached from an Army during that Time.

You will be careful to seize every Person you meet, and not release them till you have executed your Orders.

THERE is yet another Method that may be practised for the Security of a Party sent to reconnoiter; which is, to let it be composed of such Men as speak the Language of the Enemy, and to disguise them in Surtouts resembling the Uniform of one of the Enemy's Regiments, with Cockades of their Colour. It is possible to double the Deceit by lining their Surtouts with the resemblance of some other Regiment. Thus by turning their Coats they will appear to be another
Corps,

Corps, and so deceive their Spies, their Guards, the Peasants, and confound their Reports.

C H A P. X.

Of Surprises.

A SURPRISE in the language of War, is a sudden and unexpected attack upon the Enemy. The ways of putting this in Execution are infinitely manifold: for all the Stratagems that have hitherto been imagined to deceive and seduce the Enemy, were, in fact, so many different methods of Surprise; the Circumstances of which are so various, that it is impossible to exhibit a perfect Detail of the Matter, notwithstanding the Assistance of so many excellent Writers upon the Subject.

SURPRISES in general may be divided into two distinct Classes; namely, such
as

as are attempted by a sudden and unexpected Attack upon the Enemy's Camp, Lines, Posts or Garrisons; and those which are executed by means of an Ambuscade, when they are upon the March. The first of these shall be the Subject of this Chapter: which that I may not extend beyond my usual Limits, I shall mention only the most essential Particulars.

FIRST then I would establish as an invariable Maxim, that you are never to attempt to surprize a Post of the Enemy, without being previously assured of its Situation, Strength, and Importance: three Circumstances that are absolutely necessary to be known.

THE next thing is, to make yourself well acquainted with the circumjacent Country; to be particularly informed of every Avenue, Morass, River, Bridge, Height, Wood or Cover, that may appear to have any connexion with the Place.

Without

Without such Intelligence, it will be impossible to regulate your Approach with adequate Propriety. Nor ought you to be less certain of the Number and Quality of their Troops.

It were also to be wished, that you could gather some information concerning the Strength of their Guards, and whether they are circumspect or negligent in their Duty. A previous Idea of such Particulars will be a considerable Advantage in your Favour, and contribute greatly to the probability of your Success.

DURING the several Campaigns which I have served under various Generals, I was frequently order'd to procure Intelligence concerning the Situation of the Enemy's Posts, without approaching them. I had always the good fortune to succeed. The method I took was as follows, which I flatter myself the Reader will confess to be infallible.

I SUPPOSE myself at *Soest*, in *Westphalia*, A. Plan III. and the Enemy posted at *Berwick*, B. two Leagues distant from me. In order to reconnoitre this Place without coming near it, I take a Map of the Country, and making *Soest* my Center, draw a Circle, including *Berwick* about half a League within the Circumference. I then take a Sheet of Paper and draw another Circle of the same Dimensions. I place *Soest* in the Center A. and all the Villages which I find in the Map within the Circle, I mark in my Plan according to their respective Distances and Bearings. These I trace first with my Pencil, that I may afterwards rectify the Mistakes which I may discover in the Map.

HAVING thus laid the foundation of my Plan, according to a Scale of two Leagues (that being the supposed Distance of *Berwick*) I visit the Burgomaster of *Soest*, or send for some of the most intelligent of the Inhabitants. I converse with them openly, and without reserve,
in

in order to excite them to give me such Information as I want.

BUT the better to conceal my Design, I begin my Enquiry with the Village of *Brockhausen*; if they tell me it is five Miles from *Soest*, I correct my Plan accordingly, in which it appeared to be two Leagues.

I THEN inform myself of every Particular on the Road to *Brockhausen*; such as Chapels, Houses, Castles, Villages, Woods, Plains, Bridges, &c. Supposing they say, that at a good half League from *Soest*, you pass the Village of *Hinderking*, I mark it accordingly. I then enquire whether there are no cross Roads, Morasses, Woods, &c. whether it be a strait Road, paved, or deep; in short, I endeavour to omit nothing that may in the least contribute towards giving me a perfect Knowledge of the Country; and all the Particulars I can possibly collect are carefully specified in my Plan, which, in course, must

must become infinitely more perfect than any printed Map can possibly be.

I continue my Enquiry concerning the Road from *Hinderking* to *Brockhausen*, advancing by degrees, and asking the same Questions relative to the several Villages marked D. D. D. By this means, I acquire a perfect Knowledge of the whole District, am enabled to judge how the Enemy are situated, and what Rout I must take to approach them with the greatest Secrecy.

A PLAN of this kind is not only of great Utility in forming secret Expeditions, but is indispensibly necessary for the commanding Officer of a Party. By the help of this, his private Instructions may be rendered quite explicit, and perfectly intelligible to those under his command; who, having a sketch of their Rout along with them, will in their Excursions, run no risk of being deceived or misled by ignorant or treacherous Guides. This
I method

method of inquisition likewise enables me to judge, which of those whom I assembled, is best qualified to act as a Guide in case I should want one.

I SHALL not amuse the Reader with a detail of Stratagems practised by the Ancients, to surprize the Enemy's Fortresses. They are now so universally known and exploded, that he who should attempt to put them in execution would be thought little better than a Madman. I am therefore by no means of opinion with some modern Authors, who talk of introducing into a Town a sufficient number of Soldiers, in Waggon's laden with Straw. The thing is absolutely impracticable in time of War, as Carriages of all kinds are constantly examined with great Circumspection; particularly if there appears to be any considerable Number of them; not to mention the great Difficulty which the Men would have in extricating themselves from their embarrassed Situation.

THERE

THERE are other Writers on this Subject who have laid great stress on Escalades, advising us to make several feign'd Attacks at the same instant, in order to conceal the real one. These general Assaults are not within the province of a Partisan; for besides the necessity of his being an Engineer, to judge of the Strength and Weakness of a Fortification, there are a number of Utensils required for cutting down the Palisadoes, passing the Fosse, and escalading the Works, which are always above the reach of portable Ladders. Such Assaults also demand so considerable a number of Troops, as that being divided into separate Bodies, each shall of itself be able to form, or sustain an Attack, of which the detached Corps of a Partisan is utterly incapable.

THE Expedient which carries with it the greatest probability of Success, for a Partisan who commands only four hundred Foot, and who is assured that the Garrison consists of no more than two
Hundred,

Hundred, (for nothing of this kind must be attempted without double the number of the Enemy) is to make choice of bad Weather, such as high Winds, or thick Fogs in Winter, and in the Summer Season, violent Storms of Rain and Thunder. When after excessive Heat, the Air is suddenly agitated by a high Wind, you are then instantly to mount a part of your Infantry on covered Waggon, which you are to hold in constant readiness during the whole time that your Project is in agitation. Every Man of your Corps must be provided with a dog-skin Covering, to secure his Ammunition, so contrived as to be easily removed. The rest of your Infantry are to mount behind the Cavalry. You are to appoint a general Rendezvous about a League from the Place you intend to surprize. Here you are to halt ; and if the Weather seems to clear up, you must instantly retreat, referring the Affair to another Day. A ten-fold repetition of this *manœuvre* should not break your Resolution. If the Place is of

Importance, your Success at last, will prove a sufficient Reward for your Trouble.

BUT if on the contrary, the Wind increases and the Storm continues gathering, conduct your Approach in such a manner as to have the Wind on your Backs; for if it is in your Face, the Enemy's Sentries will perceive you at some Distance, besides your Cavalry will advance with Difficulty.

HAVING taken all the necessary Precautions, you are to increase your Pace in proportion as the Storm augments. During its greatest Violence, your Waggon and your Cavalry will proceed with great Celerity; and you will have no reason to be under the least Apprehension, as it is impossible for the Enemy to hear or see any thing of your March, for the Inclemency of the Weather will force their Sentries to turn their Backs to the Wind, or retire within their Boxes.

AT

AT about three hundred Paces from the Place, both the Dragoons and Foot must dismount and fix their Bayonets. The Hussars are to remain with the Waggon, which must be turned, ready to retreat. Your Infantry you will form in five Divisions, which are to act independently of each other.

You are now to begin your March, proceeding as expeditiously as possible, without breaking your Ranks. You pass boldly the Barriers and the Gates, seizing the Sentries and Guards as you go along, without firing a Shot, and with as little noise as you can. This is to be executed with all imaginable dispatch.

WHILST your first Division is thus employ'd, the others are to push forward into the Town. The second will make immediately for the main Guard; the third must secure the Governor or Commandant; the fourth, which should be the strongest, will fly to the Caserns or