

Barracks, and take possession of the Arms ; the fifth must have orders to remain in the Street near the Gate, as a Corps de reserve.

EACH Division must be conducted by one of the Prisoners which were at the Gate. You will now send orders for the Hussars to advance full speed : they are to patrol in the Streets as far as the Infantry have proceeded.

As these Surprises cannot possibly take place but under favour of a Storm, which is seldom of long continuance, it is evident the whole must be well concerted, and executed with all imaginable dexterity and expedition.

It is very certain that the Rain will make it rather difficult for the Infantry to march with any degree of celerity, as in clayey Grounds their Feet will be apt to slip ; but they must do as well as they can.

can. Great Roads are generally pretty well covered with Stones or Gravel.

IF, in taking possession of the Gate, they happen in some part of the Place, to have caught the Alarm, you must divide your Troops into two Wings, and march them seperately up on to the Rampart, one to the Right and the other to the Left of the Gate. They will instantly seize the Cannon, turn them upon the Town, and then summon the Garrison to surrender.

IN case the Stroke should fail, and that you should be obliged to retire, your Disappointment can be attended with no very great Danger; for as the Garrison, by supposition, consists of no more than half your Number, they will suffer you to retreat without Molestation.

I AM not ignorant that there are many Commanders who would raise a thousand Objections to such Attempts, and that they will appear to be attended with too

many Difficulties to afford a prospect of Success. But I speak from Experience, by which I am authorised to insist on the validity of my Reasoning, and the efficacy of the Method I propose. I shall, nevertheless, quote only two Instances, wherein I myself was concern'd, to prove that violent Weather affords the most favourable Opportunity for Attempts of this nature.

BEING at the head of thirty Hussars, in order to escape a Storm that seem'd gathering in our Rear, I made the best of my way to a Town well fortified and strongly garrisoned. It blew a Hurrican. I passed the Barrier and the Gates, without being seen or heard by any one Sentry, though my Horses made no inconsiderable Noise. I even called to the first Guard as I passed ; yet passed unperceived. I then traversed the Town to gain the Inn, which happened to be in the opposite Suburbs, without meeting any living Soul in the Streets. Indeed the Sentry  
at

at the last Barrier spoke to me, and we exchanged a few Words, but neither of us understood one Word of what the other said : yet it had not begun to rain ; but it blew violently.

I HAD another Proof of this kind in the Year 1757 on *Christmas* Eve, when in the *Hanoverian* Dominions, I passed with eighty light Horse, between two of the Enemy's Guards, without being perceived : yet I marched through the middle of a large Plain. The Night was extremely clear ; but the Wind was so violent, that the Sentries could not possible turn their Faces towards it, and consequently never saw me. I gained the Rear of their Army, and carried off several of their Horses without molestation. Yet farther, the Night following in my return, I passed two different Posts of our own Army, the one guarded by a party of Hussars, and the other by a Regiment of Dragoons, and was seen only by a Sentry near the Center of the last, who did not

dare to call to me, as I had already pass'd the Out-guard.

IT is also advisable to take the advantage of bad Weather when you have a design to surprize by Escalade, such of the Enemy's Posts as are environed by a Wall, as Castles, Convents, Towns, &c. For this purpose, you are to advance during the Night, and to seize the moment of a severe blast, which will force the Sentries to turn their Backs to the Wind. Apply without hesitation, your Ladders to the windward side of the Place, and doubt not of Success.

A THICK Fog will be no less favourable to your Design when you mean to surprize an entrench'd Post. When you come near the Trenches, order your Men to creep upon their Hands, to prevent their being discovered. These Surprises are attended with very little danger; whilst, on the contrary, whenever you make feigned Attacks, you are sure to  
alarm

alarm the Enemy, and frequently pay dear for a successful Enterprize.

WHEN you have an intention to surprize the Enemy in a Village, Farm, Monastery, or other Post detach'd from the Army, you are to separate your Command into two distinct Bodies, each composed of Cavalry and Foot: one of which must make the attack in Front, and the other in the Rear. It will be necessary to be provided with a small number of Waggon's to carry off your wounded in case of a Repulse. The Commanders of each Party must take care to be very accurate in calculating the Time requisite for those that are to attack in the Rear, to march round; and to regulate their Signals so that they may advance at the same instant. The dead of Night is the best Time for such Enterprizes; unless the Post happens to be at such a distance from the Army, as to expect no Assistance: in that case, you have time enough till the break of Day.

The Detachment, which is intended for the rear Attack, must have no more Foot than can be mounted behind the Cavalry. They are to form at the distance of about a quarter of a Mile from the Post, a hundred Paces out of the Road.

THE Cavalry of the other Wing will also form at the same Distance, where the Waggon and the Drums are likewise to halt; the Dragoons are to move up about ten Minutes after the Infantry have advanced; who, guided by the Enemy's Fires, and crouching along, are to approach them as near as possible. If they perceive a Patrole, they must lie flat to the Ground. The Officers are to raise their Heads a little to see whether they are not directly in the way of the Patroles; in which case, they will creep backward or forward, so as to remain unperceived. One Officer must continue to observe the Patrole, and the instant they have passed, your Infantry must march up to the Post, and endeavour to clear the way for the Cavalry,

Cavalry, in case it should happen to be barricaded with Waggon's or otherwise. They are then to proceed instantly towards the Fire; but if there are several Lights, they are then to divide into so many distinct Parties, so as to surprize the Whole at the same time.

THE Cavalry in the Rear are to advance briskly, as soon as the Foot make their first discharge, leaving only a Serjeant and a File of Men to guard the Waggon's. Those who were detach'd to the opposite side of the Post, are also to advance at the same Signal, Trumpets sounding and Drums beating, with orders to attack such of the Enemy as may endeavour to save themselves by flight.

IT is beyond all Doubt, that the Enemy, seeing all their Guards taken, your Infantry spread over every part of the Village, and hearing at the same time the different marches of Horse and Foot advancing on all sides of them; I say, it is  
 more



more than probable they will give up the Place. or at most endeavour to save themselves by a confused Retreat. It will then be no difficult matter for your Cavalry to stop the Fugitives ; but they must have very positive Orders, never, during the Night, to pursue above a Mile ; but not a Yard, if it should happen to be a close Country.

THE Place being taken, you are instantly to send off all the Booty and the Prisoners, guarded by your whole Infantry. The Wounded are to be put upon the Waggon, or on the Horses you may have taken. The Cavalry are to compose your Van and rear Guards, the latter of which must be much the strongest.

WHEN the Post which you intend to surprize is at the Distance of ten or twelve Leagues from yours, as the Enemy are less apprehensive, you will accomplish your Work with greater facility. In this case, your whole Infantry, with a Lieu-

tenant and twenty Dragoons, may take Post about half distance, under cover of some Wood or Farm, with orders to be constantly upon their Guard. The Commander will proceed with the rest of the Cavalry, taking along with him some Refreshment for himself and his People, if the Place should happen to be at too great Distance to be attempted the same Night. He must also have with him an intelligent Guide ; but must not communicate his Design to him till he is a little advanced upon the Road. He will accompany his Declaration with Promises and Threats ; assuring him that his Zeal and Fidelity shall be generously recompensed, but that if he should dare to mislead the Party, he should not only be punished with immediate Death, but the Village to which he belongs, burnt to Ashes.

You are soon to strike out of the great Road, ordering your Guide to conduct you in such a manner, as that you may  
seem

seem designing to leave the Enemy's Post, which you intend to surprize, about a League to the Right or Left. If it is in the winter Season, there will be no necessity for making so large a Circuit, as you then run no great Risk of meeting People in the Fields, or cross Roads.

As soon as you appear to be in a Line with the Place, you are to march obliquely towards it, so as at a little Distance from the Gate, to strike into the Road that communicates with their Army; and from hence you are to make your Assault.

THE genius of this kind of War sometimes carries Temerity so far as even to attempt the Wing of an Army encamped on an open Plain; but such Exploits are too daring to be often imitated: the Danger is very great, and the Retreat of so small a Body of Troops, as that of a Partisan, vastly precarious, unless it is in an extream dark Night; and even then, that very  
Darkness,

Darkness, which is your Security, may mislead you into a thousand Difficulties, and disperse your Party.

THE Case is quite different, when either Wing of their Camp touches upon a mountainous or woody Country that may cover your Retreat: in this Case, by means of a faithful Guide, gain'd by Money and fair Promises, you may march in the Night through the Woods, and secure your Approach under favour of the Hills, Inclosures, &c.

IN opening into the Plain, you must carefully observe whether there be not some Post in the front of the Wing you mean to attack; you are then to leave a Detachment of Foot in possession of the Pass, to secure your Retreat. A part of your Cavalry must be ordered to march round into the Rear of the advanced Post, and another Detachment, together with your Infantry, to form fronting one of its Flanks. This Disposition being  
made,

made, you are to give the Signal for a general Attack. The main Body of your Cavalry are to fall upon the Flank of the Line, and the rest of your Troops to assault the advanced Post at the same instant. The whole are to raise the most hideous Cries in their power, in order to alarm and terrify the Army.

As it is very certain that it will not be long before the Piquets of the Line are assembled, you are to seize and carry off all you come near, Officers, Soldiers, Horses, &c. and to make the best of your way with them to the Entrance of the Wood. The Cavalry are to proceed with the Prisoners and Booty, and the Infantry must form your rear Guard, till you have march'd clear of the Wood, when they are to advance into the Front. You will retreat as far as possible during the Night. You need be under no apprehension of a Pursuit, as the Enemy will dread being enfiladed.

THERE

THERE is no Moment so precious to a Partisan, nor which claims so much of his Attention, as that of a general Engagement. When all are attentive to the Firing heard on every side, the *manœuvres* of the approaching Army, and the decision of an Affair of the last Importance, on which the fate of the Whole, and of each Particular is depending ; it is then that he has it in his Power to display his Art and Capacity to the most Advantage, to strike the heaviest Blow possible, pillage their Head Quarters, carry off their Baggage, put their Guards to the Sword, set fire to their Camp, and in short, to spread such universal Terror as may greatly contribute to the Defeat of their Army.

BUT to assure Success in so great and glorious an Enterprize, there are certain Measures necessary to be taken. The three principal previous Considerations are these :  
 the Situation of the Enemy's Camp,  
 the Means of Approach, and the Hour of  
 H Battle.

Battle. If they are encamp'd in the middle of an open Plain, or upon such a commanding Eminence that you cannot advance without being perceived at some Distance, Prudence, in such a case, should restrain your Zeal, and deter you from attempting Impossibilities.

IT is also advisable for a Partisan to make himself particularly acquainted with every Pass, Post, Village, &c. that are in the front of the Army, especially if there be any Probability that the Enemy may come to occupy that Ground. Of what infinite Advantage may it not prove in the direction of some future Project, if he has taken care to provide himself with a Survey of the Country he is to invade? He may then, without the insufficient and dangerous Assistance of Spies and Deserters, by his own particular Knowledge alone, determine all the proper Measures for the execution of his Design, which should be regulated and conducted with impenetrable Secrecy.

As

As soon as he perceives, by the Motion of each Army, that they are upon the brink of Action, he will not neglect a Moment to acquaint the General with his Project: If it meets with Approbation, his Disposition, and the Time of his Departure, must be ordered according to the Commands which he shall receive.

As these Expeditions frequently require a very extensive Circuit, you must take care to have sufficient Time for the March. In the Year 1757, the Duke de *Richelieu* advanced his Army with an Intention to attack the Allies in the neighbourhood of *Zell*. I received Orders, the preceding Day, to gain the Rear of their Camp with a hundred light Horse, and after a Tour of twenty-two Leagues, arrived without the least Accident; but the Prudence of the Prince of *Brunswick* frustrated our whole Scheme, and left us nothing but the Mortification of admiring his Retreat. Nevertheless I had the good Fortune to stumble upon part of their



Baggage, from which I carried off twelve Waggons of Merchandize, and Seventy-five Horses.

AMONG the previous Measures necessary for your Undertaking, you will not forget to provide each Man with a Cockade resembling those of the Enemy. You will likewise give to twenty of each Detachment, Staves six Feet in Length, tipped with a piece of a Torch, enveloped with dry Straw or Hemp, so as instantly to take Fire.

Your whole Corps is supposed to march from the Field A. Plan IV. conducted by an intelligent Guide through covered and unfrequented Roads, intirely clear of the Enemy. Having reached the Place C. which I suppose to be nearly in a Line with the Field of Battle, your Foot are to form an Ambuscade; but not in the Way, or within the Observation, of the Country People. This becomes your Center of Communication with the Army, the  
Rendez-

Rendezvous of your Booty, and a Cover to the Retreat of your Cavalry, which you will now form into as many Detachments as you intend separate Attacks: we will suppose Six, each consisting of a hundred Men. They are, with all imaginable Secrecy, and by different Routs, to repair each to their respective Posts, E. D. F. G. H. I. In an Affair of this Nature, it would be Madness to spare either Pains or Expence to procure knowing and faithful Guides. Each Detachment must conceal itself about half a League from its Object of Attack, B. K. K K K.

THE firing of the Musketry is the Signal for their general Irruption: and now the Activity, Courage, and Resolution, both of Officers and private Men, will be put to the Proof. The second Detachment D. will glide imperceptibly between the Villages, and, with the Impetuosity of Lightning, fall on the Camp B. Whilst Fourscore of the Hundred

shall put all they meet to the Sword, the remaining Twenty are to light their Torches at the Enemy's Fires, and communicate the Flames to the Straw in their Tents. As they must expect to have the Enemy very soon at their Heels, they are not, on any Account, to be suffered to plunder; but must content themselves with the Glory of having spread an Alarm, that will probably have such an Effect on the Enemy as to be a Means of gaining the Victory.

AT the same instant of Time, the other Parties E. F. G. H. are, with equal Violence, to attack the Villages K. K. K. K. which are in their Front, where they are to perform the same *manœuvre* as the first; with this Difference only, that they may be allowed to pillage a little in haste among the Baggage of the Generals, with which these Villages are generally well stored, seizing their best Horses, hamstringing the rest, and setting Fire to such Houses or Barns as contain any thing belonging to the Enemy.

EACH

EACH of these Parties will advance two or three Videttes in the Front of the Village to observe the Motions of the Enemy's Troops, as they will not fail to march to the Relief of their Quarters. As soon as they are perceived to advance, you are immediately to retreat by such Routs as the Commander shall have previously fixed, and which we suppose to be represented by the dotted Lines in the Plan. The sixth Detachment H. concealed near the Road to the Camp, must remain there with Orders to fall upon those that may be endeavouring to save themselves by Flight.

THE Danger in such Expeditions is much less than is generally apprehended. During the critical Instant of a Battle, every Man that is able to bear Arms is supposed to be in the Line; therefore you will find in the Camp, little more than Suttlers, Bat-men and Invalids, except a few Sentries and inconsiderable

H 4                      Guards,

Guards, which you will easily disperse as you advance.

THE Commander of each Detachment must be every instant upon the Watch. The Moment he perceives any Body of Troops advancing towards him, he must immediately regain the Pass leading into the Wood. I believe it would be an easy Matter for every Partisan to regulate his Operations, by the Plan which I have laid down, conformable to his Strength and the Situation of the Camp which he intends to attack. His chief Care must be to dispose his Cavalry in such a Manner in the several Ambuscades, as that they may surprize the Camp and the Quarters of the General Officers, at the same instant of Time.

EACH Party of Cavalry having rejoined their respective Detachment of Foot, are there to wait the Event of the Day ; that if Victory declares in Favour of their Army,  
they

they may immediately return towards the Field of Battle, and post themselves so as most effectually to harrass the Enemy in their Retreat. The Dismay and Confusion after the Loss of a Battle is so universal, that you will meet with little or no Resistance from a flying Enemy.

SUPPOSE you have a Design to surprise and carry off some Person of Distinction, whose Quarters are at a considerable Distance in the Rear of the Army; you are, for this Purpose, to take no more than Twelve light Horse; but they must be pick'd Men, of known Abilities, Courage, and Integrity. Each of these must be provided with a double Surtout, resembling, as near as possible, two different Regiments of the Enemy; that, being discovered in one Disguise, they may retire a Moment and then assume another, which must infallibly confound the Reports of the Peasants. You are never, on any Account, to halt, but in some Wood, Copse, or Cover, at a Distance from any Road.

Road. Your Quarter-master must take care to procure Forage and Subsistence from a neighbouring Village, and to pay very punctually for every thing he receives, till you shall have an Opportunity to execute your Design.

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## C H A P. XI.

### *Of Ambuscades.*

**A**N Ambuscade is a body of Men concealed in a Wood, or otherwise, with an Intention to surprize the Enemy. There are no Stratagems of War which afford a Partisan better Opportunities of displaying his Genius and Resolution. There is indeed no great Difficulty in forming an Ambuscade in a Country embarrassed with Thickets, Buildings, or Inclosures; but in an open champaign Situation, it requires great Contrivance and a fruitful Imagination. Both the one and the other  
must

must be regulated by your Intelligence of the Designs of the Enemy.

WHEN a Partisan has received credible Information of the March of some Party of the Enemy, whether a Convoy of Artillery, Baggage, Subsistence, Recruits, Horses, &c, or an Escort of some General Officer, about to join his Army, or reconnoitre the Country ; he will endeavour to obtain certain Intelligence of their Rout, the Situation of the Places through which they are to pass, and the Post to which they direct their March. But the better to conceal his Intention, he will seem most particular in his Enquiries concerning the opposite Road, as we have already said in the Chapter on *Surprises*.

HAVING previously concerted his Measures, he will march his Party about Sunset, and, if possible, take some different Road from that which he intends to pursue.

IF



IF the Place where he means to form his Ambuscade be at no great Distance, he may strike into the Road about mid-way, where he will conceal half of his Infantry, to secure his Retreat. But if he has a long March before him, which will require two whole Nights, he will then zig-zag from one Wood to another. He must not forget to provide sufficient Refreshment for the Day, during which he must lie concealed. Three Rations of Oats for each Horse will be as much as he will have occasion for.

THE first Night, he will endeavour to gain the Wood where he intends to spend the intermediate Day. He will fix upon some Spot near a Rivulet, and here he will station a Part of his Infantry, unless there should happen to be a River between this Wood and the Enemy; for, in that Case, he will march his Infantry thither, and conceal them in some Thicket near its Banks.

IF there is no Bridge or Ford, he will pass with his Cavalry only, which I suppose to have been frequently exercised in Swimming; but if the Place is fordable, half of the Infantry are to mount behind the Horsemen. If it should so happen, that you have a Bridge to pass near a Village, you are there to post an Officer with a Party of Foot, leaving him strict Orders to suffer no Person whatsoever, whether Soldier or Peasant, to quit the Place: and, for still greater Security, it may not be amiss, to leave with him a small Detachment of Cavalry, which may be sent in pursuit of any one that might possibly escape before your Return.

IF, during your Absence, this Bridge should be attacked, he must defend it to the last Extremity, lest your Retreat should be entirely cut off. There are many Instances of this Sort. Count *Esterbasy*, being detached with Three hundred light Horse, to raise Contributions in the neighbourhood of *Strasburg*,  
left

left a Lieutenant and thirty Men to guard the Bridge at *Wolfsheim*. I am ignorant of the Motive which excited the Officer to abandon his Post. I was led thither by mere Chance at the Head of ten Hunters, to the great good Fortune of the Detachment: for I was scarce arrived when I perceived three considerable Parties of *French* Hussars, who were advancing to take Possession of this Post. I had only just time, with my little Troop, to throw myself into a Mill which seemed to command the Bridge. I plied them with so incessant a Fire, through the Holes in the Wall, that I had the good fortune to dispute the Pass till *Esterhazy's* Detachment hearing the Fire, galloped near a Mile, surpris'd the Enemy in the Rear, and took Four-score of their Horses and a great Number of Prisoners. But to return.

THE necessary Precautions being taken for the Security of the Bridge, the Commander of the Expedition will endeavour

to arrive at the Place where he intends to form his Ambuscade, two Hours before the Enemy are expected to pass. He will immediately explore the Situation of the Place with all imaginable Diligence. He will take care to form his Ambuscade on that side of the Pass from whence he intends to retreat ; otherwise, if he should happen to be discovered by their advanced Guard, he would be obliged to file off in Sight of their main Body, who, perceiving his Weakness, would infallibly destroy him.

YOUR Infantry A. (Plan V.) should be posted at least Six hundred Paces in the Rear of your Cavalry B. which in case of a Repulse, must retire to the Infantry A. and both must retreat to the Bridge, or to the Detachment of Foot posted on the Road.

IF your Ambuscade be in a Wood, you will order one of your most intelligent non-commission'd Officers to climb up  
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into a high Tree, C. whence he may observe the March of the Enemy. The Particulars of which he is to give you Notice, are three, *viz.* The first Appearance of their advanced Guard, the Approach of their main Body, and the Instant when they are exactly opposite to your Ambuscade B. For this Purpose, the Commander will instruct him in what manner he is to communicate his Observations without speaking. It may be done by means of a Chord D. of a brown Colour, (that being least perceptible) which must be disposed as may be seen in the Plan, to prevent its Communication being impeded by the Branches. The non-commissioned Officer in the Tree must hold one End in his Hand and the Commander B. the other.

As soon as the advanced Guard of the Enemy appears, the Observer pulls the Chord; upon which the Commander orders his People to mount their Horses, and to continue profoundly Silent. If  
their

their main Body should follow close at the Heels of their Van-guard (a Deception which is sometimes practised) which however may be easily discovered, by the unusual Strength of the advanced Party, and its not being followed by Troops at a Distance; if, I say, this should be the Case, he will pull the Cord a second Time as soon as their Front shall have got within a few Paces of the Ambuscade; and a third Time when they are exactly opposite. At this Signal, you are to fall forth, and, with all imaginable Impetuosity, fall upon the Flank of their Center, in the manner we shall describe.

IF their Van-guard E. consist only of the usual Number, you must let it pass. When the chief Escort F. approaches, the Observer will give his second Pull, and the Third, the instant the Front comes opposite to the Point B. You will then rush out towards the Front of the Enemy, by the Opening marked with a double Line of Dots, so that you may

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not

not be discovered by those upon the Flank of their Center. You are to attack them: Sword in hand, making the most hideous Noise in your Power, to hinder their Men from hearing the Commands of their Officers. You are to endeavour to disarm and to take as many as you can, being careful however not to push the Pursuit too far, unless you are well assured that they are at too great a Distance from their Army to expect Relief, and that there are no other of their Parties in the Country, who would not fail to catch the Alarm, and harass you in your Retreat.

IN all secret Expeditions, every possible Precaution must be taken to prevent Discovery or Treachery. If you are perceived by the advanced Guard of the Enemy, you are instantly to abandon your Enterprize and retire. In case your Guide, or any of your own People should desert, if you find it impossible to lay hold of them, it would be your best way  
to

to think immediately of a Retreat, or, at least, to change your Project. But to prevent this Misfortune as much as possible, your Officers are to call the Roll very frequently.

You are never to form an Ambuscade with a Design to cut off the Enemy's Retreat; for that will reduce them to Despair, and inspire them with Resolution to rally: unless it should so happen that you have a moral Certainty of taking their whole Party Prisoners, either from their inconsiderable Number, or from the nature of the Defile, which may possibly be so narrow as not to suffer them to form.

It is no less dangerous than difficult to form several Ambuscades at the same time. The more there are, the greater Probability there is of your being discovered, and the less you will be able to unite in your Retreat; nevertheless, there is an Exception, when your Intention is



to surprize a foraging Party. In that case, it will be necessary to form several Ambuscades, disposed in such a manner as that the Sentries may see from one to the other. That to which the Foragers happen to come the nearest, must execute the Design, and instantly upon their Ir-ruption, the others are to put themselves in a Position to cover their Retreat.

I WOULD establish as a Maxim, that in all Ambuscades no Sentinel should be below the Degree of a non-commissioned Officer. If you are concealed behind a Hill, or in the hollow part of an open Down, your Sentries are to lie flat upon the Ground, with their Feet towards the Ambuscade, their Bodies covered with a brown, or green Cloak, according to the Colour of the Turf; and their Heads, which must be a little raised, wrapt in a Handkerchief of the same Hue. The precise Number of the Sentries cannot be determined, but from the Circumstances and Situation of the Place. They must be

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so numerous as to command the intire Circuit, are to secure every Person who may unknowingly approach them, and must be properly instructed to communicate their Observations by Signs.

IF you are to form your Ambuscade in the open Fields, where there are neither Vines nor Hedges, you are to conceal yourselves in the Corn, provided it is of a sufficient Height; but when that happens not to be the Case, you must have recourse to Labour. For this Purpose, a Subaltern with a working Party and proper Tools, must march in the Rear of your Cavalry. The Commander will indicate the Length and Breadth of the Ground they are to throw up, A. Plan VI. They will begin at the Point B. and raise a kind of Parapet in the Front and on the Flanks C. sloping insensibly outwards, which is to be covered with the Sods of green Corn taken from the Surface of the Spot where they sink the Covert-way. It must be six Feet from the Bottom;

but if the Corn should be grown to the Height of two or three Feet, it is evident the Glacis will require less raising. This Work will demand no great Labour, as the Ground which was lately ploughed, will easily yield to the Spade. These occasional Pioneers, when they have finished the Labour, will rejoin the Party of Infantry which we suppose to have been posted on the Road.

THE place of Ambuscade being thus prepared, at the Distance of a hundred Paces from that by which the Enemy are expected to pass, your Party will lead their Horses one after another, that they may not enlarge the Entrance. They will range themselves on Foot, each holding his Bridle in his Hand, loose upon the Horse's Neck. The Officers are to be constantly employed in visiting their Troops, in order to keep them alert; and you are to take care that every trace of their Entrance be entirely effaced.

IT is also an easy matter to form an Ambuscade in a hollow Way, which obliquely cuts the Road along which the Enemy are to pass; as for instance, that marked K. Plan V. There are sometimes Cavities occasioned by a Rivulet, which are very proper for an Ambuscade G. Plan V. when its Banks are of a sufficient Height, or bordered with Shrubs, and that it runs parallel to the Road, without approaching it too near.

As these Cavities are seldom very capacious, it will be necessary to make several Outlets, that you may be able to attack with your whole Force at the same Instant. I have supposed four H. H. H. H. through which your Cavalry are to fall out. It will be necessary to stop the Water somewhere nearer its Source, and to give it another Direction I. that your Horses standing dry, may make less Noise with their Feet. The Troops are to be divided into four Squadrons, and disposed in such a manner as to be ready

to break forth at the first Signal, and fall upon the Flanks of the Enemy. In this kind of Ambuscade, the Commander should be his own Sentry, taking care to place himself so as to observe all that passes, without being seen.

AN Ambuscade may, with great Ease, be formed in a Village, abandoned by its Inhabitants, either in the Gardens, Orchards, Barns, or Graneries G. H. Plan VI. Every Gate or Door towards the Enemy must be firmly barricaded, and a Way made in the Rear to wheel round to the Road, in the manner indicated by the dotted Lines. It is a general Maxim in all Ambuscades, that you are to make your Attack in an oblique Direction, upon the Enemy's Flank, from the Rear.

IN the different Ambuscades which I have mentioned, the Foot are to be no otherwise employ'd, than to secure the Retreat of the Cavalry ; but they will have their Turn when a Party is detach'd  
with

with a design to allure the Enemy into a Snare. Woods or Villages are improper for this Purpose. If the Enemy acts with the least Circumspection, they will never be tempted to push their Pursuit to the Verge of a Wood or the Entrance of a Village. The best Places for these Ambuscades of Infantry, are open Commons covered with Heath or Fern, or rising in little Hillocks; hollow Roads, standing Corn, or Ditches. But it will be in vain to attempt any thing of this kind on the Road leading to your Army, as they will in that Case be particularly cautious in their Pursuit.

IN these Ambuscades of Foot, your Men are to lie flat upon their Faces, and, to prevent their being seen, must cover their Clothes with Dust, that they may, as nearly as possible, resemble the Colour of the Ground; but that they may not be liable to be trampled on by the Enemy's Cavalry, it will be prudent to secure the Flank I. with a kind of Barrier K.

Plan

Plan VI. The Posts are to be five or six Feet out of the Ground, and at the Distance of ten Feet from each other, join'd by cross Poles, about five Feet above the Surface of the Earth. These Materials may be provided from some neighbouring Wood.

You are to give strict Orders that your Men be very attentive to their commanding Officer, who will not give them the word Fire, till the Enemy have extended their Flank the whole Length of his Front. The Firing of the Foot is the Signal for your Cavalry to attack that of the Enemy, which we may now reasonably suppose to be a little disconcerted by a general Discharge from the Ambuscade.

WHEN you intend to form an Ambuscade in the Ditch of a great Road, you should fix upon the deepest Part of it adjoining, if possible, to a Corn Field. Your People are to sit, kneel, or stoop, as the Place may require. If you have  
sufficient

sufficient Time for the Purpose, it may not be amiss to cut down a number of Shrubs or Bushes, and plant them along the side of the Road, so as to conceal your Troops. This artificial Thicket should be extended beyond your Ambuscade, and the Boughs, towards the Extremity, planted at some Distance from each other, that the Enemy may be accustomed to pass them without Suspicion. If the Corn should not grow near enough the Ditch, it will be necessary to transport a number of Sods and to plant them in the manner specified above, where I mentioned the Ambuscade of Cavalry. If this should not be sufficient, you may strew some of the Corn as if it had been laid flat by the Wind or Hail.

I REMEMBER to have seen this Stratagem executed with Success in *Alsace*, under the Command of Captain de *Palasti*, one of the most famous Partisans of his Time. He ordered me to conceal myself, with fifty Men, in the manner above described,



described, and advanced his Cavalry along the great Road leading to *Strasbourg*. They were no sooner perceived, than Four hundred *Bavarian* Dragoons approached to attack them. Our Troops retreated, and the Enemy, as if already sure of their Booty, pursued with great Eagerness. I suffered their Front to pass, and then fired upon their Centre with so much Success, that I brought Seventeen of them to the Ground, killed and wounded. Our Cavalry then faced about, and made so vigorous an Attack, that they must have been totally routed, if they had not been sustained by a strong Detachment of Horse and Foot, which immediately sallied out of *Strasbourg* to their Relief: nevertheless we carried off Fifty of their Horses.

THE Commander of a Party sent out to surprise the Enemy, having disposed his Infantry in Ambuscade, should march his Cavalry at break of Day. A non-commissioned Officer and six private Men must  
compose

compose his advanced Guard ; which is always to keep in Sight of the Commander. The moment he perceives the Enemy, he must retreat slowly, but without seeming to fly, unless he is closely pursued. In that Case, the Van becoming his Rear Guard, must pop at them now and then, in order to provoke them to continue the Pursuit.

IF the Enemy should halt, and seem inclined to follow you no farther, order one of your Men to drop his Hat, and another to stop with him as if to assist his Comrade in taking it up. The rest of the rear Guard are to continue their March to the Distance of about a hundred Paces, where they are to halt. One of the two will keep his Eye upon the Enemy whilst the other is employ'd in taking up the Hat. If, upon this, they should again advance, you are to face about and return to the Assistance of the two Soldiers, who are immediately to mount their Horses, and rejoin the Corps. This  
 sort

fort of Delay sometimes draws a Party insensibly forward, beyond the Limits which Prudence, and the Diffidence of War had prescribed. If there happens to be a Village between your Ambuscade and the Enemy, your Cavalry are not to exceed the Village in their Excursion, as it will be impossible to induce the Enemy to pass it in their Pursuit, if they are not mere Novices in their Profession. But instead of advancing further, your light Horse are to enter the Village, and demand Refreshment for Fifty Men, supposing your Troop to consist of a Hundred. You are then to dispatch three or four Peasants to the neighbouring Villages, next the Enemy, with orders to their respective Bailiffs, or Constables, to attend you without delay, in order to regulate the Delivery of Waggon and Forrage, or under some other Pretence. These Peasants will not fail to give the Enemy Information of what they have heard and seen, in consequence of which it is more than probable they will attempt  
to

to surprife you with a fuperior Force. They will make ufe of Cavalry upon this Occafion, as the March of Infantry would not be fufficiently expeditious.

THE instant thefe Peafants are departed, you are to take great care that no Perfon whatever be fuffered to leave the Village. You are to fend frequent Patroles along the Road by which you intend to retreat, that you may be in no danger of having your Communication with the Ambufcade cut off; and that you may retire as foon as the Enemy fhall enter the Village; the Men are to continue with their Bridles in their Hands, ready to mount at a Moment's warning.

IF a Partifan has no Infantry under his Command, he may ftill form an Ambufcade in the following manner: It muft be as near the Enemy as poffible. During the Night he will fend out two or three Waggons covered with white Canvas, that they may be perceived at a Difance.

Special

Special Care must be taken that their Harness be in good Condition. Each Waggon must be drawn by four Horses, and driven by two Soldiers, properly disguised, whose Arms are committed to the Care of their four Comrades concealed within the Waggon. These will be sufficient to repulse any Patrole they may meet.

THE Waggon are to be driven along the Road parallel to the Enemy's Front, at a little distance from their Post. They will so regulate their March as to be about half a League from the Ambuscade at the break of Day, and within sight of the Enemy. Here they will halt, whilst one of the Men takes a View from the Top of a Tree, or from some Eminence near the Road. As soon as he perceives the Enemy's Patrole, they are to continue their March. If they should not seem inclined to follow, one of the Waggon must stop, pretending to be, on some  
account,

account, embarrassed ; this will infallibly draw them into your Ambuscade.

AMONG the many Opportunities for Ambuscades which the different Marches of the Enemy afford, there are none more favourable than the Retreat of an Army. When a Partisan has the good Fortune to be apprized of this intended retrograde Motion, by the diligence of his Spies, the Evening before the March, he will immediately quit his Post with his whole Force, taking a Rout as in that marked in Plan IV. He will leave his Infantry concealed about half way. His Cavalry are to make all possible Dispatch to gain the Rear of the Enemy, and to form an Ambuscade upon the Road along which they are to pass, at the Distance of two or three Leagues from their Camp.

To be better assured of his Retreat, he will station two or three separate Detachments, between himself and his Infantry, at a good Distance from each

K other.

other. The rest are to line the Road in several parallel Lines, three or four hundred Paces in the Rear of each other, but so concealed as not to be seen by any who pass by them.

THE first Line are to lay hold of the Suttlers, and other Attendants of an Army, which are generally the forrunners of a Retreat. As soon as they have seized any of their Waggon's or Mules, the first Detachment will pass them forward to the Second, and so on till they have reached the Infantry. You may safely employ yourself in this manner during one quarter of an Hour, in which time the Alarm will probably have reached the Army: it will then be prudent to retire.

## C H A P. XII.

*Of* RETREATING.

BY the Word RETREAT we mean, in general, every retrograde Motion of an Army, or Body of Troops. That which is made in Sight of a superior Enemy, will be the Subject of this Chapter: it is justly esteem'd the *ne plus ultra* of the Art military. As it is necessarily attended with infinite Danger and Difficulty, there is no *manœuvre* that will so infallibly indicate the Courage and Ability of the commanding Officer. All Historians are agreed in this Point: their Panegyric is never more profusely lavish'd, than on those Heroes of Antiquity who have rendered themselves famous by brilliant Retreats.

As the Subject is important, it is also extremely difficult to investigate with adequate Perspicuity, on account of its in-



finite variety of Circumstances, each of which would require a separate Detail. The Brevity of my Plan will permit me only to take notice of the most essential: I shall nevertheless endeavour to explain myself in such a manner, that my general Directions may, with facility, be applied to most particular Cases that will happen.

THE Success of a Retreat depends principally on a perfect Knowledge of the Country through which you have to march, and a proper Disposition of your Troops. By the first, you are enabled to apply every Advantage of Ground or Situation; and by the second, to sustain the Shock of an impetuous Enemy: both deserve the greatest Attention.

EVERY Officer who is intrusted with the Command of a Detachment, should carefully reconnoitre every Step he takes; observe, with the utmost Attention, every passible Road, leading from one Place to  
another;

another; every Wood, Thicket, Ditch, or Hollow, proper for an Ambuscade of Horse or Foot; the Courses of Rivers, Bridges, Fords, Villages; and, in short, every Particular that may serve to make him perfectly acquainted with the Dangers and Advantages which he leaves behind. It will be very easy to acquire a competent Knowledge of these Matters by the Method prescribed in the tenth Chapter of this Work, for obtaining a Plan of a Country without having been upon the Spot. By the help of such a Plan, he will be able to regulate his Retreat with great ease, and to use every possible Means, as well for the security of his Troops, as to surprize the Enemy.

THE Arrangement or Disposition of your Troops will entirely depend on the Number and Quality both of your own and those of the Enemy: for it will vary accordingly as they happen to consist of Cavalry or Infantry, are compact or dis-

K 3

united;