

united ; we shall descend to the Particulars of each.

A SAFE Retreat, after an unsuccessful Battle, is a thing absolutely impracticable, if it was not concerted before the Engagement, and that you are obliged to fly through Roads unknown. If indeed you have the good fortune to be sheltered by the Night or a thick Fog, you may then escape without much Difficulty, as they will not dare to pursue you far for fear of being surpris'd : I shall therefore confine myself to a Retreat in the Face of an Enemy in the Day-time.

FIRST, it is requisite that you should be in no doubt as to the Enemy's Force ; for it would be highly shameful to be so far the Dupe of a false Alarm as to retreat before an inferior Body of Troops : you must therefore be convinc'd of their Superiority, and be very certain whether they be Horse or Foot.

IF you are pursued by a strong Detachment of Cavalry, in conjunction with a Party of Infantry more numerous than your own, you must endeavour to render those of the Enemy useless. With this Intent your Foot must take possession of the first Pass, where they will flank the Road in such a manner as to support your Cavalry, as I have directed in the Chapter on Ambuscades.

To conceal the Departure of your Foot, you will order your Cavalry to advance as if with an intention to attack the Enemy A. Plan VII. You will then form them into two Divisions B. C. each making two Lines, the second double the first, and disposed as in the Plan.

THE Division C. will retreat first to the Distance of about Two hundred Paces, where it will face about, and separate into two Wings, leaving an Interval for the Division B. to pass between; which Division must be covered by a rear Guard,

who are to march fifty Paces in the Rear in small Squadrons ; they are to endeavour to retard the Enemy by frequently firing upon them, till they have joined the Division C. This Division must also immediately detach the same kind of rear Guard to amuse the Enemy till the Division B. has had time to gain its distance of Two hundred Paces in the Rear, and has likewise formed into two Wings, with an Interval in the Centre for the Division C. to pass in its turn. You will continue retreating in this Manner till you have drawn the Enemy into the Ambuscade of your Infantry. When you are pursued by Cavalry only, your Foot, which are marked with the dotted Rectangles in the Plan, are to retire at the same time with the rest ; unless from the nature of the Country, you have Reason to fear that your Retreat will be cut off : in that case, you will instantly detach half of the Infantry to form an Ambuscade in the Place above-mentioned. The Remainder are to draw up in the

Center

Center of the second Line of each Division. If the Enemy should approach too near the first, it must be ordered to rein back, and dividing in the Center, form upon the Flanks of the second. Thus the Enemy will be exposed to the Platoon Fire of your Infantry. At the same time you may detach small Parties of your Dragoons to increase their Confusion. The Division which retreats will take more or less Ground in the Rear in proportion as you are hard pressed, or otherwise. That which covers the Retreat will pass through the Interval in the same manner, continuing this alternate *manceuvre* till the Enemy shall desist from their Pursuit.

To accelerate the Retreat of Infantry, some Writers advise us to transport them on Waggon; but when the Enemy is at our Heels, it would be making a bad use of our Time, to employ it in looking out for Waggon and putting the Horses to them. These Moments are too precious  
to

to be trifled away. Besides, it is more than probable, that some of these Vehicles, as they must be collected in a hurry and without examination, are not in proper travelling Order; in consequence of which, some of them must soon break down, and thus entirely stop the Remainder of the file of Waggon, and also all the Cavalry in the Rear if it happens in a narrow Road. These Considerations, I should imagine sufficient to deter any one from endeavouring to accelerate their Retreat by means which, in fact, will more probably retard it.

THE case indeed were different, if you knew the Enemy to be yet at a considerable Distance: you would then have time enough when a Waggon broke down, to lift it out of the Road. and to mount the Men that were on it, upon the Horses, two upon each, or to distribute them on the other Waggon. If several should fail, the Men are to make the best of their way on foot till they are tired,

tired, and then to be relieved by an equal Number from the remaining Carriages. By thus relieving each other alternately, you may possibly be able, notwithstanding your Disaster, to secure your whole Party.

If you happen to have a Wood in your Rear, it were dangerous to enter it, in case you are closely pursued, especially if the Enemy knows your Strength. You had better skirt the Wood, as by the dotted Rout G Plan VII. left you should be intercepted on the opposite Side. But if you are inevitably forced to pass through, the Division C must march first, and as soon as they have gained the other Side, wheel outward and form into Wings fronting the Flanks of the Wood. The Division B. will remain at the Entrance till the Division C. are sufficiently advanced. Then the Cavalry B. are to pursue their Retreat, covered by the Infantry till they have cleared the Wood, when your Troops will again resume their former Disposition.

IN

IN passing any Defile or Bridge, you will repeat the same *manœuvre*, with this difference only, that your first Division having passed, will front the Enemy, and the Infantry are to range themselves along each side of the River.

If you are to retreat through a mountainous Country, the first Division are to guard the Heights as they go along till the Whole have passed.

A BODY of Cavalry, without Foot, should retreat in three Lines, Two hundred Paces distant from each other. The two last would do well to extend their Front that they may appear more numerous. They must form on each side of the Road, facing the Enemy. When the first Line is attacked the Second must support it, and the Third must wait till the First retreats, when it is likewise to sustain the Second, and so on alternately.

IF the Enemy should desist from their Pursuit, you will then resume your usual order of March, taking Care however to keep a strong rear Guard. Your advanced Guard may be in Proportion weaker.

A SMALL Detachment of Cavalry, such as is generally sent out to reconnoitre the Enemy, to bring Intelligence of their March, or to carry off some Officer of Distinction, as it is not sufficiently numerous to retreat in the regular manner above directed; such a Detachment, I say, has no means of Safety but in Flight, or a Resolution to pierce through the Ranks of the Enemy, The latter is its only Resource when it happens to be unfortunately surrounded on every Side; but the former is attended with less Danger, if it can possibly be effected.

IF an Officer is well assured of the Fidelity of his Troops, on finding himself ready to fall into the Hands of his Enemy,  
there



there is yet one method of Escape, which he may attempt, and which I have known to succeed. He will range his Men two and two together, with orders to make for the first Opening or Cover they shall perceive, by different Ways. It is evident that two Horse-men by various Turnings and Windings, will stand a better Chance to get clear than a Body of Eighteen or Twenty, whose Evolutions will be much slower and perplexed.

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having lost a single Man. This Instance may be sufficient to shew, that we are never to despair, be our Situation ever so seemingly Desperate ; and that, in a case of extream Necessity, we are not to be terrified at the Passage of a River or Morass.

IN a forced Retreat, we are excited by Prudence to sacrifice many Considerations for the sake of Life and Liberty. We are therefore, without Hesitation, to part with every thing that may retard our March : Baggage, Booty, Prisoners, &c. must be left, that we may accomplish our Retreat with greater Care

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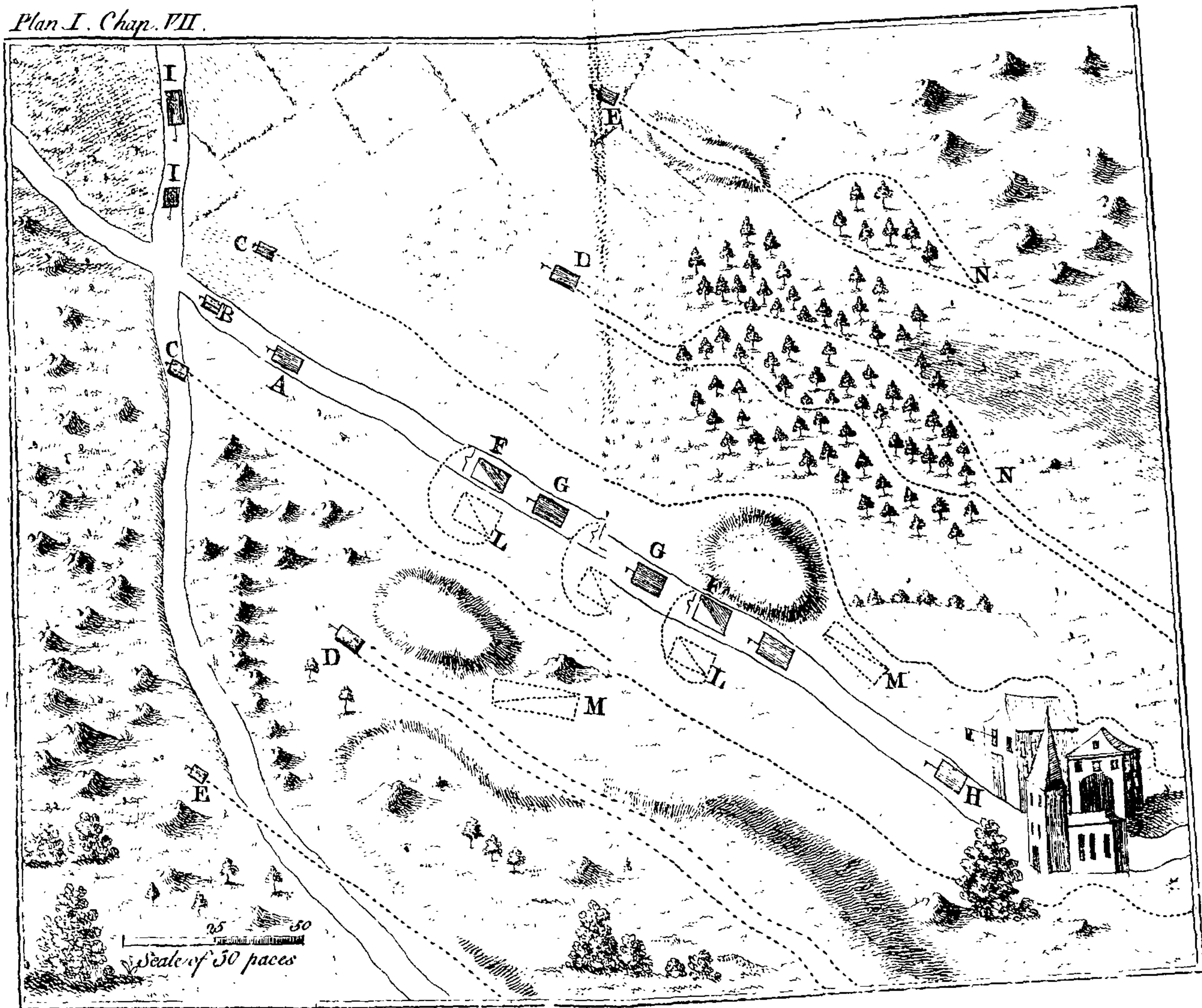
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I having

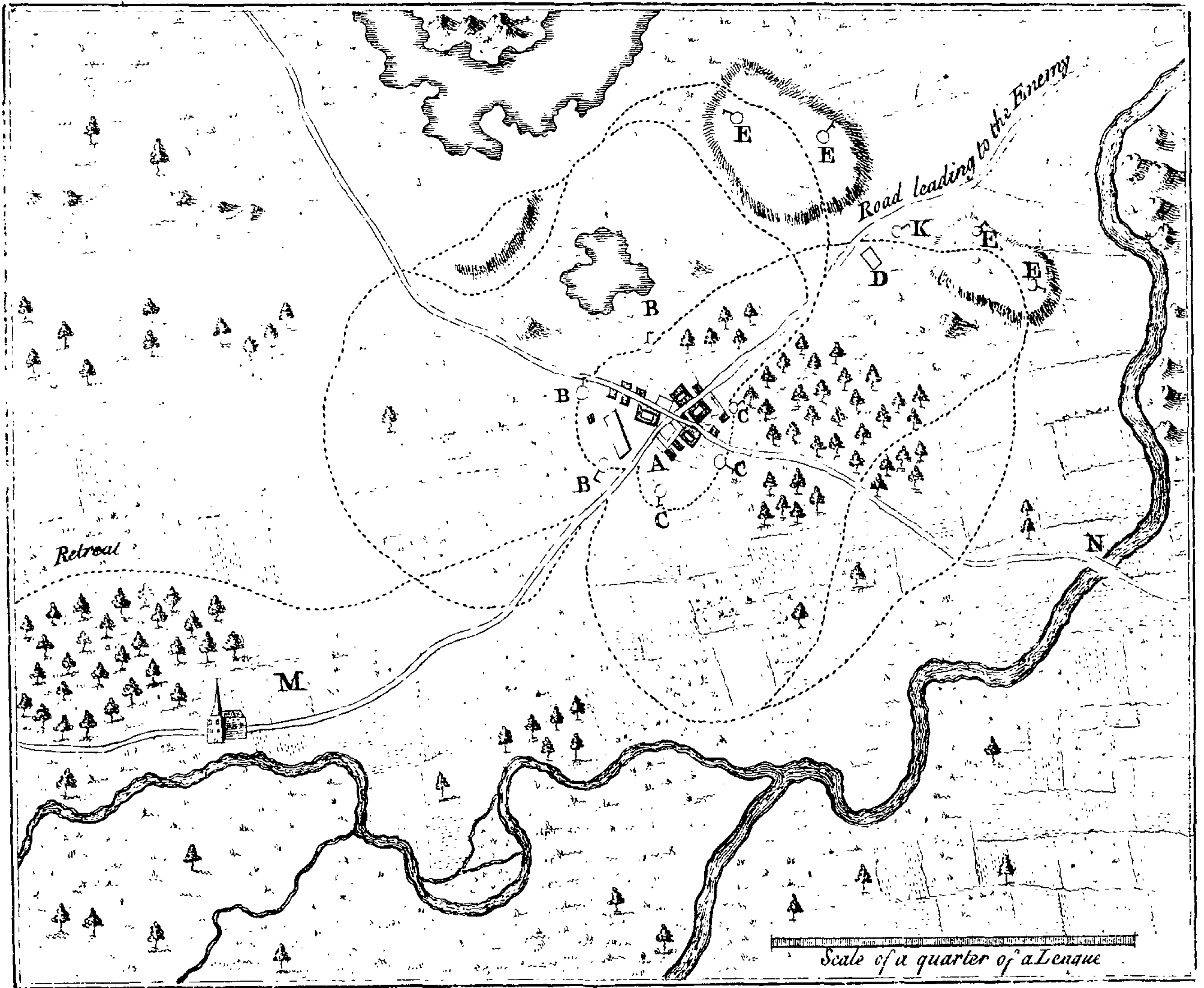
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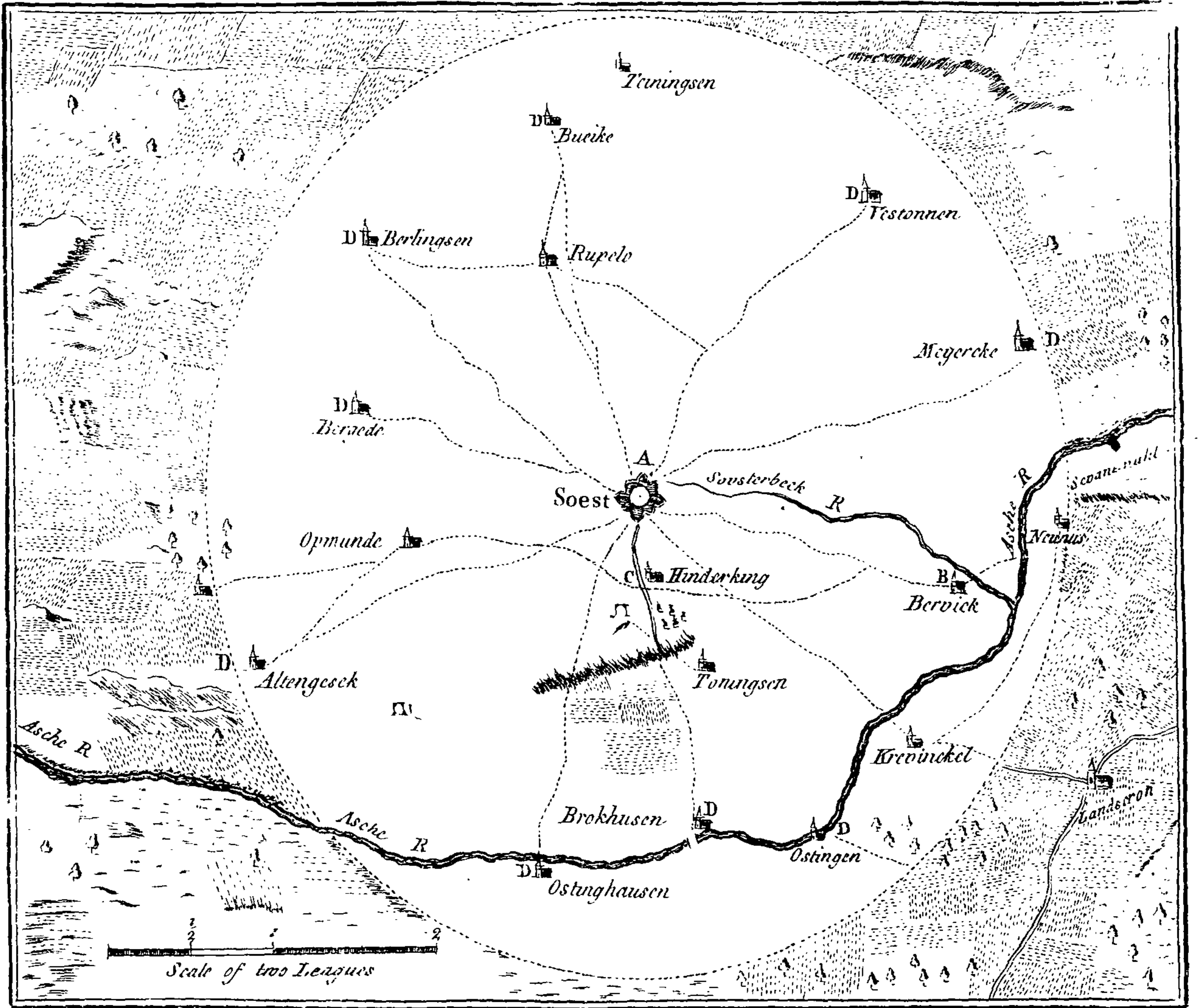
Plan I. Chap. VII.



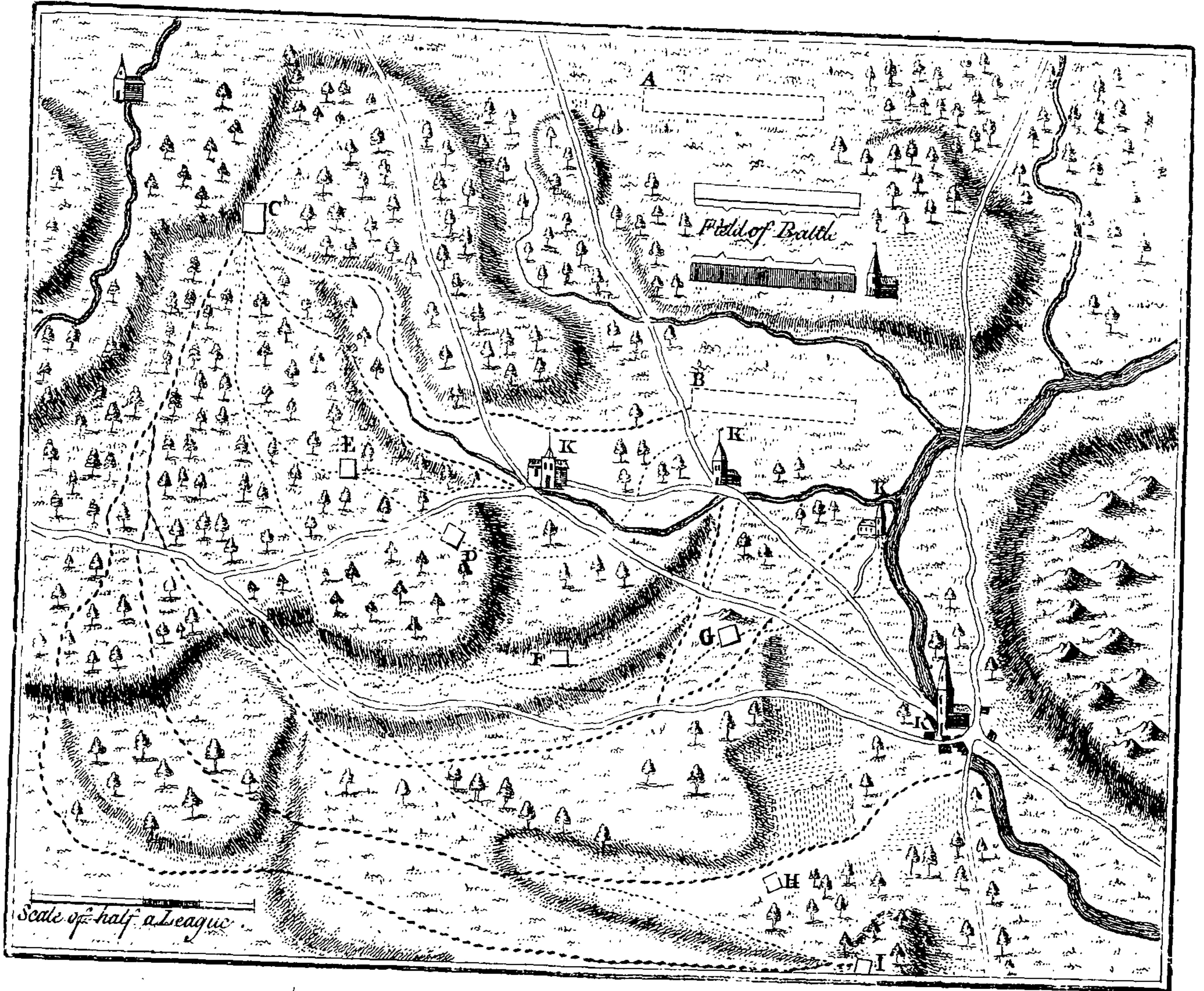


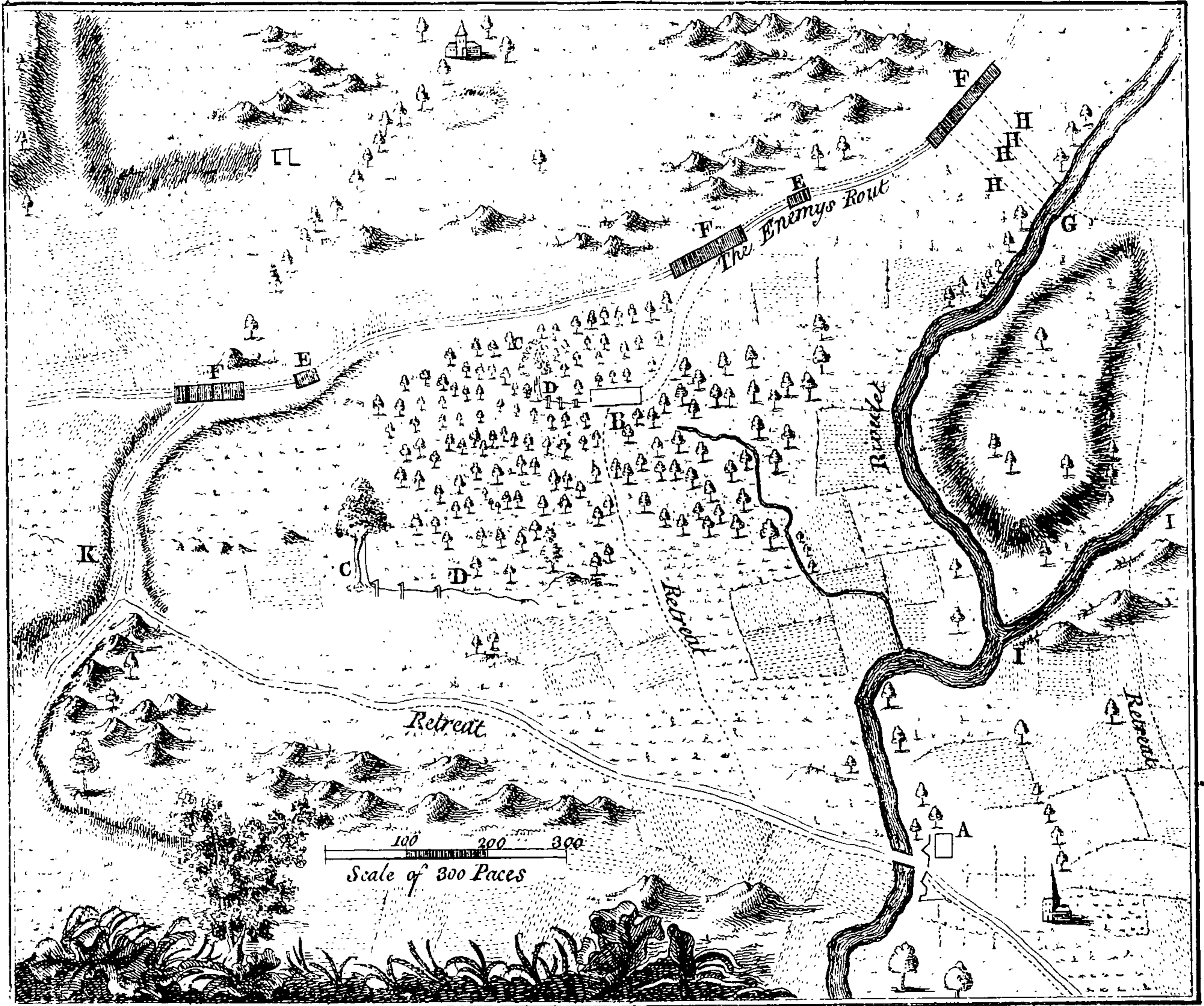


Plan III.



Plan IV





Plan VI.

