ing the posts which it is proper to guard, they will occupy such as are unncessary, and leave thoſe defenceleſs that are most liable to be attacked ; the troops will be greatly fatigued by increaſing the number of posts without occasion, by superfluous or too numerous detachments or patroles. In a word, whatever precautions are taken within, the quarters will never be in ſecurity, if the country round about them is not perfectly known, and every important pass between them and the enemy occupied.

Sect. II. *Of the Preparations before taking the*

*Fields and the March of an Army on leaving its Quarters to go into Cantonments.*

The time for an army to come out of winter-quarters, is always regulated by the plan which the general has formed for the enſuing campaign. But whether by the ſituation of the quarters the army is enabled to enter imme­diately on the campaign, or whether it mult be first of all cantoned, the magazines ſhould be ſo situated as to be al­ways within reach, eſpecially in that early season of the year, when there can be no forage upon the ground, and consequently the cavalry must be ſubsisted out of the ma­gazines. The magazines ought to be distributed about in different parts, that the troops may have leſs way to go for their forage. And this distribution ſhould be regulated by the movements which the general foreſees the army will make on leaving its quarters, ſupposing it leaves them when there is only dry forage ; but if the army is in an enemy’s country, and there is forage upon the ground, it is certain­ly better to reserve the magazines entire, by which not only great trouble will be avoided in transporting the forage, but alſo a great expence ſaved to the government.

Of what nature soever the country may be (an enemy’s country is ſuppoſed), it ſhould be foraged in front as much as possible, in order to reserve that which is in the rear, that, when the campaign is over, it may be found laid up **in** the barns : if this precaution is not attended to, the army will be destitute of forage at its return, and will of courſe be obliged to draw it from home, and consume thoſe magazines which were before spared ; conſequently there will be nothing ſaved, the expence will only have been de­ferred, but it will be increaſed by tranſporting the forage from the magazines to the army.

The forming of the magazines ſhould never be delayed till the time for opening the campaign approaches. The intendant, purſuant to the general’s order, ſhould lay in the proviſions during the winter, and distribute them in the frontier towns, by which means they can eaſily be tranſported to whatever place the general ſhall order. By theſe precautions, the general will not only avoid the inconveni­ence of being obliged to wait till there is forage upon the ground, but he will alſo be enabled to be first in the field. The same precautions ſhould also be taken with reſpect to the artillery. It ſhould be assembled upon the glacis of the frontier towns, or rather upon that of the conquered places: the more it is within reach of readily joining, the sooner the operations will be commenced.

From prudence in the execution of theſe diſpoſitions, as well for the magazines and for the artillery, as for every thing that is necessary to an army, it follows, that a gene­ral hath often formed a siege, or at least invested a place, and completed his lines of circumvallation, before the enemy could be in a condition of coming out of his quarters ; he may likewise have made many marches, and will posseſs himself of advantageous posts, without the enemy having it in his power to oppoſe him.

A general ſhould obſerve, that, in order to cauſe his army to be cantoned within a march of the country where he designs to commence the operations, he must make all the troops leave their quarters together; assemble them in many bodies in different frontier towns ; proportion the marching days to the distance of the quarters and the ren­dezvous that ſhall have been appointed for them, that they may arrive on the day appointed, and that from thence they may march in a body to the place where they are to canton.

All the bodies march, either in the number of columns that the ſituation of the country will allow, and arrive at the cantonment together; or else they march ſeparately, and arrive on different days : but, in either of theſe cases, the cantonments for each regiment ought to have been mark­ed out ; and, if poſſible, forage for at least three or four days distributed to each quarter.

In the marching-orders which are ſent to each commander, the ſituation and name of the place where each regiment is to canton, ſhould be carefully expressed ; whether on the right, the left, or in the centre : the diſcipline to be there obſerved, the place where to go and receive orders, and that where to receive forage, ſhould alſo be particularly ſpecified.

Troops, when upon a march, ſhould always obſerve the most exact diſcipline ; and never be ſuffered to advance, but in the same order, and with the same precaution, as if they were in danger of being molested or attacked.

Whenever an army is cantoned, it is generally in an enemy’s country ; therefore, for the greater ſecurity of the cantonments, there ſhould at least be one place that may ſerve for a ſupport. If no place of this sort can be found, the army must then march out together and encamp, instead of going into cantonments.

As the cantonments are properly nothing more than a halting place, where the troops are to remain till the ſeaſon permits them to take the field, till the proper quantity of forage is collected, or till the necessary preparations for the intended operations are completed, they ſhould be more connected than the winter-quarters. But as ſoon as the wea­ther permits, and all the necessary preparations which ſhould have been forwarded during the winter are finiſhed, there is then no time to be lost ; for an army will always find its ad­vantage in encamping early, getting the start of the enemy as much as it possibly can, and beginning the campaign, no matter by what operations, before the enemy can have time to assemble.

If any particular column, upon the march, preſents its flank to any of the enemy’s towns, although it is indiſpenſably necessary for every column to obſerve all poſſible order and diſcipline on the march, yet this column is more parti­cularly obliged to it ; necessity makes it become a duty. But that it ſhould not be too much expoſed, ſome hussars ought to be appointed to march upon its flank, who ſhould alſo be ordered to advance till they come within sight of thoſe towns. This column, whether consisting of infantry or cavalry, must detach ſome troops to ſustain the hussars, in case they ſhould be attacked and repulſed. By posting theſe detachments upon the flank, the enemy will be kept at a distance from the column, and the hussars will be alſo ſustained.

Sect. III. *The March of an Army in an open Country.*

To direct the march of armies is not the least difficult part of a general’s duty, and it is only by a thorough knowledge of the country that he can perform this duty ; that he can concert the meaſures for conducting them in