will ſoon be beaten and diſperſed, and the convoy carried off.

The general officer commanding the convoy ought, for its ſecurity, to distribute his troops after such a manner that they may be a mutual assistance to it. The choice of the troops to form the eſcort is undetermined, as it is by the nature of the country their quality ſhould be decided. In mountainous and woody countries, only infantry, hussars, or dragoons, can be made use of ; the hussars or dragoons are to march in the front and on the flanks, to ſcour the woods, examine the avenues, and make ſure of the defiles ; in an open country, the eſcort ſhould be compoſed of infan­try, cavalry, hussars, or dragoons. But whatever may be the nature of the country, the convoy ought never to ad­vance without firft sending out detachments to reconnoitre at a distance.

If the convoy marches through a mountainous country, a large body of cavalry would not only be uſeleſs, but also an embarrassment, as it would be unable to act, except with great difficulty ; whereas, in an open country, cavalry is very serviceable. In any kind of country a convoy can be escorted with infantry, eſpecially when the enemy can only act with his; but as in an open country it is necessary for the infantry to be ſupported, the cavalry most be uſed for that purpoſe. In a mountainous country, infantry can carry on war alone.

In this last case the officer commanding the eſcort ought to place a body of infantry at the head, another in the cen­tre, and a third at the rear-guard ; to distribute small bodies at proper distances on the right and left ; and he ſhould be particularly careful to posseſs himſelf of the heights. The huffars must be distributed to the advanced and rear-guards, and, in order to be more certain that every part hath been strictly examined, as the convoy advances, notwithstanding the hussars of the advanced guard have already ſcoured the avenues, woods, valleys, villages, and hollows, the hussars belonging to the rear-guard ſhould again look into thoſe places, to see whether any thing hath eſcaped the notice of the advanced guard. Theſe precautions are never with­out their use, and do not in the least retard the march of the convoy.

The ſmall detachments ſhould advance as far as poſſible into the country, without exposing themſelves to the, dan­ger of being cut off, the hussars with pistol or musquetoon, and the dragoons with their carbine in hand, in order that, if they ſhould meet the enemy, they may, by firing, give the officer commanding the eſcort notice of it, ſo that he may have time to make his diſpositions for defending and preſerving the convoy. The convoy may continue march­ing on till the enemy is diſcovered : but on the first notice of him, it must stop, and the officers belonging to the con­voy ſhould park their waggons ; or, if the ground will not admit of that, they ſhould cauſe them to keep very cloſe to­gether, and double them up with the distance of four paces, which ſhould be filled with infantry, between each waggon. By this movement the length of ground taken up by the waggons will be contracted, the troops will be brought cloſer together, and will form a stronger and heavier body, capable of assisting each other with more ease.

In a mountainous country it is almost impossible for the enemy to attack the advanced and rear guards and the centre at the same time. Nevertheleſs, if he ſhould find an opportu­nity of forming theſe three attacks at once, by following the diſpositions above mentioned, he will find troops at every part to receive him : neither will he be able to make himself master of the heights without attacking them, and the troops already in possession of the ground will easily repulſe him ; and by the assistance which the officer commanding the escort ſhould endeavour to fend them, they will be enabled to maintain themſelves in them, to protect the convoy, and the enemy will be unable to attack by more than one or two passes.

If the enemy forms but one attack, only a part of the troops must be oppoſed to him, becauſe it is to be ſupposed this attack may be made only with a design to draw the whole strength of the detachment to that part, and which, by being altogether in that one place, will give the enemy concealed in ambush an opportunity of falling with eaſe upon that part of the convoy that is unprovided with troops, and which will of courſe be incapable of making any de­fence. The troops of the centre ſhould never march to the assistance of the advanced guard, if it is that which is at­tacked, nor thoſe of the rear-guard to the assistance of the centre; but a party from thoſe troops which cover the flanks of the convoy ſhould be collected in a body, and sent to assist the part that is attacked. However narrow and con­fined the country may be, a convoy may be easily conduct­ed by infantry, when it would be impossible to do it with cavalry.

When any paſs or avenue crosses the road on which the convoy marches, it ſhould be covered by a body of infantry, which will remain there till the rear-guard is come up ; then it will fall into the post assigned it for conducting the con­voy. It is always to be ſupposed, that this paſs hath been examined by the advanced detachments. If the eſcort is compoſed of infantry and dragoons, the latter ſhould be dismounted, in order to give an additional strength to the guards, and their horſes may be tied to the waggons. The hussars, if the nature of the country renders them unſerviceable on horſeback, may alſo be dismounted ; by which means, instead of being an embarrassment to the infantry, they will become useful to it. The nature of hussars is such as will admit of their being employed on every occasion ; and although the difference of their arms will not permit them to be as ſerviceable as dragoons, they may neverthe­leſs amuſe a party of troops belonging to the enemy in such a manner as to enable the infantry to beat them, or at least to oblige them to retire.

Hussars are more particularly necessary in the eſcorting of convoys, becauſe they ſcamper about on all sides, and are very active and ready in ſcouring a country thoroughly ; they leave no place till they have perfectly examined it, unleſs the thickneſs of the woods, or any other unavoidable obstacle, ſhould prevent their penetrating as far as they would otherwise do ; and even then they protect the in­fantry, who can with greater eaſe paſs into thoſe places where the hussars cannot. Whatever country the convoy paſses through, there ſhould always be hussars with it ; otherwiſe the officer commanding the eſcort cannot be cer­tain that the country is thoroughly ſurveyed, becauſe for want of hussars he must employ cavalry on that ſervice. Not that there can be any doubt of the cavalry’s exposing itſelf to danger with as much cheerfulneſs and courage as the hussars ; but as the horſes belonging to the cavalry are na­turally heavier than thoſe of the hussars, and often encum­bered with forage, they cannot venture to a proper distance without running the danger of being taken, becauſe they cannot retire with that expedition which is requiſite : On the other hand, the hussar being more active, and more accustomed to reconnoitre, knows how to go over a country with proper caution and care to himſelf: besides, the trooper who is uſed always to march in a body, and to be under command, will have a very imperfect idea of the method of ſcouring a country. Although the diſpofition of the troops ſhould always be regulated by the nature of the country through which the convoy marches, and by the nature and