understanding his business, he must be strong in every part ; the reserve, which is in the centre, will, with expedition and ſpeed, send assistance to the parts which are attacked.

Before the commanding officer fixes the chain, he ſhould detach ſome hussars to ſurvey and ſcour with great exactneſs the woods, villages, hollows, and all ſuch places, for at least three quarters of a league or a league, in front, as may be capable of containing ambuſcades : and during the time of this ſurveying, the troops destined for the chain will remain in order of battle, in the front of the ground that is to be foraged, in order to cover it and protect the hussars, in case they ſhould be attacked.

When this examination is finiſhed, the commanding of­ficer may begin to establiſh his chain, and the hussars will remain in the front till the foraging is finiſhed ; and will detach ſmall bodies to march round about the chain, crossing each other, halting at times, and sending ſome hussars before them to patrole.

If the hussars gain intelligence of the enemy’s being either in march, or placed in ambuſcade, they will send immediate notice of it to the commanding officer of the chain, who ſhould always fix himſelf in a particular ſpot, that there may be no time ſpent in ſeeking him ; his post ſhould be in the rear of that part of the chain that is nearest to and most in front of the enemy, and he will regulate the diſpositions for his defence according to the report made to him. When an ambuſcade is diſcovered, and troops march­ing to attack, a general ſhould always ſuſpect there may be more ambuſcades, and more troops in march, to form dif­ferent attacks ; he must therefore, instead of weakening the chain if any part, strengthen it as much as he can, by cau­sing either the whole reserve, or part of it, to march where circumstances ſhall require.

The avenues and the heights in a mountainous country ſhould be occupied by infantry ; the avenues, in order to prevent the enemy from penetrating into the valley or plain where the forage is made ; the heights, in order to obſerve the enemy at a distance, and to prevent his getting possession of them, and flanking the troops which guard the ave­nues. In this case there ſhould be a greater number of in­fantry than cavalry ; no more of the latter being than what is necessary to ſustain and ſupport the infantry, in case it ſhould be attacked, repulſed, and obliged to retire through a valley or plain. Then, if it hath no cavalry to ſupport it, the wings will be entirely expoſed, and the ene­my being ſuperior, can at the same time atack the front and the flanks ; whereas, by the means of horse, which can act with eaſe in a plain or a valley, this inconvenience will be prevented, and the infantry greatly assisted.

If the forage is made at a distance from the camp, and in the neighbourhood of the enemy, the infantry guarding the avenues ſhould throw up ſome entrenchments in its front, which will be ſoon done ; and it is then cannon be­comes necessary, as there ſhould be two or three pieces planted at each avenue. The heights alſo must, on every occasion, be occupied, which ſhould be constantly obſerved as a general rule, whether the enemy is at a distance or near at hand, in every diſposition that is to be executed in a mountainous country.

If the enemy forms one or more attacks, the ſmall eſcorts belonging to each regiment must join on the first order, and cover the foragers as much as poſſible, who ſhould at the same time assemble in the centre by regiments. The fora­gers ſhould always be provided with their carbine or sword; and although they may not be very formidable against troops completely armed, yet there have been instances where they have charged with ſucceſs.

If it is in a plain, and the enemy, having formed but one attack, charges the chain in one particular part, the troops of horſe and dragoons which are onposite to him ſhould march up reſolutely and ſuſtain his efforts : if they are repulsed, they will be ſupported by the infantry that hath re­mained in its post ; the hussars which were in front will unite, and place themſelves upon the flanks of the troops which are attacked, in order to cover them, and endeavour to defeat the enemy by charging him in flank and rear. If the general is certain that the whole of the enemy’s troops are engaged in this one attack, he may then bring up all the troops belonging to the chain, both cavalry and infantry, in order to oblige him to retire the ſooner : which if he does, ſome hussars, sustained by horſe and dragoons, ſhould be ſent in pursuit of him, till his retreat becomes certain ; but with caution not to purſue too far, left he ſhould rally upon thoſe troops, who, being too far from the chain, cannot receive assistance ſo ſoon as would be necessary ; and be sides, the making and accompliſhing the forage being the grand ob­ject, the commanding officer ſhould be contented with succeeding in that, without ſeeking for any other advantage unconnected with the original destination of the troops.

If the enemy forms more attacks than one, the foragers, who, as hath been already obſerved, must be assembled in the centre, ſhould have orders to take the road to the camp, and will re-enter it covered by the ſmall eſcorts from the rear­guard ; but as a forage ſhould never be abandoned till the last extremity, they ſhould be ordered to draw up in order of battle, when they are within a quarter of a league of the camp, in order to return and complete the forage on the first order. But if the enemy is in force, and by his ſuperiority all hope of obtaining the forage is destroyed ; or if it is made at ſo great a distance from the camp that the troops belonging to the chain cannot expect to be readily assisted ; the commanding officer ought to make a retreat, with every diſposition a good officer is capable of, and to join courage and vigilance with knowledge and experience.

If, on the contrary, the enemy is weaker, or of equal force with the chain, he ſhould be charged without hesitation ; beeauſe the enemy, regulating his attack by his de­fence, will be obliged to contract himſelf, in order to make his attack heavier and more considerable ; ſo that the troops being united, will charge the enemy : and if, by the assistance of the hussars who are advanced, and act after the man­ner already mentioned, the enemy is forced to retire, he mult be purſued in the manner above directed ; after which the troops must return and complete the forage.

As a commanding officer is, in case of a forced retreat af­ter being beat, obliged to ſubmit to circumstances, and re­gulate his diſpositions by the enemy’s, he must retire with the greatest order poſſible, causing the infantry to march in the centre, either in columns or in order of battle, as the ſituation of the ground will best allow ; the horſe and dra­goons upon the wings, the hussars upon the flanks, that they may not confuse the diſpofitions, but ſerve as a ſupport for the chain, and prevent its being taken in flank ; and the diſ­position of the troops ſhould be ſo managed, that the enemy ſhall not be able to present a larger front than that which is oppoſed to him : and although it is impossible for a general to foreſee, for certain, what will be the diſpositions for an attack and retreat, becauſe they must be changed according as thoſe of the enemy after, or as the nature of the ground varies ; they ſhould nevertheleſs be ſo ordered, that each body ſhall be ſupported, and capable of acting without confuſion. It is only on occasions thus pressing, that the com­manding officer ſhould ſuffer the forage to be abandoned ; and even then it will be ſome ſatisfaction that he hath been able to place the foragers and their horſes in a state of ſecurity.