trenchments far camps hath been shortened ; they have taken a new form ; and being constructed upon the same principles as the fortifications of towns, they are become more difficult to be forced (see Part I. ſect. vi.). By this same experience the means of attacking them hath been diſcovered ; and in proportion as offensive weapons have chan­ged, and are become more powerful, the system of fortifica­tion has been new-modelled.

Let an army be ſuppoſed entrenched behind lines where art and nature are both joined ; whoſe flanks are ſuftained and ſecured, furniſhed with troops and artillery along the whole front, with more troops behind to ſustain thoſe which line the lines. The general who would attack, ought first to ſurvey the situation of the lines himſelf, and as much as poſſible the enemy’s diſposition ; he ſhould examine the constitution of the lines, how they are ſupported, their ex­tent, and whether the soil is firm or light. As ſoon as he ſhall be perfectly acquainted with these circumstances, he may form his plan of attack, and cauſe his army to march in as many columns as there are attacks to be made ; but he ſhould endeavour as much as poſſible to occupy the whole front of the enemy, in order to prevent him from sending assistance to thoſe places where the attack will be briſkest. The head of each column ſhould be well furniſhed with artillery ; and as ſoon as it ſhall be within distance of cannonading the lines with effect, it ſhould keep up a briſk and continual fire for the ſpace of an hour at least, ſo as to beat down the earth of the parapet, and tumble it into the ditch, which will in ſome meaſure render the passage of it leſs difficult for the troops. The time of the attack ſhould be an hour before day, so that the cannon may have fired before the enemy ſhall know where to direct his artil­lery : after every diſcharge, the situation of the cannon ſhould be changed either to the right or the left, in order to deceive the enemy’s gunners, and prevent their knowing where to direct their pieces. If there ſhould be any height within proper distance, the cannon ſhould be planted upon it : if the cannon can be brought to croſs each other upon the lines, the artillery will then have a very great effect.

The infantry ſhould follow the artillery, furniſhed with hurdles, planks, faſcines, pick-axes, and ſhovels ; the faſcines will ſerve to fill up the wells, if there are any, before the ditch ; or if there are no wells, they will fill up the ditch, and the hurdles will be thrown over them. The cavalry ſhould be formed in two lines in the rear of the infantry, in order to ſustain it. The general ſhould endeavour to find ſome ridges, to conceal the cavalry from the enemy ; but ſhould there be none, it must be placed at ſuch a diſtance, as not to be expoſed to the cannon of the lines ; for ſhould it be placed too near, it will very ſoon be destroyed, without having it in its power to be of any ſervice. In the beginning of an attack of lines, the cavalry cannot be of any assistance, and cannot even act till the infantry hath pe­netrated in ſome part. It would therefore be uſeleſs to cauſe it to advance too near, provided it is within reach of marching readily when the infantry has passed, and hath made a passage large enough for it, by beating down the lines and filling up the ditch ; the cavalry then will have no more to fear from the cannon of the lines, because the enemy’s attention will be more engaged with endea­vouring to repulſe the infantry, than with firing upon the cavalry. As ſoon as the lines have been beaten down, and the enemy thrown into confusion, the infantry ſhould march reſolutely and together ; and ſhould take care to leave room for the artillery, ſo that it may advance at the same time, and continue its fire. The attack ſhould be made by the grenadiers, ſustained by the piquets : they will protect the soldiers who fill up the wells and the ditch ; and as ſoon as they find an opportunity of passing, they will endeavour to get over the entrenchments, ſustained by the whole in­fantry of the column, which will then be diſencumbered of the fascines, hurdles, &c. in order to drive the enemy from his lines. As ſoon as there are ſoldiers enough upon the lines to bear the resistence of the enemy, the ſoldiers who have the ſhovels and pick axes, and who ought to be last, will finiſh the filling up of the ditch by beating down the parapet of the lines, and making an opening ſufficient for the passage of a ſquadron in order of battle. Then the whole infantry of the column that has broke through, will paſs and divide into two parts, to let the cavalry paſs, which will form under the cover of the fire of the infantry, and will not attack the enemy’s cavalry till it ſhall have collected its whole force together.

If one of the attacks ſucceeds, on the first news, which will ſoon be ſpread throughout the army, all the troops at that time ought briſkly to attack the whole front of the line, in order to employ the enemy, and prevent his send­ing assiſtance to that part that is forced. The reserve, which is compoſed of infantry and cavalry, ought to join the troops that have broke through the lines, to ſustain the cavalry which is charging that of the enemy, and cannot be ſustained by the infantry who passed first, because it is employed in taking the enemy in flank to the right and left. In this situation, when the reserve and all the cavalry which followed the column that hath passed, and to which others may yet be joined ſhall have passed, it ſhould attack the enemy ; if it is repulsed, it can never be to any great distance, because it has infantry behind it, to ſustain it, and by its fire to stop the enemy. If the lines are forced by many columns, the ſucceſs and alſo the defeat of the enemy will be thereby rendered more certain.

When the duke of Savoy and prince Eugene, still en­camped between the town of Pianeza and la Venerie, in 1706, marched to attack the lines of the French army that besieged Turin, they cauſed their armies to march in eight columns ; the infantry formed the advanced guard, the ar­tillery, distributed by brigades, marched at the head be­tween the columns, the cavalry was behind in six, and out of reach of cannon-ſhot.

The diſposition of marſhal de Coigny in 1744, in order to attack the lines of Wissembourg, of which the enemy were in possession, was similar to this, except that the whole of his army had not time to get up; but as the moments were precious, he did not wait for it. The army which came from Landau divided itſelf into four, which formed the four attacks ; one of which was at Wissembeurg, the other at the mill between that town and the village of Picards, the third at the village of Picards, and the last was made above that village, which was entrusted to the Hessian troops. His cavalry, which was behind, passed after the infantry had broke through the lines ; but the enemy were then almost either killed or taken, and thoſe who could save themſelves, retired to Lautrebourg, where their army had assembled after having passed the Rhine. It is difficult to determine which is most to be admired, whether the gene­ral’s diſposition, the quickness and exactneſs of his eye, and his coolneſs in a circumstance ſo delicate, or the courage of the French troops, who forced these lines in leſs than two hours.

As ſoon as the enemy is beat and abandons his lines, he must be purſued, but with precaution. The vivacity with which he ſhould be purſued depends upon the order with which he retires : if it is an open country, the general may follow him ſo long as he sees all clear before him ; but if the country is divided with defiles and woods, it would by no means be prudent for him to engage himſelf in them,