bridges, at which time they ſhould be let into the current, the quickneſs of which will increaſe the force of this kind of moving bank, which will overturn every thing it meets with, ſoldiers, baggage, horſes, bridges, and boats : in ſhort, nothing will be capable of withstanding it, if there is any degree of rapidity in the torrent. This method is pointed out in Μ. de Puyſegur as levelled againſt bridges only. To avoid alſo giving any ſuſpicion to the enemy, this chain of trees can be placed upon the bank of the river, of which ſome engineer muſt have been careful to take the dimensions beforehand ; and when it ſhall be nearly the same size of the river, and the enemy is passing, it must be held at one end, whilst it is ſhoved off by the other ; the whole of it will be taken by the current, which, without any other assistance, will direct it against the enemy.

In regard to the troops designed for the defence, the best method, according to Μ. Folard, is to form ſmall camps of 2000 or 3000 men, a league distant one from another, with patroles and signals from one to another; to have canoes, in order that the river may be crossed silently in the night by ſoldiers, who will endeavour to make ſome priſoners, and who will alſo listen in order to diſcover whether the enemy is preparing to march. A general ſhould particularly en­deavour to, posseſs himſelf of the iſlands, if any, under cover of which the enemy may attempt the passage ; and if the general can be certain that the enemy’s intention is to throw over a bridge where they are, in order to ſet out from thence, to ſave ſo much of the way, the general will by this means assure himſelf of the place where the enemy will at­tempt the passage, which circumstance will be almost ſuffici­ent to prevent him.

But in order the better to explain the manner in which a river ſhould be defended, let two armies be ſuppoſed, one of which, conſisting of 40,000 men, defends the passage against another of 60,000. This last is divided in­to three bodies ; that of the centre consists of 40,000 men, and the two others of 10,000 each : the centre-body is en­camped nearly oppoſite to the place where the passage is intended to be effected ; of the two bodies which are upon the flanks of the centre, one will ſerve to keep the enemy in suspence, with relation to the true place where the passage is designed. They ought to be continually moving, ſometimes at a distance from the main body of the army, and pretend to throw bridges higher up, or lower down, in or­der to induce the enemy to divide and ſeparate the diffe­rent bodies of his army in ſuch a manner, that they can no longer be of assistance to each other, or be in a condi­tion of opposing a ſuperior body of troops that may attempt the passage.

The army defending the passage is divided into many bo­dies ; three of 10,000 men each, at a league distance from one another, and two others of 5000 men each, composed of the light troops, both horſe and foot, and dra­goons, encamped at half a league upon the two flanks of the army. The communication ſhould be preſerved be­tween each ſeparate body, and constant patroles kept upon the ſide of the river, which ought continually to croſs each other ; and detachments of hussars upon the right and the left, both up and down the river : the general is alſo ſupposed to have planted batteries of cannon, in different parts upon the shore ; and to be possessed of two iſlands which he has fortified, and in which he has alſo placed troops and can­non : in ſhort, he is ſuppoſed to have taken every advantage of ground for rendering the passage difficult to the enemy, and to oppoſe troops to him in every part where he may at­tempt it.

See Plate DXiX. fig. I. where A repreſents the camp of the main army, divided into three parts, for the defence of the river. B, The camp of the light horſe, light infantry, and dragoons upon the wings of the army. C, Castle and village, guarded by light infantry, D, A town occupi­ed by the infantry belonging to the army. E, Bridge broken down. F, Iſlands occupied by infantry. G, Posts of infantry distributed along the side of the river. H, Bat­teries established along the side of the river. I, Posts of ca­valry, to keep up the communication between the camps. K, Bridges constructed to preſerve the communication of the iſlands. L, Bridges constructed for the communication of the camps.

If, notwithstanding all theſe obstacles, the enemy attempts the passage, he ſhould be attacked as he debarks ; and it is for this reaſon that the defending army ſhould not be divi­ded into very ſmall bodies, which, too weak to refill a superior number, will be easily routed. In attacking the ene­my, there is no danger to be feared from their cannon, which they cannot make use of without annoying their own troops ; whereas the cannon planted upon the side of the ri­ver, to defend the passage, can always fire upon the troops which follow, in order to sustain thoſe who attempt the paſ­ſage : there ſhould alſo be infantry placed near theſe batte­ries, to defend them, and to flank ſuch of the enemy as have already passed.

There yet remain many stratagems to be practiſed on theſe occasions ; a general may make use of those mention­ed in the ſection which treats of ambuſcades ; and they ſhould be particularly directed againſt such places as are ſuppoſed to be most favourable for the enemy. The hiftory of prince Eugene, whom the chevalier Folard styles a great traverſer of rivers, furniſhes many examples.

The general ſhould be particularly attentive in disturbing the enemy when constructing his bridges ; which appears the more practicable, as the bridge is never properly established, if not guarded at each end : beſides, by the assistance of artillery, the enemy may be easily prevented from going on with his work. Μ. Feuquieres indeed relates ex­amples, where the enemy hath not been able to prevent the bridges from being built under their very noſes ; but beſides the rarity of theſe examples, the precautions he uſed are a very convincing proof of the difficulty attending ſuch under­takings.

A prudent general, and one who is himſelf acquainted with the river, of which the enemy would attempt the passage, is guided by its depth, by the difficulty of gaining its banks, and in proportion to its rapidity ; he often pretends to be inactive, permits the enemy to throw his bridges over it, and waits till he is in the middle of his pass\age ; at which time he makes a furious fire upon him, spreads diſorder amongst his troops, and overthrows his ranks ; and the ene­my, beſides losing a great number of men, alſo fails in the ſucceſs of his enterpriſe.

II. With respect to the means to be employed for passing a river in the face of the enemy, it is to be obſerved, that the general who attempts ſuch a passage, ought, in the first place, to be very certain of the steadiness of his troops. He ſhould place the most intrepid in the front, in order to en­courage thoſe who follow them : on ſuch occasions every thing is to be apprehended from ill-diſciplined troops, who, as ſoon as they are engaged in the river or upon the bridges, having no longer any place of refuge to fly to, will be diſcouraged, and ſpread the panic throughout the whole army.

If the army passes upon two bridges, it is impossible to take too much care for their ſecurity; history is filled with fatal examples of bridges falling under the weight of troops. One of the greatest dangers ever experienced by Charles XII. was when, having cauſed a bridge to be