there is no man who can flatter himself with having com­mitted none : it is impossible for a general to see every thing himſelf, or to remedy any unforeſeen acident that may hap­pen, if he is not assisted by his general officers, who see things which it is impossible he can ; they ought not only to be the means of putting his orders in execution ; but even, in certain circumstances, they ſhould prevent them, and make the same diſpoſitions which the general ought to make, and would certainly order, were he in their situation.

Part III. Of the PETITE GUERRE.

THE Petite Guerre consists in the manœuvres of the Partiſan in ſecret marches, occupying, defending, or attacking posts, reconnoitring countries or the enemy, pla­cing of ambuſcades, &c.

Sect. I. *Of the Qualifications of a Partisan, and the Nature of his Corps.*

They generally call every officer a partiſan who is deſtined to go at the head of a detachment, whether draught­ed from the body of the army, or of a party which he be­longs to, and for that reaſon has no other name than that of a partiſan.

Of all military employments, there is none which require more extraordinary qualities than that of the partiſan, A good partiſan ought to have an imagination fertile in projects, ſchemes, and reſources ; a penetrating ſpirit, capable of combining the whole circumstances of an action ; a heart intrepid against every appearance of danger ; a steady coun­tenance, always assured, and which no signs of diſquiet can alter ; a happy memory, that can call every one by his name ; a disposition alert, to carry him through every thing, and give a soul to the whole ; a piercing rapid eye, which instantly catches faults or advantages, obstacles and dangers of situation, of country, and every object as it passes ; his ſentiments ought to be ſuch, as to fix the reſpect, confi­dence, and attachment of the whole corps. Without theſe diſpositions, it is impossible to ſucceed.

A partiſan ought to ſpare nothing to be assured by his spies of the march, force, designs, and position of the enemy. As chief, he owes the example of an irreproachable conduct to his corps, by which he will inſpire reſpect, love, zeal, and vigilance, and gain the hearts of the whole to his ſervice. It is extremely dangerous for ſuch an officer to contract the least attachment to women, wine, or riches. The first makes him neglect his duty, and frequently occasions the most ruinous treacheries : the second leads to dan­gerous indiſcretions, and is sure to draw down contempt: the third leads to guilt, and destroys all ſentiments of ho­nour. The partiſan must be content without the delica­cies of the table, as he may be often expoſed to want provision ; his bed the same with the mens, a cloak and draw, never stripping but to change linen. Nothing ani­mates ſoldiers ſo much as the presence and vigilance of a commanding officer sharing with them the fatigues of the ſervice : the officers follow his example ; the men are assured, encouraged, and content.

A corps capable of carrying on the Petite Guerre to ad­vantage ſhould be compoſed of infantry and cavalry ; and as it is incontestable that the cavalry ought to be the most ac­tive in carrying on the Petite Guerre, it were to be wiſhed that they were likewiſe the strongest, ſo as to have 600 ca­valry and 400 infantry in a corps of 1000 men, making four companies of infantry and 12 troops of cavalry.

The commanding officer ſhould have the naming of the officers of this corps, or at least have liberty to reject ſuch as he is convinced are not qualified for ſuch ſervice, as eve­ry officer who may be ambitious to ſerve in the corps, tho’ poſſessed of great military merit, may not have the talents requisite for the duties of the partiſan.

To ſupport the honour of this corps upon a ſolid and reſpectable footing, the strictest ſubordination must extend from the chief to all the officers, and the most rigid diſcipline inſpire vigilance, patience, bravery, and love of glory, to the whole corps.

It is of the utmost importance for the officer that com­mands, to have the choosing his men and officers whom he knows to be fitted for his enterprise, and thereby prevent­ing many difficulties, contradictions, and dangers, which jealouſy and distrust always occasion among strangers.

No recruit for the corps of a partiſan, either cavalry or infantry, ſhould exceed 30 years of age ; but the young­er they are, if they can carry arms, ſo much the better for ſuch a ſervice, to which youth is particularly inclined. In the choice of recruits for the cavalry, it were not unworthy the attention of officers to prefer men that are lovers of horſes, and to recruit chiefly in thoſe countries where ſuch are mostly to be expected.

As for arms, the firelock and bayonet is ſufficient for a foot ſoldier ; and in the corps of the partiſan, barrels of 36 inches, with a long bayonet, but to have the caliber the same as that of the rest of the army, which, for the lake of having ammunition made up to suit the whole, ought to be invariably the same. A helmet likewiſe is preferable to a hat, as the ſword is almost the only thing to be dreaded from the enemy’s cavalry. Four ſpades and four pick-axes ſhould be given to each company of infantry.

The preſent manner of equipping the light dragoons is ſo perfect, it is unnecessary to say any thing on that head ; but no white horſe, stone horſe, or mare, ſhould be ſuffered in the corps of the partiſan, as the least neighing or percei­vable colour may make enterpriſes fail. No horſe ſhould be mounted for ſervice till six years old. The size of the light dragoons is very proper for the partiſan ; and while they have firm ground to act upon, and plenty of forage, none can excel them ; but when they come among morasses, and feel the ſeverity of want, perhaps the Hungarian huſſars may be found more equal to the duty : possibly, therefore, in forming the corps of the partiſan, 200 horſe, ſuch as are bred in the mountains of Wales or Scotland, mounted by the lightest men, might be found of good ſervice.

The principal attention of an officer of cavalry ſhould be, to see that the men feed and dreſs their horſes well. During the whole campaign they ſhould have dry food only, as green weakens them. When the exigency of the ſervice requires the horſes to be kept ſaddled day and night, every horſeman ſhould ſeize ſome moment to turn the ſaddle-cloth, which greatly comforts a horſe, keeps him at eaſe, and leſs apt to gall ; and care ſhould be taken to keep the cloth ſoft, and clean from ſweat and dust.

Sect. II. *Of Posts,* &c. *and the different Works with which they may be fortified.*

Posts are generally ſuch places as bodies of troops can fix in when detached from the army, to cover and ſecure the frontiers ; and upon the vigilance and resistance of the