ble to distinguish whether they are friends or enemies, they who first diſcover the others, ſhould conceal themselves on the sides of the road, behind buſhes, or in a ditch, to exa­mine it they are stronger ; and in that case to let them paſs in silence, and return another way to the post to tell what they have ſeen : but it they find them weaker, he who commands the patrole ſhould make the signal which is or­dered for the patroles of the night, which is commonly a stroke or two on the cartouch-box or butt-end of the fire­lock, which is anſwered by an appointed number ; but a word is the ſafest. If the patrole does not anſwer, they ſhould advance upon them with fixed bayonets, fire upon them if they see them retiring, and make them ſurrender.

If detached oppoſite to the enemy, it is to be preſumed that you may be attacked : therefore ſmall detachments ſhould be advanced between the sentries in the night, about 30 or 40 paces from the post, with their bellies on the ground, in thoſe places where they imagine the enemy may come ; with orders to thoſe who command them, to make a ſoldier reconnoitre any parties that are ſeen, ſo as not to confound their own patroles with the enemy’s parties, and to retire to the post on the first firing.

In villages there ſhould be great care taken of suspected perſons, or of the peaſants revolting ; and for this purpoſe, you ſhould make the magistrates order two peaſants, the best known in the place, to be put on duty with the ſentries of the party, at the passages left in intrenching. These peaſants, whom the magistrates must cauſe to be relieved every two hours, ſhould be charged to recollect all who paſs out or in of the village ; and both one and the other must be told, that they ſhall be anſwerable for all the acci­dents that may happen from the treachery or negligence of thoſe ſentries who have let enemies in diſguiſe enter the village.

They must likewiſe order the ſoldiers who guard the intrenchments, to let no peaſant approach, and to ſhut up the passage, with two trees across in the night, and not to open them till day, except for the passing of the patroles. They must examine with iron ſpits, or their ſwords, all carts that paſs loaded with hay, straw, or calks, or any thing that can conceal men, arms, or ammunition.

An officer cannot watch too carefully to prevent ſchemes that may be contrived against him ; and the attempt on Briſac, in the month of November 1704, is ſo much to the purpoſe, that it ought not to be palled in silence. The go­vernor of Fribourg having formed the design of ſurprising Briſac, set out in the night of the 9th or 10th of November, with 2000 men, and a great number of waggons loaded with arms, grenades, pitch, &c. and ſome choſen ſoldiers : all these waggons were driven by officers diſguiſed like wag­goners, and were covered with perches, which had hay placed over them, ſo that they appeared like waggons load­ed with hay coming in contribution. They arrived at the new gate by eight o’clock in the morning, under the favour of a thick fog : three waggons entered the town, two full of men, and one with arms, when an Irishman, an overſeer of workmen, obſerving 30 men near the gate, who, though they had the dreſs, had not the manner of peaſants ; asked them what they were, and why they did not go to work like other people ? Upon their not anſwering, and appear­ing confounded, he struck ſome of them with his cane ; upon which the diſguiſed officers run to the arms which were in the waggon next them, and fired 15 or 20 ſhot at him within half a dozen paces, without wounding him. The Irishman leaped into the ditch, where they likewiſe fired ſeveral uſeleſs ſhot at him, while he called *To arms, to arms,* with all his might.

At this noiſe, the guards of the half-moon and the gate run to arms, and would have pulled up the draw-bridge, but were prevented by the waggons which the enemy had placed upon it. The officers and ſoldiers who were in the waggons, ruſhed out with their arms, and having joined the rest, attacked the guard commanded by a captain of grena­diers ; but being repulſed, and five of them killed, the rest were diſmayed, and fled either into the town, or out into the country. The captain of the guard made the first gate, which was a grate, to be shut, acroſs which the enemy, who were upon the bridge, fired at all who appeared ; and ha­ving left the half of his guard, he mounted the rampart with the other half, and continued firing upon the enemy. A lieutenant who commanded 12 men of the advanced guard, was attacked at the same time by an officer who preſented a pistol to his breaſt ; but ſnatching it from him, he fired it at him, and killed him : this lieutenant defended himſelf to the end of the action ; but having received several wounds, he died that day.

Upon hearing the noiſe of the surprise, the commanding officer of the place distributed his garriſon to their proper posts : and having made every diſposition necessary for his defence, the enemy ſaw that their design had failed, and retired in diſorder, leaving a number of waggons behind them, and more than 40 ſoldiers who were killed or wounded. Such was the enterpriſe on Briſac, which failed by a trifling accident.

This example, and many others which might be cited, ſhow that an officer who commands in a post cannot be too much on his guard to prevent his falling into the ſnares which the enemy prepare for him, as the ſeizing of a post, of however little importance it may ſeem, may be attended with the most troubleſome consequences.

In an enemy’s country, the inhabitants are always ready to revolt and betray; therefore the commanding officer ought to take one or two of the magistrates children, or three or four of the most considerable families of the village, and keep them in the principal post as a pledge of the fidelity of the inhabitants. The children (to whom they ſhould take care to do no manner of hurt) ſhould only be kept half a day each, and changed for ſome others. The command­ing officer ſhould forbid the inhabitants to assemble in ta­verns or public walks, or any place whatever, and cauſe these orders to be fixed up at the door of the church. If they are ſeen to stop and converſe at coming out of church, or in the market-place, let the patroles oblige them to retire. The tavern-keepers and all the inhabitants must be forbid to receive any stranger without acquainting the commanding officer. None to be permitted to ſtir abroad after retreat beating, on pain of being killed by the ſentries who see them, or stopped and conducted to dungeons by the patroles ; who ought to march ſlowly, stop from time to time to hearken if they hear any noiſe, go over all the quarters that are marked out to them, and give an account of every thing that they have diſcovered that can cauſe any alarm in the post.

If fire breaks out anywhere, or the inhabitants quarrel among themſelves, an officer ſhould take care how he sends a party to their assistance, because these are frequently ſnares of the enemy to divide the strength of a detachment on purpoſe to attack them ; he ſhould therefore ring the alarm bell, make all the different posts get under arms, and order thoſe who command them, to make the ſoldiers remain arm­ed against the parapet, ſo as to obſerve what passes without the village. The ſoldiers of the principal post ſhould like­wiſe get under arms, and the officer detach four or five men with a ſerjeant or corporal to part the fray, or set the inha­bitants to work in extinguishing the fire.

As all the necessary precautions for the ſafety of a post