infantry in ambush, in case there is no other water to paſs till you come to the place of your principal ambuſcade ; for when there is still a river or canal to pass, you must con­duct the infantry to the passage, and chooſe the most con­venient place to fix them in ambuſcade.

If there is no bridge or ford, the cavalry must swim over, in which we suppose the horſes are practised. When there is a ford, half the infantry ſhould pass behind the cavalry, to go along with them. In case there is a bridge to paſs near the village, the officer who is left in this post with ſome infantry, ſhould be enjoined to allow no one peasant or soldier to leave the place ; and for greater ſecurity, a ſmall detachment of cavalry ſhould remain with him, to stop any who may attempt to run away before the return of the whole corps, who ought not to delay long. If the enemy come in the interval to attack the bridge, it must be de­fended till the return of the party, that their retreat may not be cut off.

Every precaution being thus taken to guard the bridge, the commanding officer ſhould be diligent to arrive at the place of ambuſcade two hours before the enemy is to paſs, and place the ambuſcade on the side he would retire to ; never on the other side, if poſſible, lest the advanced guard happen to diſcover you, and oblige you to repaſs in sight of the corps, who, seeing your ſtrength, may ruſh upon you and drive you back.

The infantry A (fig. 2.) ought to be ambuſhed at least 600 paces behind the cavalry B, ſo that if they are pursued, they can fall back to A, and both afterwards to the guard at the bridge, or to the infantry that are in ambuſh at half way.

If the ambuſcade is placed in a wood, an intelligent non-commissioned officer ſhould be choſen to get upon a high tree C, from whence he can see the march of the enemy, and give notice of the most essential circumstances. There are three : the first is, the seeing the advanced guard; the second is, the approach of the corps ; and the third is, the time when their front is advanced as far as the ambu­ſcade B : for which the commanding officer ſhould instruct the obſerver what signals he is to make from the top of the tree, to communicate the necessary information without ſpeaking, which may be done by the means of a ſmall cord D, of a brown or green colour, ſo as to be least percei­vable. Let this cord be placed as in the plan, ſo that no branch interrupt it, with one end in the hand of the ob­ſerver, and the other in the commanding officer’s in the ambuſcade B.

As ſoon as the advanced guard appears, the obſerver must pull the cord, and the commanding officer cauſe the party to mount and remain in deep silence. If by a stratagem, which is frequently practised for particular reaſons, the advanced guard is immediately followed by the corps, which may easily be known by their being more numerous than ordinary, and not followed by any other corps, that you may not be deceived by the enemy, the cord ſhould be drawn a second time, and a third time when their front is ad­vanced as high as the ambuſcade ; upon which you must ruſh out, and pour furiouſly upon the flank of their centre in the following manner.

If the advanced guard E is formed only of an ordinary number, they ſhould be let pass ; and at the approach of the principal party or convoy F, the chief to be informed by the second pulling of the cord. At the moment the head of the convoy ſhall be advanced as high as B, the cord must be pulled the third and last time ; at which signal the whole party must ruſh out without being perceived, and ſuddenly attack the centre upon the flank, engaging only with their swords, and making ſuch a noiſe as to prevent the enemy from hearing the orders of their officers. They must diſarm all whom their bravery or chance throws in their way, taking care not to ſcatter or pursue too far, unleſs you are ſure that they are ſo far from their army or other parties that they cannot be assisted ; for in either of theſe cases, they will not fail to run at the noiſe, and disturb your retreat.

In all ſecret expeditions you ought to be extremely circumſpect that you may not be ſeen or betrayed. If the advanced guard diſcovers you before the blow is struck, abandon the enterpriſe immediately, and retire. When your guide, or ſome one of your party deſerts, and you cannot catch him, think immediately of retreating, or placing your ambuſcade ſomewhere else ; therefore, to prevent ſuch a misfortune, the officers ſhould be charged to examine fre­quently if they have all their people.

You ſhould never form an ambuſcade for cutting off the enemy’s retreat, as this manœuvre will give him an idea of rallying, and attacking you in deſpair ; but the case is dif­ferent when you are well informed that you run no risk in stopping his whole force, either from the nature of the de­file where they cannot form, or from the ſmallneſs of the number which cannot resist.

It is equally difficult and dangerous to form ſeveral am­buſcades at once : the greater number that are formed, the more they are expoſed to be discovered, and leſs in a state to unite for a retreat. To this rule, however, there is one exception. When ambuſcades are formed to ſeize foragers, it is very proper to have ſeveral, and to diſpoſe them in ſuch a manner that the ſentries can see from one to another. Theſe diſpositions being made, they who chance to be next the foragers must strike the blow, while the others march to ſecure the retreat of their companions, as ſoon as they perceive it.

In all ambuſcades, no ſentries ſhould be placed but officers, or non-commissioned officers. On downs, behind mountains, or in gullies, the ſentries ſhould lie with their bellies on the ground, and their feet towards the ambu­ſcade, the body covered with a grey or green cloak, accord­ing to the colour of the ground, with their heads a little raiſed, and wrapped in a handkerchief of a straw-green co­lour, or white in time of snow, ſo as not to be perceived. The number of ſentries cannot be determined ; but ſhould be diſpoſed ſo as to watch on all sides of the ambuſcade, and stop every one who front ignorance approaches too near. The ſentries ſhould give notice of what they diſcover by gestures, to which all the officers ſhould be very attentive.

In countries where there are no woods, vineyards, or hedges, you may place an ambuſcade in a field of hemp or corn or ſome sort of grain, provided it be high enough to cover you, at least with the help of art. When the stalk of the corn, &c. is not high enough, you must get ſome of the infantry to work with spades and pick-axes, which they must have brought along with them.

The commanding officer must mark out the ground A (fig. I .) which they are to prepare for an ambuſcade, enter­ing at the side B, and raising in the front and at the two flanks a kind of parapet C, made with an insenſible slope outwards, covered with corn raiſed from the ſurface of the ambuſcade in form of ſquare turfs of a foot thick D. They ſhould be ranged and placed one against the other till they have gained six feet and a half. If the grain is not more than three feet high, it is plain, that forming the slope imperceptibly to a foot and a half high, with the earth dug of the same depth, the grain which borders the ambuſcade will be six feet and a half from the bottom, rec­koning the thickneſs of the turf, which serves to ſhow that ſuch a work ought not to be declined in arable ground