

ed to slip readily into Holes made for that Purpose on the Top near the Inside of the Breast Work, may be fired at once, whilst the like Number are loading, to be slipt so readily into the Places of those just discharged, that a constant Fire may be kept from every Boat, so as infallibly to annoy the Enemy, and keep them at a much greater Distance than can possibly be done by the common Muskets.

C H A P. III.

Of Vessels proper to protect Troops whilst Landing.

VESSELS of fifty-five or sixty Feet long, and very broad, must be so contrived in their Construction, that with a very little Draught of Water they may be able to keep the Sea in bad Weather; and serve as Tenders, &c. when not otherwise employed; but if the ingenious Ship-builder should find himself at a Loss to give a Vessel these two Properties, though fitted with Lee-boards like the reconnoitering Boats, the common Construction may answer the End, by the Addition of a counter Bottom, consisting of four Parts or Quarters, and to be provided whilst the Ship is building, occasionally to fit and take off from the Vessel's thin Parts, in the Nature of a Camel, forming a quite flat Bottom, like that of a Barge, when fitted on, to bring her to a small Draught of Water. Such counter Bottoms may be brought under Vessels, and fastened to them with ease when the Water is tolerably smooth, after the following Manner; first hawl the Vessel along side some Ship and lighten her as much as possible; then heave out the Quarters of the counter Bottom, and fasten them together two and two, with the strong Chains fix'd ready for that Purpose; this being done,