

Khalifa Ali bin Abu Talib - Ali's Conduct of Wars

Instruction to the army

Ali issued the following instructions to the army: "When you camp in the battlefield, your camp should be at the base of a mountain, a hillock, or on the bank of a rivet or canal, so that this may insure your safety. Post guards at the top of the mountain, hillock or any other strategic place, so that the enemy may not attack you while you are unaware. Keep in mind that the vanguard of the force and its scouts are like the eyes and ears of a person. Make suitable arrangements for securing intelligence. See that there is no disunity in your ranks. When you are in camp, or on the march, behave as one body. Make proper arrangements for watch and ward during nights. Your guardsmen should remain alert. You should be watchful even in your sleep, and you should wake up and take up arms at the slightest indication of danger."

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Source : Alim.org-Ali bin Abu Talib History