

Issuance of Attack Orders

FM 17-33 Tank Battalion, September 1949, Paragraph 149

The battalion commander personally should issue the attack order to his subordinate commanders. Initial orders for an operation should be as complete and detailed as possible; orders must be brief as clarity will permit, but clarity is not sacrificed for brevity. *Oral orders, fragmentary orders, and warning orders should be considered as standard.* These orders must be issued soon enough to permit dissemination by company commanders to the platoon. When time permits, it is desirable to supplement oral orders with attack orders of the overlay type, which should be as detailed as the situation requires. Reproduction equipment is provided in the battalion headquarters for this purpose. *Once the attack is under way, however, orders will of necessity be oral and fragmentary, and will be transmitted by voice radio.* The initial order must specify the general plan of attack; this will ensure that, in the absence of orders or in situations requiring immediate decisions, subordinate commanders will be able to take action that will conform to the overall decision and plan of the battalion commander.