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**2912. Battalions should not use searchlights to illuminate attacking destroyers—**

- (a) Unless illumination by search and own star shell is insufficient, and
- (b) Until it appears that attacking destroyers have sighted the battalions, and
- (c) Until they have come within effective range.

**2913. Battalions should not normally use searchlights to illuminate attacking cruisers but should use star shells for this purpose if the illumination is otherwise insufficient for gun fire.**

**2914. Fire Distribution.**

- (a) Fire distribution should be without signal.
- (b) The unit for fire distribution should be the battalion division.
- (c) Crossing searchlight beams and crossing fire short of the target must be avoided.
- (d) All destroyers and all cruisers which should be fired upon in accordance with Article 2902 should be taken under fire, battalions dividing fire as necessary for this purpose.
- (e) Over concentration on a single destroyer should be avoided.
- (f) If battalions are maneuvered while engaging destroyers or cruisers, they should continue to fire on the same targets as long as the batteries can bear and the fire is effective.

**2915. Division Procedure.**

In the succeeding articles, the battalion formation is considered to be composed of more than two battalion divisions. The basis for action given therein should be followed in general for one or two divisions in the formation.

**2916. Column of Divisions—Each Division in Column.**

(a) If attacking destroyers break through the inner screen forward of the beam of the leading battalions in column, and if it appears that they have sighted the battalions, the leading battalion of the leading division should open fire on the attacking destroyers and each battalion of that division should open fire in succession, the battalions in the van shifting their fire forward and firing on successive destroyers or destroyer groups as they come within sight. Other battalion divisions should take up the fire in succession as the division next ahead shifts its fire toward the van and leaves an advancing target uncovered. Only the rear division should continue to fire upon destroyers which have passed the beam of the rear battalions.

(b) If attacking destroyers break through the inner screen abaft the beam of the rear battalion division, the destroyers should be fired upon by the rear division and the fire taken up in the same manner as described above.

(c) If attacking destroyers break through the inner screen approximately abeam of the battalion formation the battalions adjacent to them should initiate the fire.

**2917. (a)** If cruisers penetrate the screen and reach a position where they should be fired upon in accordance with Article 2909, battalion divisions should fire on them in the same manner as described in Article 2916 for fire against destroyers.

(b) If the main batteries are used against cruisers on both flanks, the third division in column should fire on the same side as the leading division and second and fourth divisions in column should fire on the opposite side from the leading and third divisions.

(c) Normally not more than two divisions on a side should employ main batteries against cruisers.

**2918. Line of Divisions.**

(a) The flank divisions should open fire on destroyers approaching on any bearing between dead ahead and dead astern on the side away from the other divisions of the formation.

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**CHAPTER IV.**

**DAMAGE CONTROL.**

**(FTP 148, Chapter VII, Sections I, II and III)**

**Section 1. GENERAL.**

**4101. The subject of Damage Control is now in the formative state. Instructions for Battleships are now contained in Tentative Damage Control Instructions of February, 1934.**

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**CHAPTER V.**

**SHORE BOMBARDMENT.**

**Reference: Tentative Landing Operations Manual, Chapter V.**

**5101. FIRE MISSIONS, and the REQUIREMENTS in GUNS and AMMUNITION are as given in the referenced publication.**

**5102. Targets will normally be designated by grid coordinates and further by name if the objective is fixed and clearly distinguishable on the charts or photographs. The grid will be superimposed on navigational charts of the largest available scale if topographic maps are not available. Point of origin, orientation, and design of grid will be given in fire support plans. The basic unit of the grid will be the 100 yard square.**

**5103. Direct fire will be used whenever possible, particularly on visible targets.**

**5104. Indirect fire. Auxiliary aiming points may be used to make this fire more accurate, particularly in deflection. When this fire is conducted at long ranges and air spot is reliable, the use of auxiliary points should be used even by ships underway, provided the auxiliary point is fairly close to the target position in range and deflection.**

**5105. When opposition does not require ships to shoot at long ranges, reduced velocity will be used, taking necessary precautions to insure projectiles do not become unseated and drop back on top of powder charges. When lengthy bombardments are required, reduced velocities will be used if practicable in order to conserve the life of guns.**