

Firing as often as we did required frequent rearming from the Navy ammunition ships. This proved to be the most tiring of all our operations. Very often we were at gunfire support stations well into the night and required rearming for a fresh supply of ammunition the following day. We passed as much as 20 tons of powder and projectiles hand to hand down to the magazines in one morning.



*Handling ammo*



*The gun crew cleans the barrel with the age old ramrod.*



*Often, the Captain gave the crew a hand with rearming.*



*The rapid rate of fire heated the barrel and blistered the paint.*