

UNREPS, INREPS AND VERTREPS



REP., means replenishment at sea between two ships. Unrep, is held underway; and inrep, inport; a vertrep, vertically with helicopters making the transfer of goods.

A typical Unrep: A rendezvous point is arranged by radio messages and at the appointed time, Sherman pulled alongside the unrep ship, still underway. The king post has been rigged, the fenders lowered, the bridge and flight deck manned, and as we approached, all hands on deck took cover to receive the shot-line. The shot-line, hauled aboard by hand, pulls across a slightly larger line, which in turn, pulls a larger line progressively working up to the span wire or house-fall.

The span wire is a cable or a hawser held taut between the two ships across which the cargo is hauled rolling on the trolley block. The cargo is pulled across by a second line attached to the trolley and then back again to the unrep ship, pulled by a winch. The span wire that comes across to our midship's station supports the heavy fuel lines, while the wire to the king post on the flight deck carries the personnel and cargo.



Rigging the kingpost



The fender detail at work as a destroyer, in the distance, also lines up for an unrep