



UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT

Underway Replenishment—UNREPS—can be a most hazardous operation. Maneuvering within one hundred feet of the UNREP ship while underway requires the utmost skill in shiphandling and deck seamanship.



First, the tricky task of maneuvering alongside the oiler or refrigeration ship is accomplished. Once positioned so closely that the two wakes turn the water between the ships into a cascade of white, boiling foam, the first thin heaving line is thrown or fired across. This line is spliced to a heavier line which, in turn, is spliced to a heavier line, until the wire-cable "high-line" is passed and secured. Amidships, this line supports each load of supplies—food, ammo, and the all-important mail—as it is pulled across by the "Sally Party." Forward, this high-line supports the heavy hose used in taking on fuel. We took on thousands of tons of ammo and supplies during forty-three UNREPS and used over a million gallons of fuel during our deployment.