

E TERNAL VIGILANCE

...STEAMING AS BEFORE.

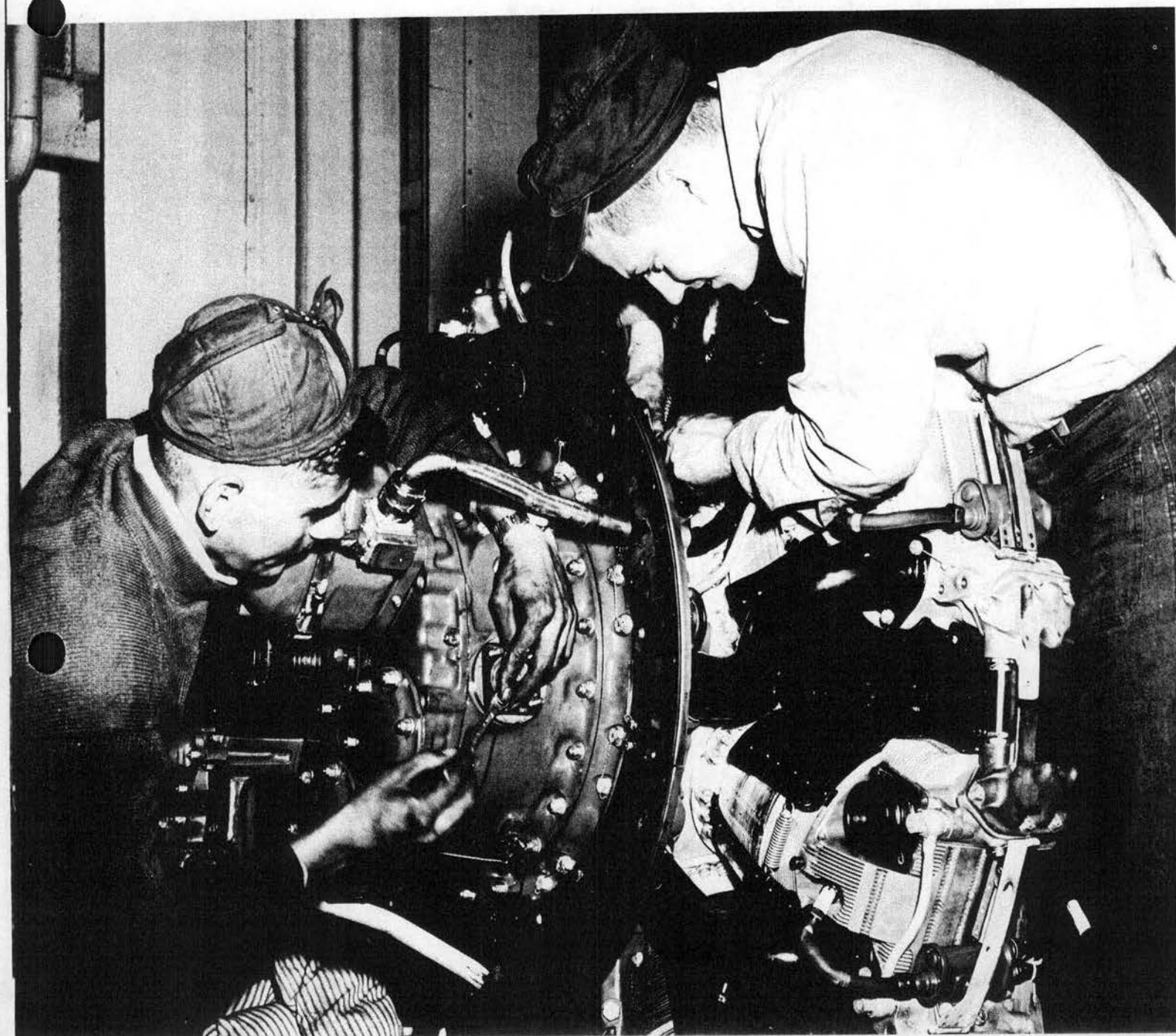
Life at sea. Drill, preparation. All divisions know that their ships must be in good condition. Repairs, hopefully allocated to tender availability that never came, parts which arrived on board just prior to sailing, men recently returned from schools—all resources become fair prey for the ocean and its contents.

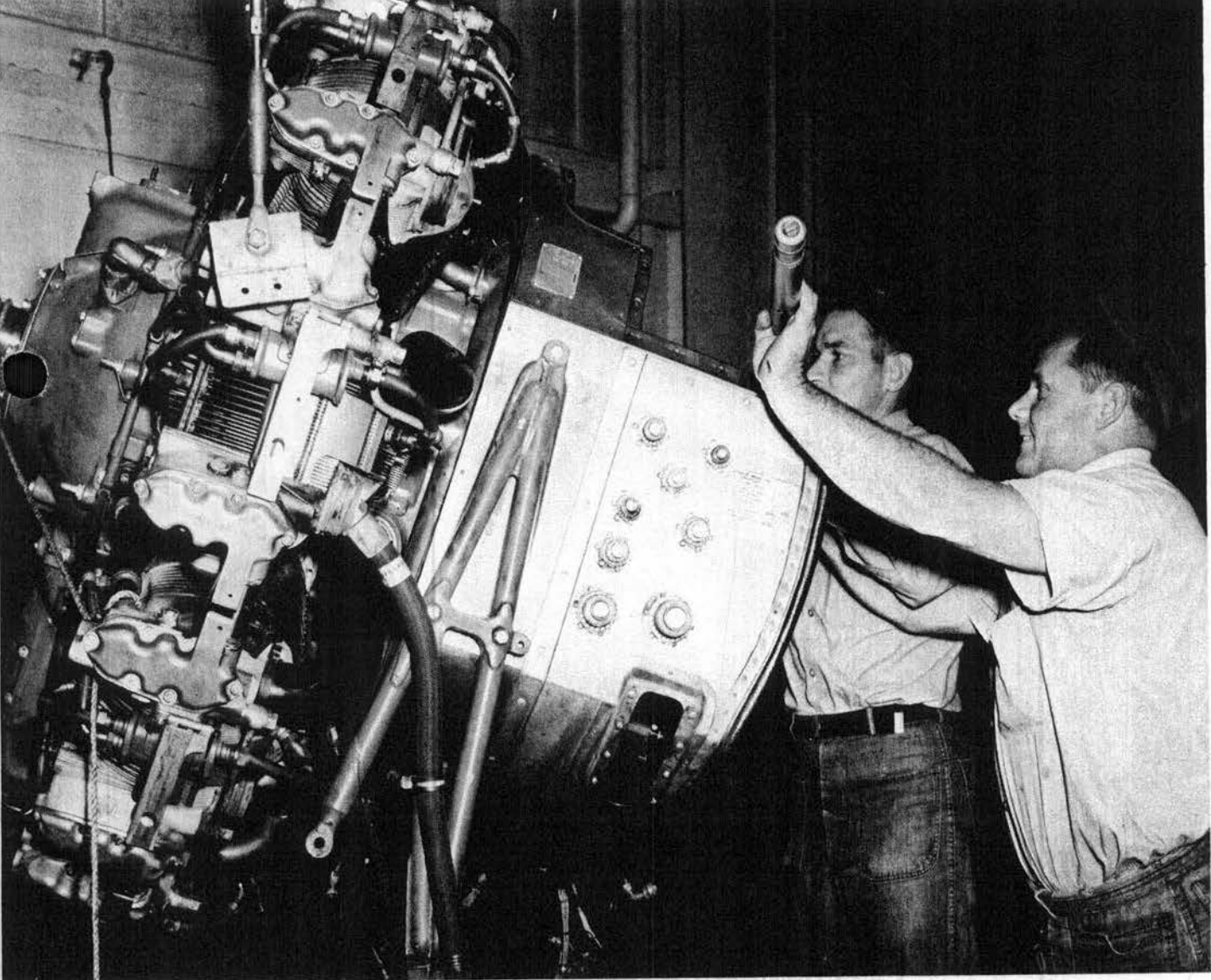
Up-keep. Testing. Checking instruments, re-tuning frequencies. Watching boiler gauges carefully. Preparing new watch bills and assignments. A new OOD underway takes the deck for the first time. A new communications messenger rehearses the routes he will use. New crews on the flight deck, different repeaters in CIC. The operation order is re-read, and the ships prepare for event I-1.

Even as the ships steam from Norfolk, plans for replenishing and refueling are made. Lines are broken out, schedules for sometimes frantic "cross-pollination" are taped nervously to the Bos'n's Chair. Galleys move from a benign three meals a day to a murderous twenty-three hour schedule. Mess-cooks take their last look at the sky overhead; enginemen say au revoir to the cool winds off the ocean. Status boards become miniature Wall Street souvenirs; charts are broken out to be instantaneously at the hands of the ships' navigators.

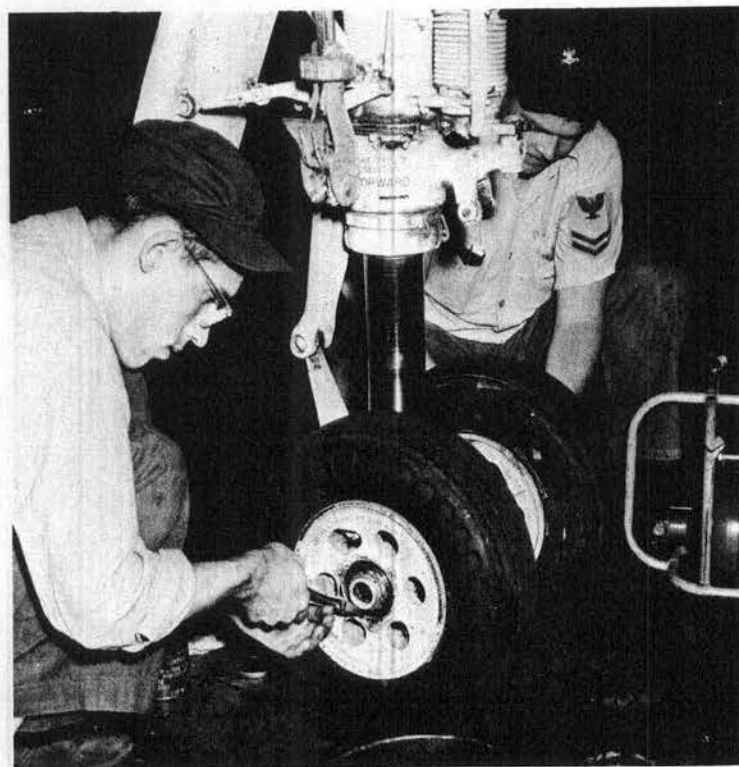
Routine. "Steaming as before." Ship's work projects. Movies that seem new although they were on board the time before last. Routine. How is it broken! By a contact—a small sound on the sonar, a blip on the radar, a message from CINCLANTFLT or COMASDEFORLANT. By a holiday—a visit to New York or Quebec. The day and night existence of four thousand men, working and living together. Surveillance, readiness, routine.

*Aircraft must begin on the ground floor,
and work their way up*





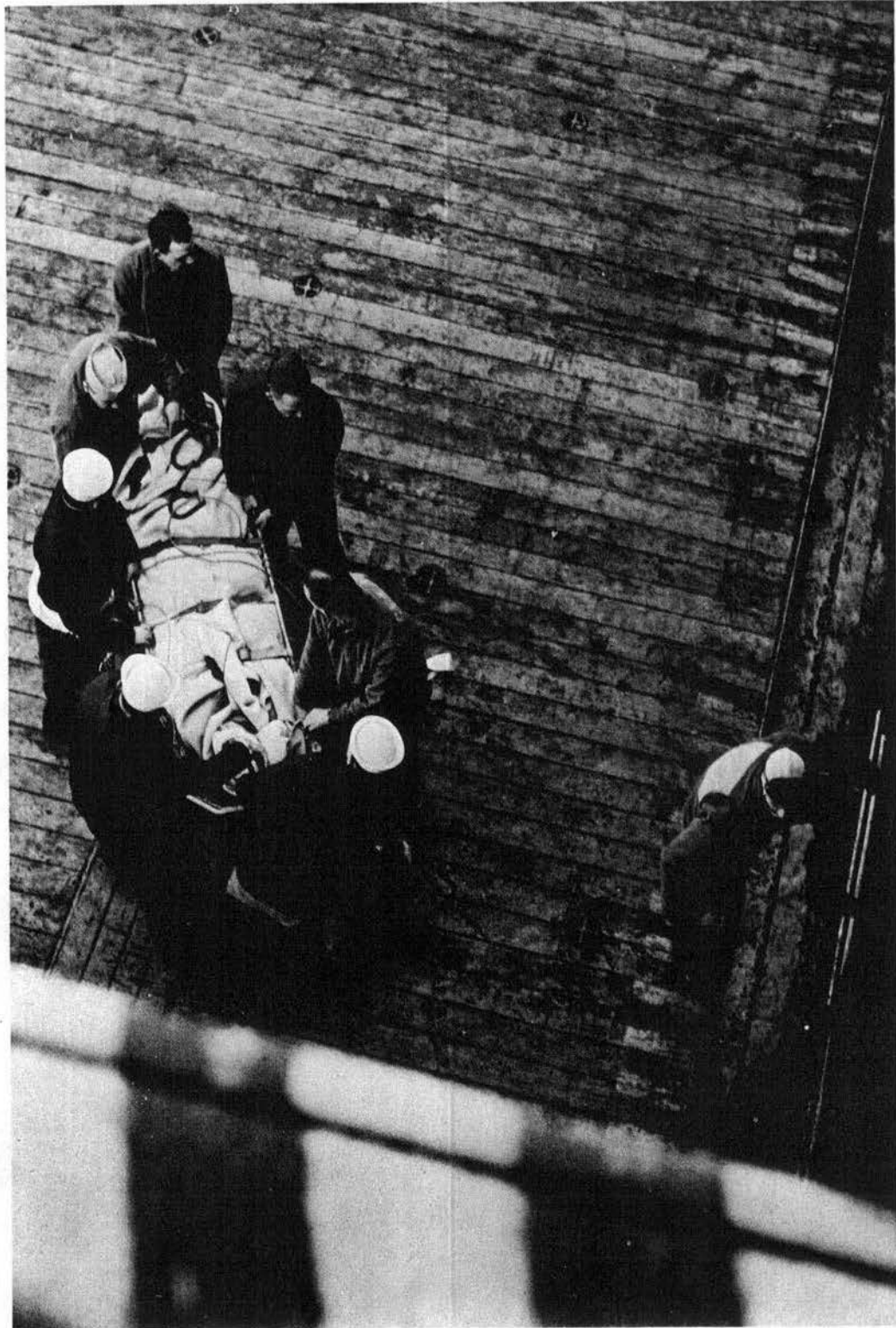
Maintenance must be dependable . . .



. . . and continuous.

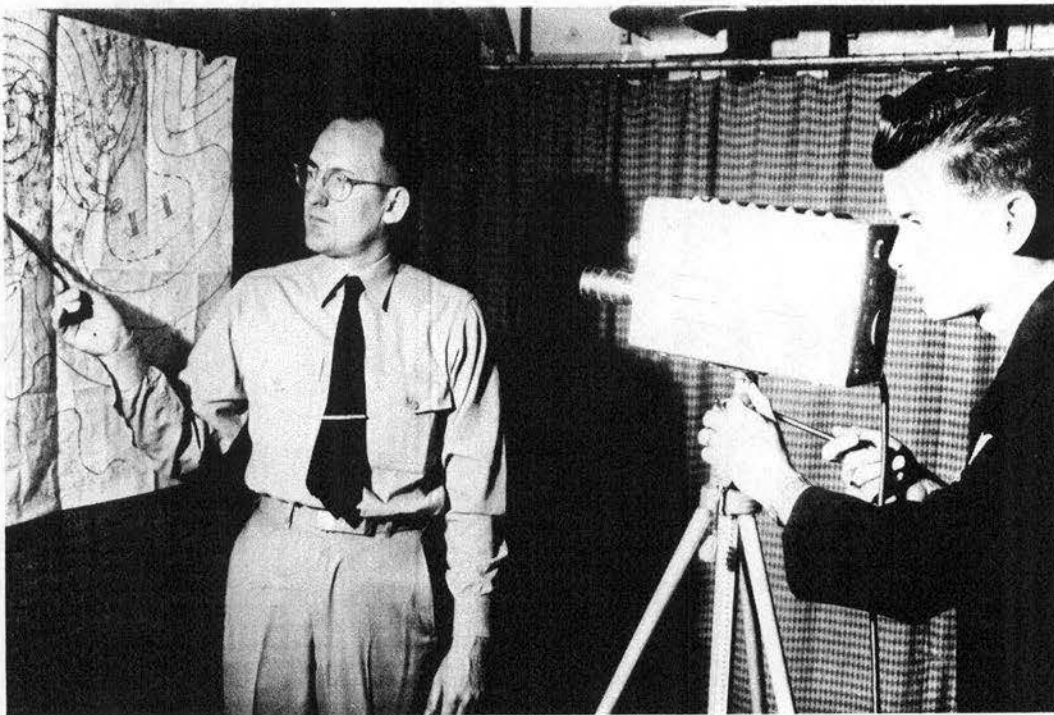
Practice makes perfect

... and saves lives.

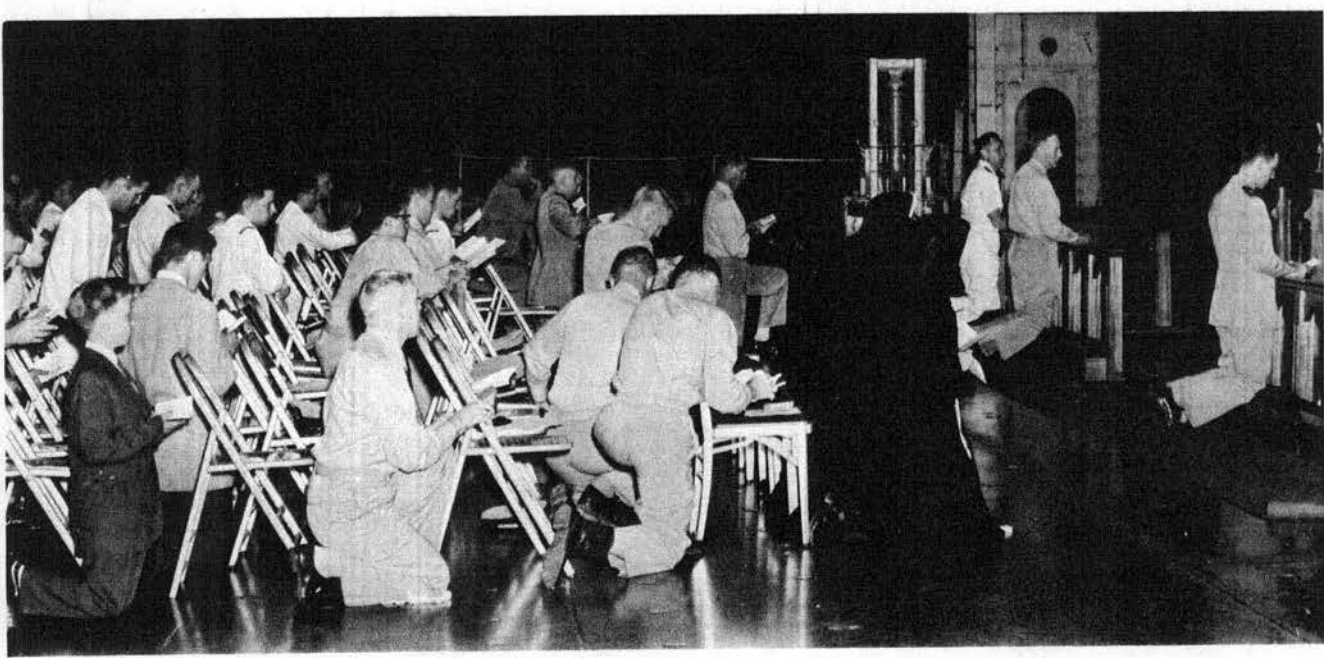




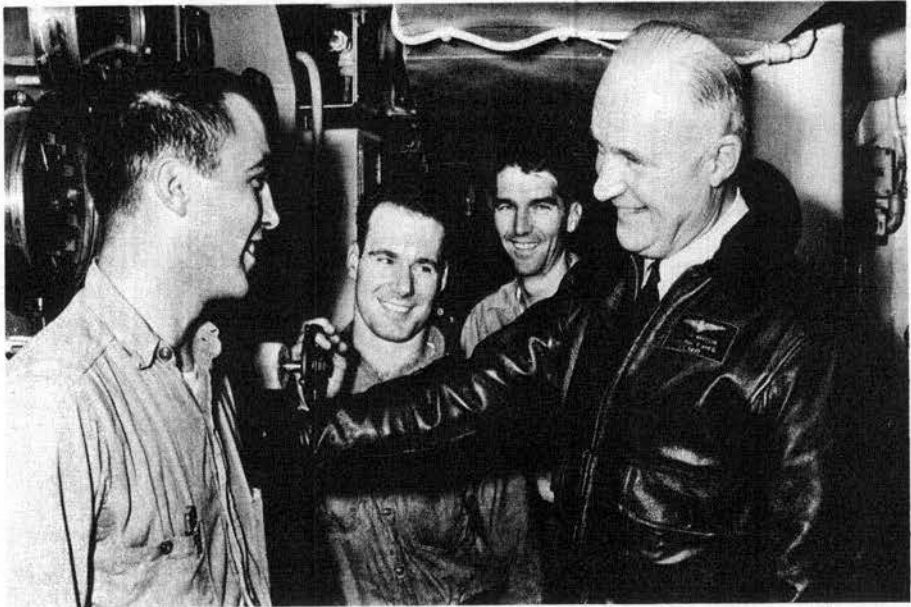
This man's life . . .



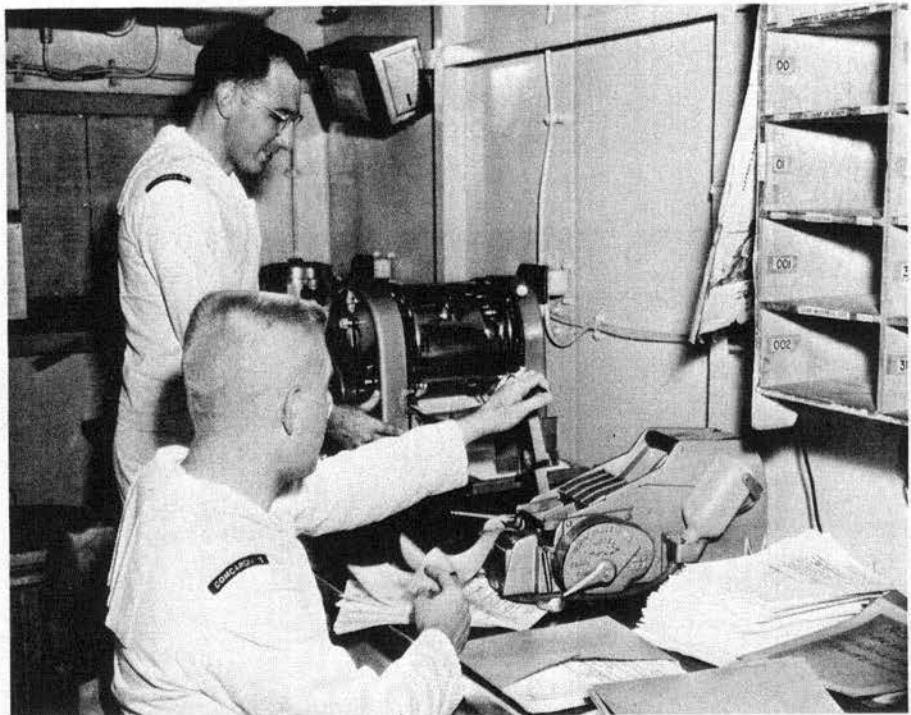
might depend on this man's training.



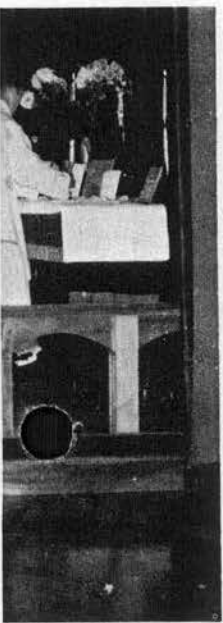
Grace,



gratitude ...

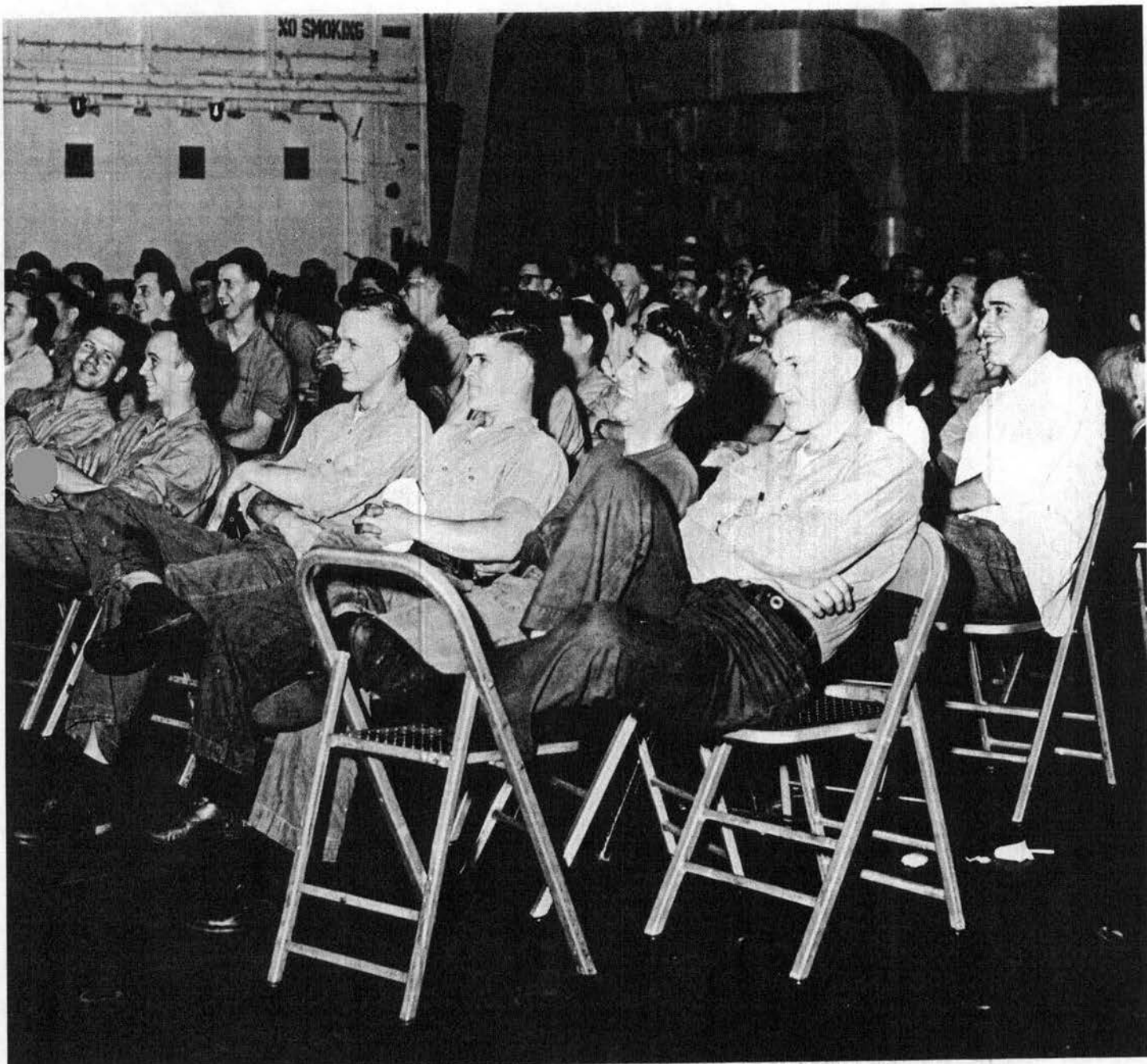


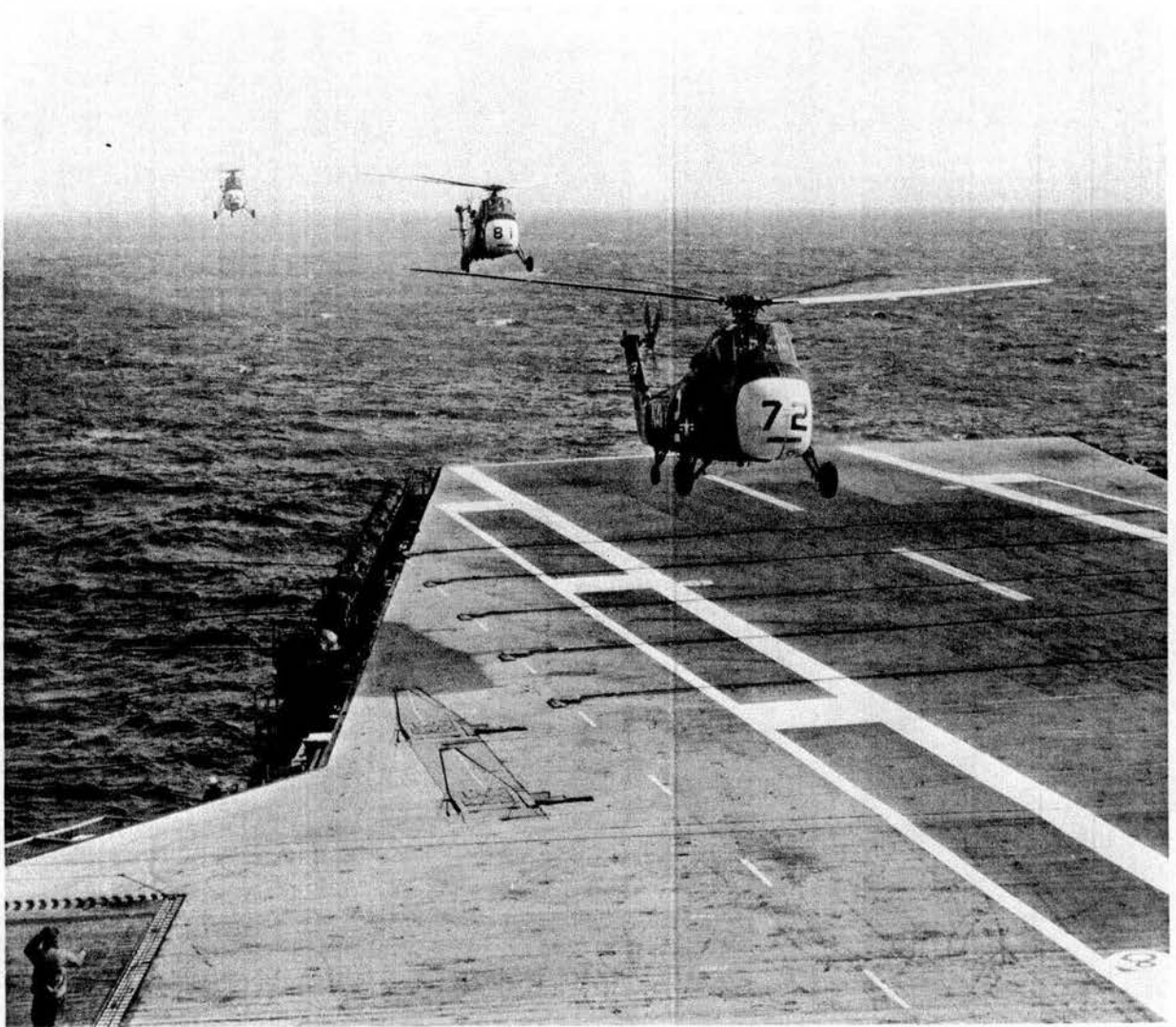
... and application ...



all part of the "Routine" aboard ship.

grins . . .





Returning from the first exercise of the period . . . an S2F and "the great grey bugs."

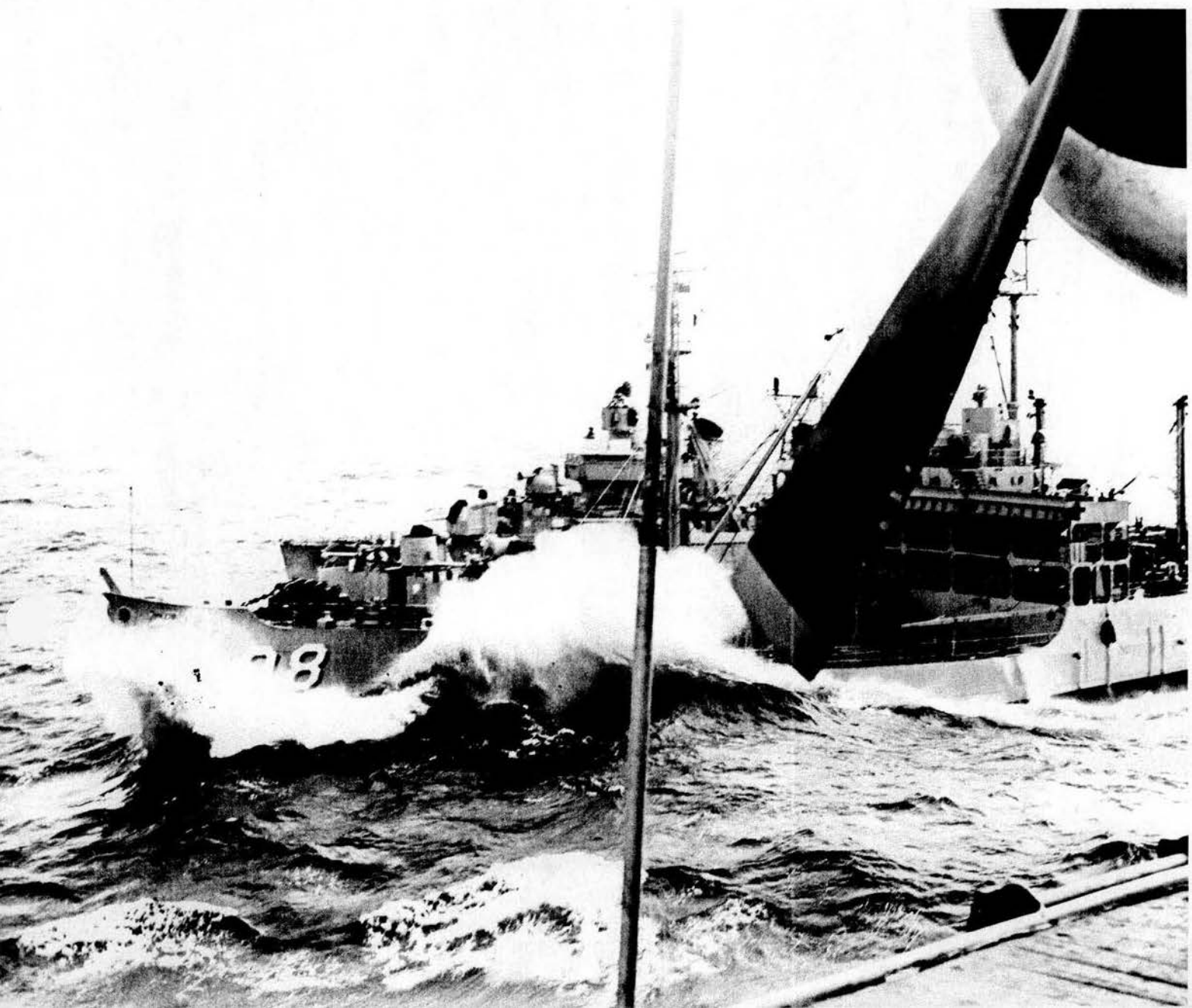


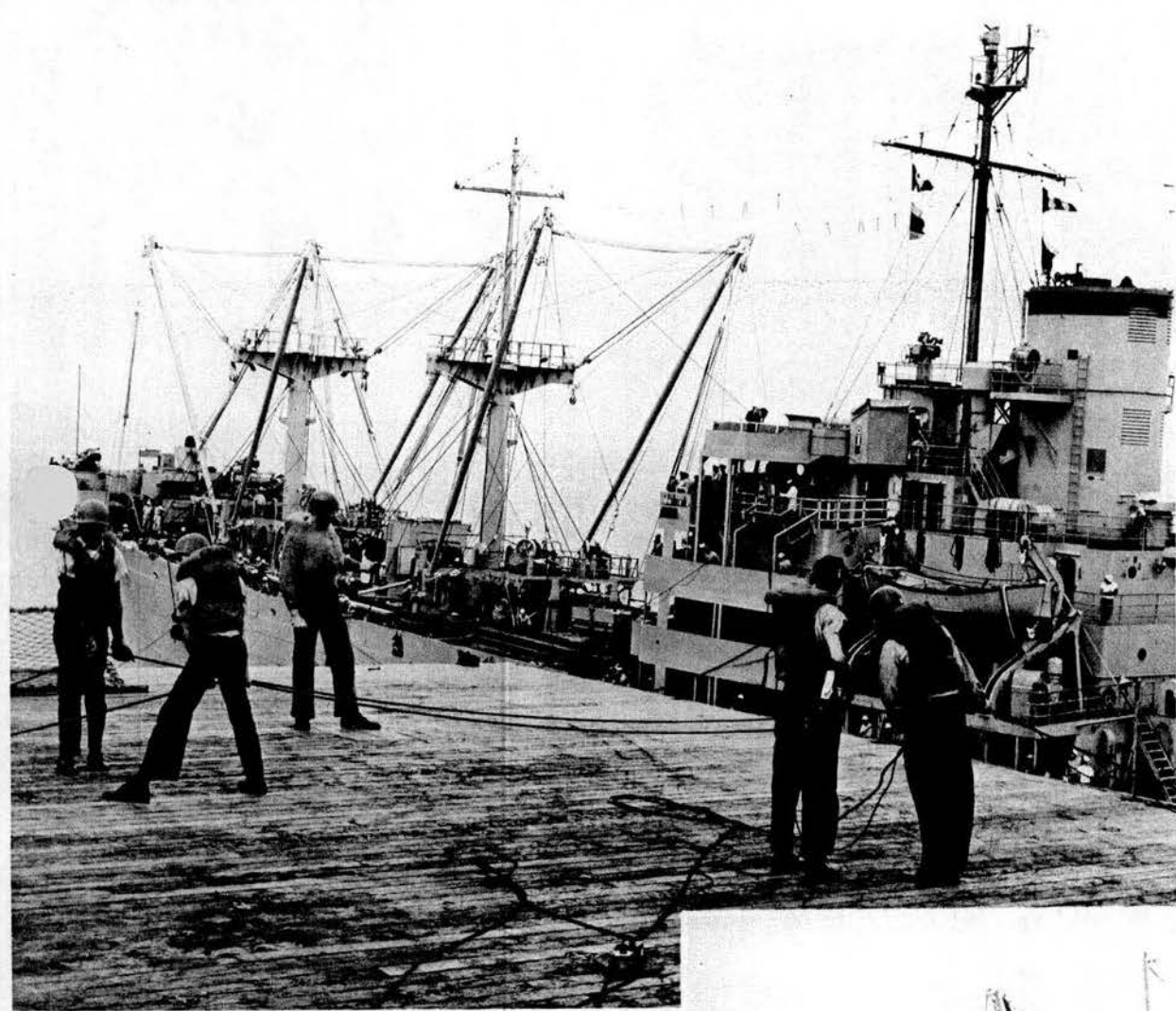
*RANDOLPH is the home of the air group—
their portable airfield and base of operations.*



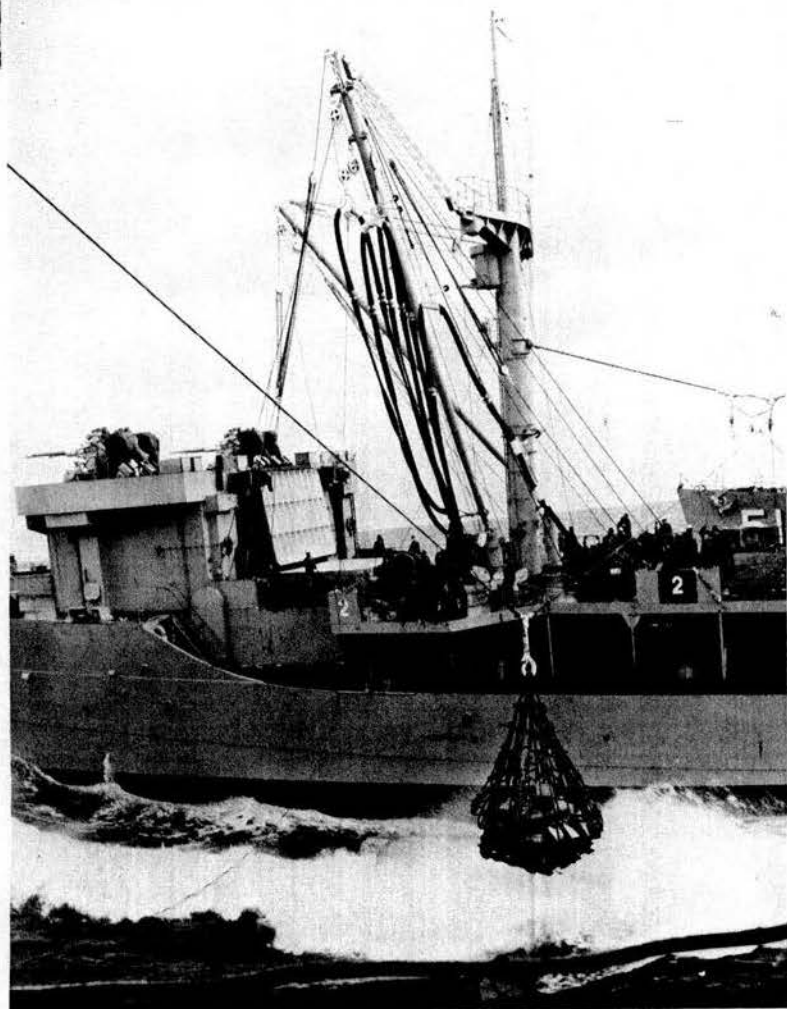
Mail, movies, men, food and fuel —

in that order, please





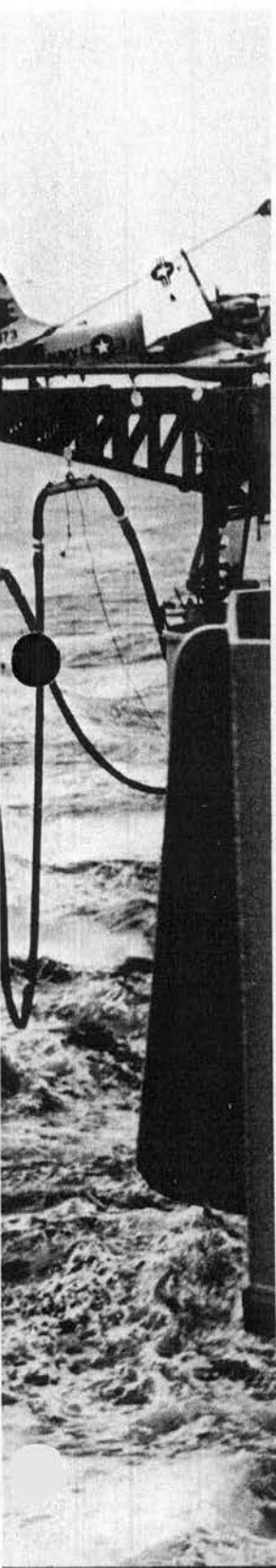
Sometimes fresh milk arrives ...



... and it takes skill and coordination to effect the delivery.

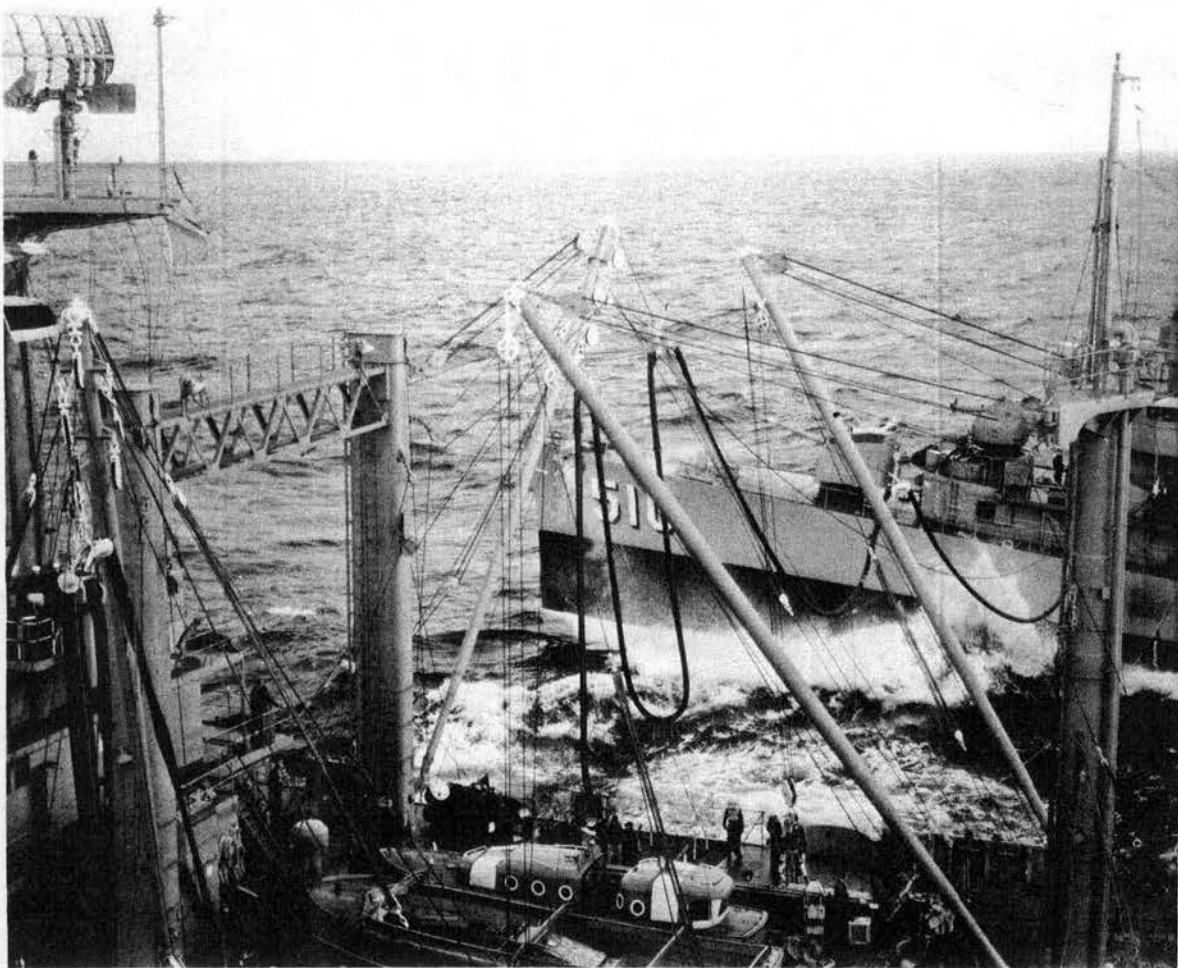


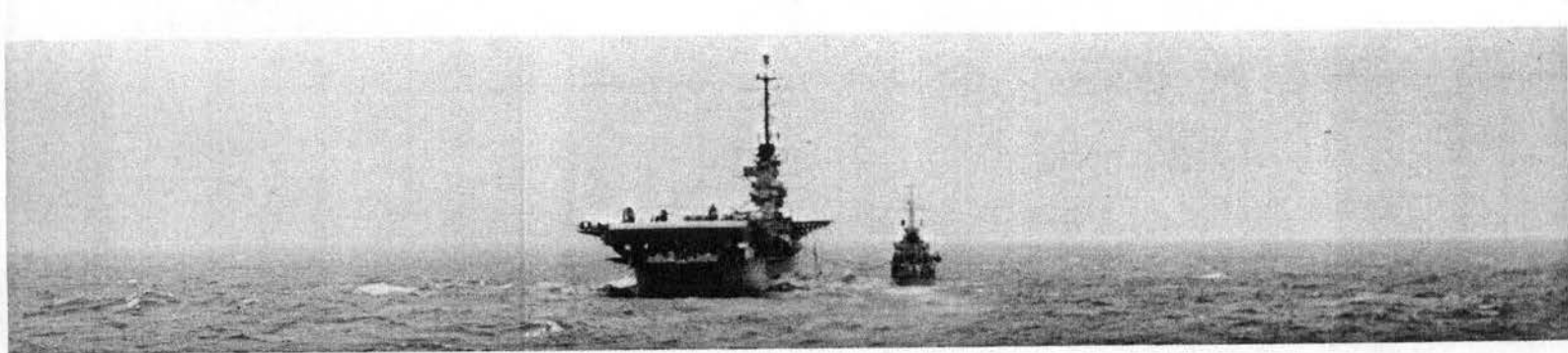
Fueling Alfa, 0530. A gray day begins.





Making an approach.





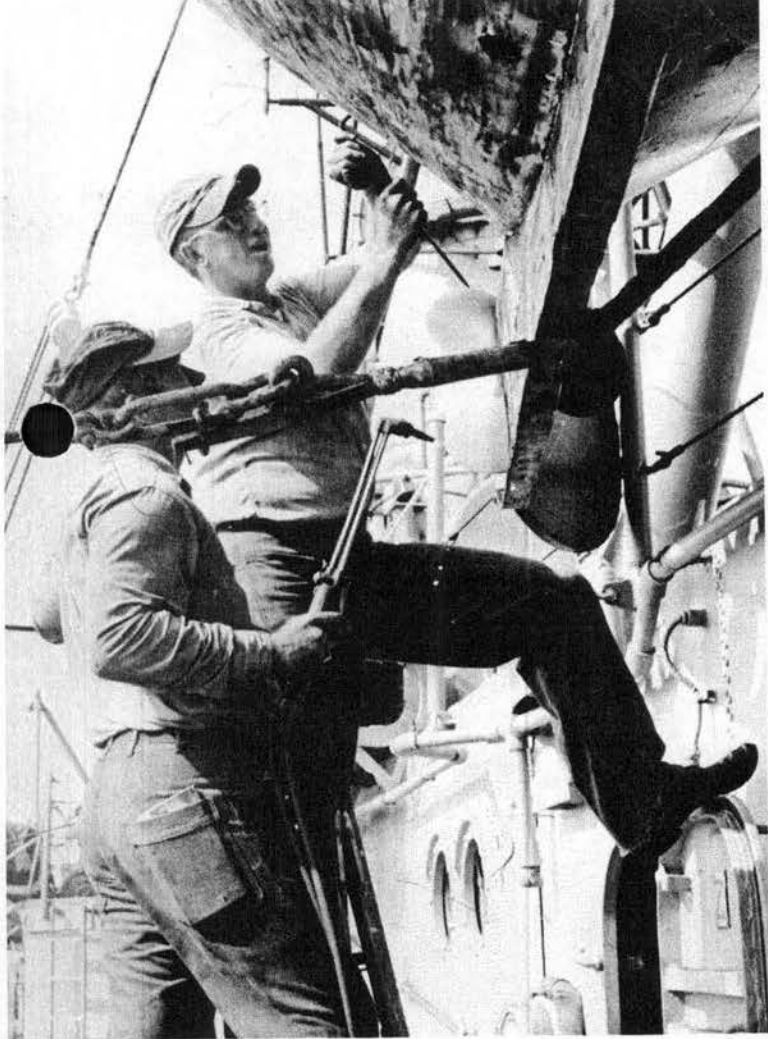
Fueling and replenishing...

*a necessary and never-ending job to keep the heart
of mighty Task Group ALFA throbbing.*



A ship must be strong enough to meet the ocean...

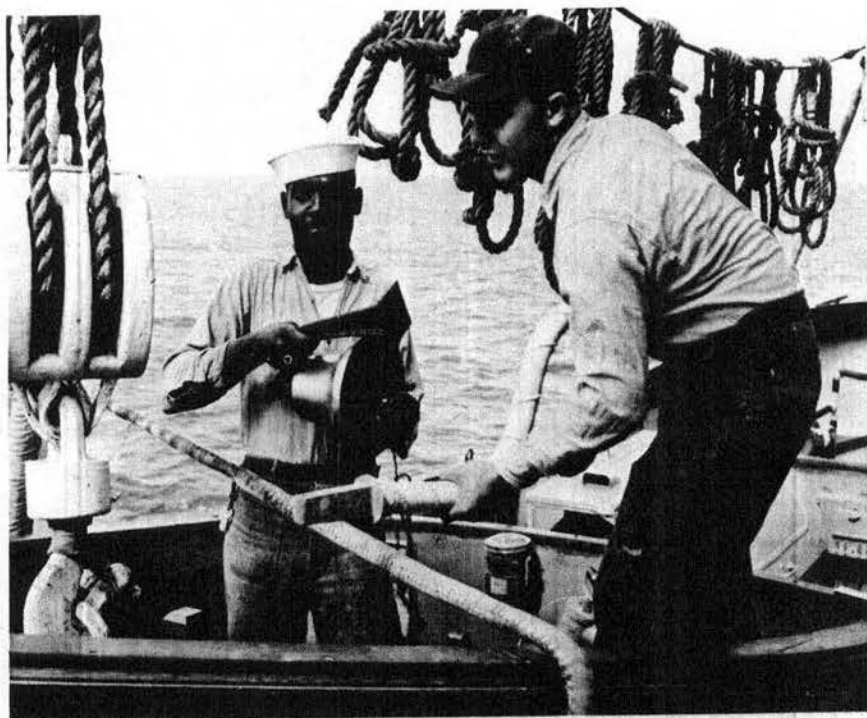




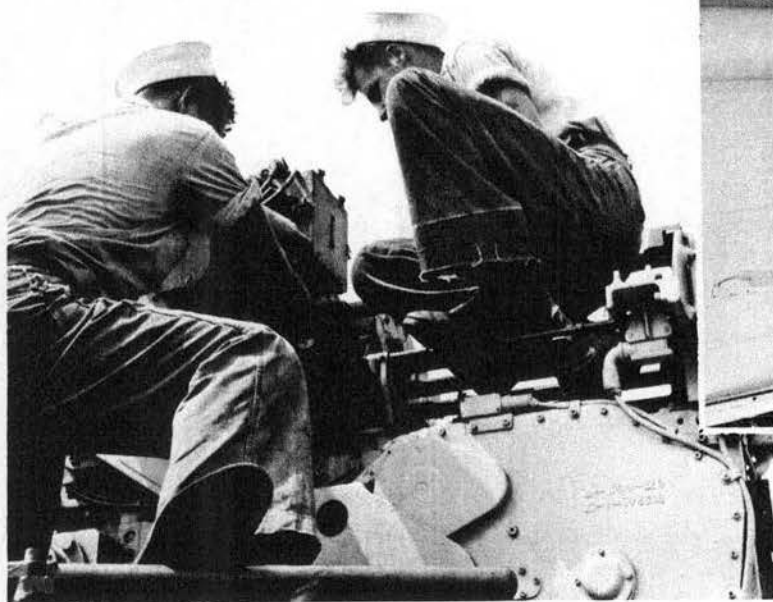
And it takes constant attention,



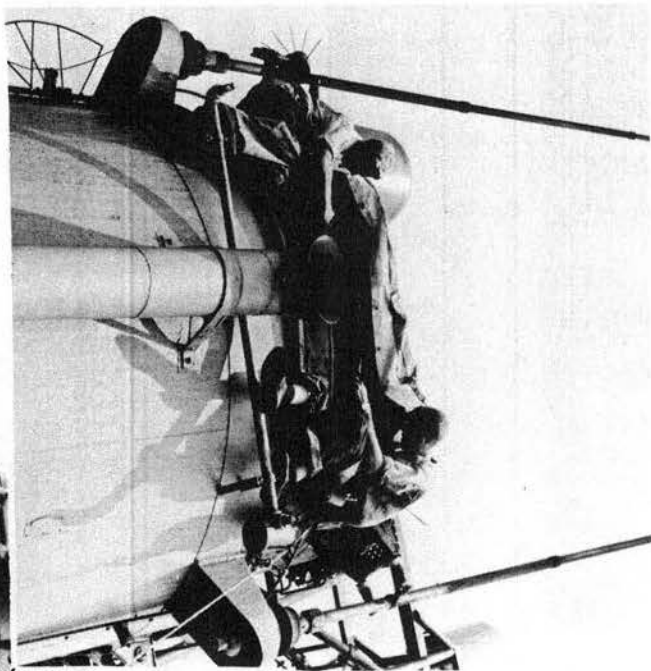
careful consideration . . .



. . . and just plain work.



... down to bare metal.



Add rust preventative.

Certain refinements of upkeep occur...the ship mu



It might as well be spring.



... and finish with haze grey.



ll painted to enter port

The ship begins to move just a bit more quickly.

