

Once the 82-footers had refueled and had begun their mission, we prepared for our first gunfire support. At 1600 we set general quarters. Immediately the ammunition hoist broke down.

"NOW ALL E-4 AND BELOW LAY TO UPPER HANDLING."

So we brought up the shells and powder by hand.

Now it's not as though we panicked (that could never be put in print), but we did have a rough time getting started. Our first shot was right on target, and after that it was all downhill. We had trouble getting more than one round off a minute, and when we did get around to firing, the shells went off in mid-air. It looked nice but it wasn't exactly what we had in mind. Some people thought they might have been set off by the clouds, but that didn't seem too probable.

