

# DECKS AWASH

AMERICAN NAVAL HEROES  
PAUL JONES, Part 4

by AUGUSTUS J. ROBINSON

PAUL JONES HAD ELUDED THE BRITISH FRIGATES AND ARRIVED AT BOSTON WITH THE "ALFRED" ON DEC. 5, 1776.

FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS HE HAD REMAINED ASHORE, BUT BY NO MEANS INACTIVE, FOR HIS BRAIN WAS TEEMING WITH GREAT PROJECTS FOR HIS COUNTRY.

HE TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO NAVAL ORGANIZATION AND MANY OF HIS PRINCIPLES ARE OBSERVED IN THE U.S. NAVY TODAY.

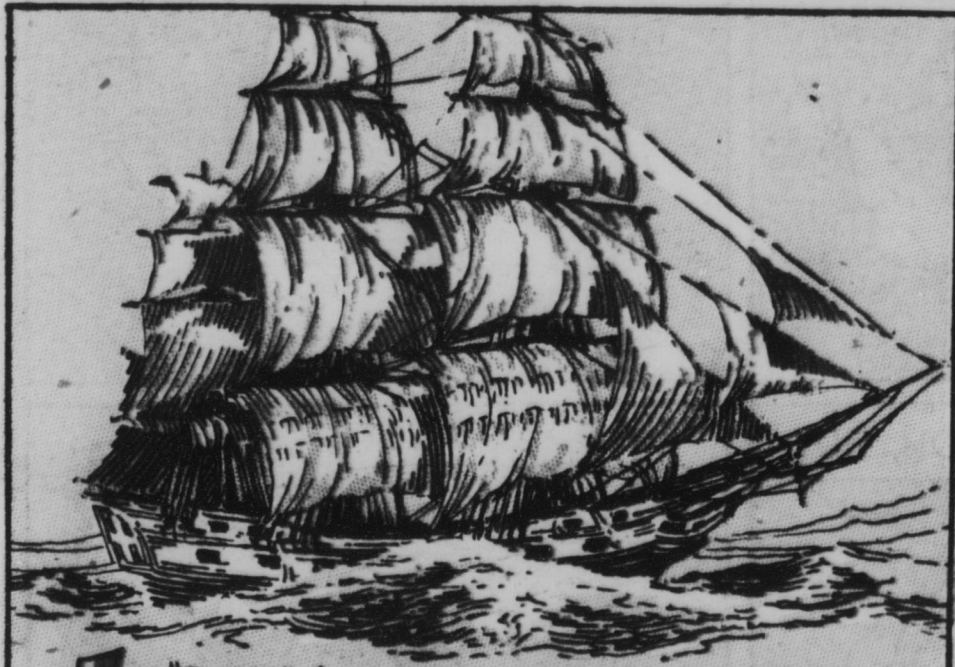
IT WAS NOT UNTIL JUNE 14, 1777 THAT A COMMAND WAS FOUND FOR HIM. IT WAS THE "RANGER," A SHIP OF 308 TONS MOUNTING 10 GUNS.



IT HAPPENED THAT ON THE DAY JONES RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION TO COMMAND THE "RANGER" THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ADOPTED THE STARS AND STRIPES AS THE NATIONAL FLAG. JONES HOISTED THE NEW MADE FLAG TO THE MASTHEAD, IT WAS THE FIRST OCCASION WHEN OLD GLORY WAS SPREAD TO THE BREEZE FROM A NAVAL VESSEL.



EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO GET AWAY TO SEA, BUT THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE STRUGGLING AMERICANS HAD TO OVERCOME WERE SO GREAT THAT THE "RANGER" DID NOT SAIL FROM PORTSMOUTH UNTIL NOVEMBER 1ST, 1777.



THE "RANGER" ALTHOUGH A STOUT-BUILT SHIP PROVED TO BE A SLUGGISH SAILER - THE AMERICANS HAD NOT YET LEARNED THE ART OF BUILDING FAST FRIETES.



NOT FAR FROM THE AZORES, JONES SIGHTED A FLEET OF TEN WELL GUARDED MERCHANTMEN. THE WARSHIPS WERE TOO HEAVY FOR THE "RANGER" AND THE MERCHANT SHIPS KEPT SO CLOSE TO THEIR PROTECTORS THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CUT ONE OF THEM OUT OF THE FLEET. THE "RANGER" WAS NOT FAST ENOUGH FOR SUCH A PURPOSE.



JONES KNEW THAT ENGLAND'S NAVY WAS TOO POWERFUL TO BE MET ON THE SEA, BUT THAT ALL ALONG THE ENGLISH COAST WERE UNPROTECTED SEAPORTS WHERE A SUDDEN ATTACK WOULD TAKE THEM OFF THEIR GUARD.

ACCORDINGLY HE PLANNED AN ENTERPRISE, WHICH FOR DASH AND EXECUTION, HAS NEVER BEEN SURPASSED IN NAVAL HISTORY.

HE HAD HOPES THAT THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN PARIS WOULD AID HIS ENTERPRISE AND GIVE HIM A LARGER SHIP.



ENTERING QUIBERON BAY, FRANCE, CAPT. JONES HAD THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF SEEING THE FRENCH ADMIRAL SALUTE THE AMERICAN FLAG. IT WAS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH A FOREIGN POWER SALUTED THE STARS AND STRIPES.

TO BE CONTINUED

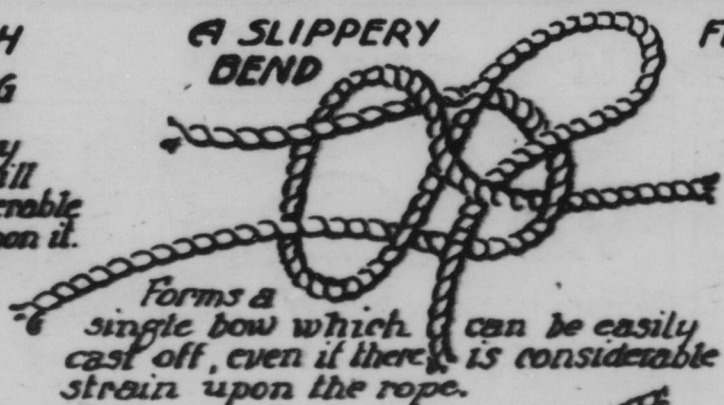
## SAILOR'S KNOTS

### HALF-HITCH and SEIZING



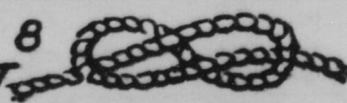
A temporary loop that will stand considerable strain put upon it.

### A SLIPPERY BEND



Forms a single bow which can be easily cast off, even if there is considerable strain upon the rope.

### FIGURE 8 KNOT

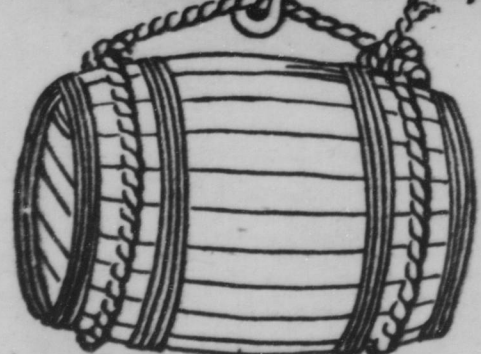


The CATSPAW  
A convenient way of making a strong loop in the bight of a rope to take the hook of a tackle.

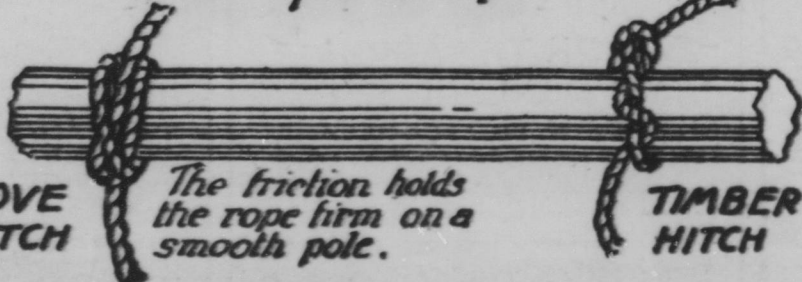


### The BUTT SLING

Consists of a single length of rope with an eye splice at the end - The end of the sling is passed through the eye to form one loop - the other end of the sling is passed round the other end of the cask and clove-hitched to its own part.



### CLOVE HITCH



The friction holds the rope firm on a smooth pole.

### TIMBER HITCH