

DECKS AWASH

American Naval Heroes by AUGUSTUS J. ROBINSON

IT WAS 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING OF SEPT. 23d. 1779 WHEN THE FIRST SHOTS WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE AMERICAN FRIGATE "BONHOMME RICHARD" AND THE BRITISH FRIGATE "SERAPIS" — AND FOR THREE HOURS, UNDER THE BRIGHT MOONLIGHT, THE BATTLE RAGED.

AT THE FIRST BROADSIDE TWO OF THE LONG 18 POUNDERS ON THE LOWER GUN-DECK OF THE "RICHARD" EXPLODED, AND ALL THE MEN IN THE GUN-ROOM WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED.



CAPT PEARSON OF THE "SERAPIS" ATTEMPTED TO CROSS THE BOW OF THE "RICHARD" AND RAKE HER — BUT THE CAPTAIN MISJUDGED HIS DISTANCE — HE FOULED THE "RICHARD" AND HIS LONG BOWSPRIT HUNG OVER THE STERN OF THE AMERICAN SHIP. CAPT. PAUL JONES SPRANG FROM THE QUARTER-DECK — AND WITH HAWSER IN HAND, MADE FAST THE JIB-STAY OF THE "SERAPIS" TO HIS OWN MIZZEN MAST. MORE LASHINGS WERE PASSED, AND THE SHIPS WERE FIRMLY SECURED TOGETHER.



THE HEAVY GUNS OF THE "SERAPIS" DID TERRIBLE EXECUTION TO THE HULL OF THE "RICHARD" — BUT THE AMERICANS BATTLED WITH MUSKETRY FROM THE FORECASTLE AND THE TOPS — DRIVING THE BRITISH FROM THEIR UPPER DECK.

THE "RICHARD" WAS AFIRE AND FAST FILLING WITH WATER — WHEN A GUNNER, FEARING THE SHIP WAS SINKING, ATTEMPTED TO HAUL DOWN THE FLAG — BUT JONES FELLED HIM WITH AN EMPTY PISTOL.

WHILE THE BATTLE RAGED — THE TREACHEROUS LANDAIS SAILED BY IN THE "ALLIANCE" AND Poured A TERRIFIC BROADSIDE INTO THE SHATTERED HULL OF THE AMERICAN SHIP.



VICTORY FOR THE AMERICANS SEEMED HOPELESS UNTIL A SAILOR CLIMBED OUT ON THE "RICHARD'S" MAIN YARD AND HURLED HAND GRENADES THROUGH THE OPEN HATCHWAYS OF THE "SERAPIS." — THERE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF VIOLENT EXPLOSIONS AND THE CARNAGE ON THE ENGLISH SHIP WAS FRIGHTFUL.



WITH DEAD MEN STREWED ABOUT HIM, AND HIS SHIP AFIRE IN SEVERAL PLACES, CAPT. PEARSON HAULED DOWN HIS FLAG.

LIEUT. DALE AND A PARTY OF SEAMEN FROM THE "RICHARD" LEAPED OVER THE RAIL AND TOOK POSSESSION OF THE SHIP.



AS THE "RICHARD" WAS IN A SINKING CONDITION, PAUL JONES REMOVED HIS PRISONERS AND MOST OF HIS CREW TO THE "SERAPIS."

ALL EFFORTS TO SAVE THE "RICHARD" WERE HOPELESS — TWO DAYS LATER THE GOOD OLD SHIP SANK BENEATH THE WAVES.

CONTINUED

SAILOR'S KNOTS

The EYE SPLICE

Open the end of the rope for a considerable distance and, at the required space, lay the strands upon the standing part to form the eye.



Push the strand A through the opposite strand of the standing part, having already opened it up with a belaying-pin.

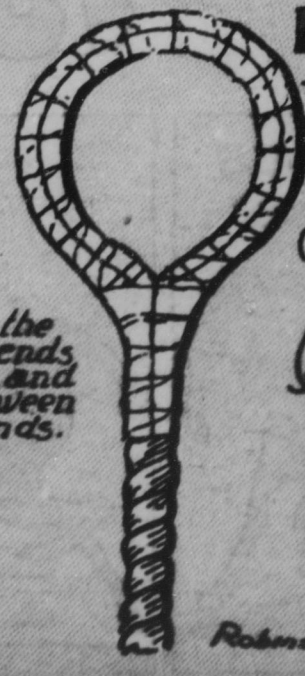
Strand B is taken over the same strand and then passed through the second. Then turn the rope over and pass strand C through the third.

When make another complete tuck.

One third of the fibres of the strands should be removed, before making the third tuck, and another third, before making the fourth - or final tuck.

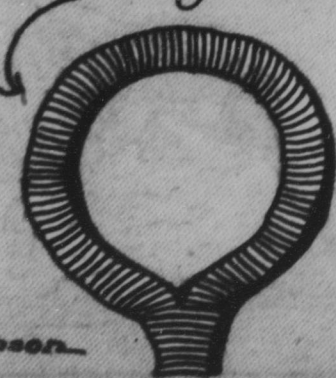


Cut the loose ends off close, and roll between the hands.



When the splice can be wormed and PARCELLED — (wrapped with thin strips of canvas and half-hitched).

SERVED OVER (covered with spun-yarn or light cord)



Robinson