

Hammocks –According to the Royal navy

SLINGING A HAMMOCK

Hammock: The canvas part, having 16 holes in each end, usually fitted with eyelets.

Clews: 'A set of clews' consists of two **lanyards**, each spliced to its metal ring, each ring carrying eight **nettles** (six-foot lengths of 3-stranded white hemp 5/8 inch in circumference), for slinging the two ends of the hammock.

The nettles are first middled, with the eye so formed secured with a racking seizing; the eye is passed through the ring and secured by passing the two ends through the eye. As each nettle has two ends, sixteen ends are thus provided, one for each eyelet hole in the end of the hammock.

Lashing: A length of sisal long enough to allow the **seven** turns to be taken round the hammock and secured to its own part. The lashing has an eye-splice at one end and may be 'pointed' at the other.

To sling the hammock secure one lanyard to the hammock bar overhead so that the ends of the nettles hang at the level of the chest. Pass the outer nettles through the outer corner eyelet holes at one end of the hammock and secure by a half-hitch, leaving about **six** inches of the ends hanging down. Then take the two nettles nearest the centre and secure them to their corresponding eyelet holes in the centre of the hammock-end, leaving about **four** inches hanging down. Then secure the remaining nettles in like manner from the centre outwards, leaving increasing lengths of end hanging.

Repeat with the other end of the hammock and the other clews. Plait the ends of the nettles up in threes, leaving them inside the hammock.

Sling the hammock between two hammock bars by passing the lanyard over the bar, back up through its own ring and form a sheet bend over the nettles. Then distribute the bedding evenly over the length of the hammock and tauten up the slack nettles if necessary.

To keep the head of the hammock apart a stretcher can be used, but this is optional. It consists of a length of wood about two feet in length with a V cut out at both ends. These V's take over the top two nettles on each side.

To Lash Up a Hammock

Distribute the bedding evenly over the length of the hammock leaving about six inches clear at each end to prevent bunches of bedding and blankets oozing out of the ends when it is lashed.

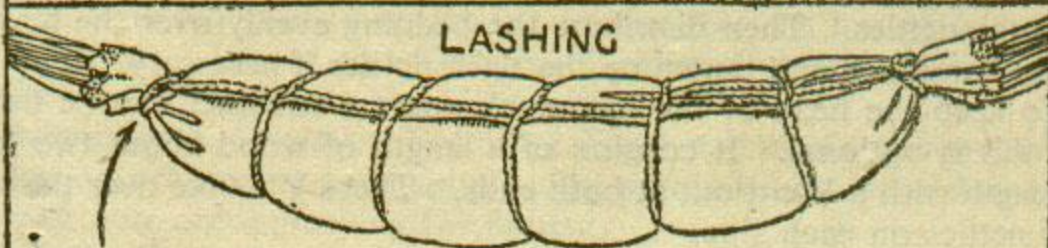
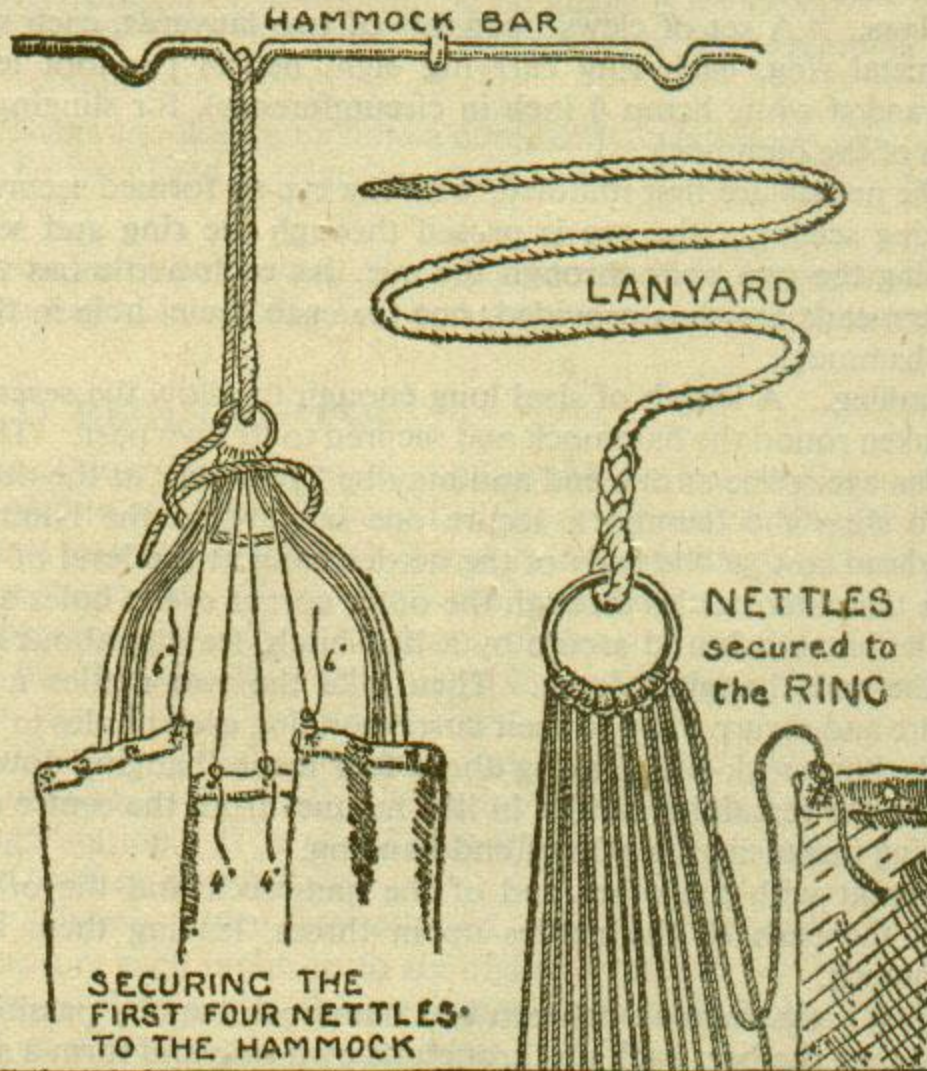
Lower the hammock until it is breast high, and stand on the left side facing the head. Pass the lashing over the hammock and reeve the end through the eye and draw taut; this is the first **turn**. The succeeding turns are taken as follows:-

Coil the lashing up and pass it up and over the hammock with the right hand and bring it under the hammock into the left hand, then over its own standing part and haul taut by swinging back on it. This hitch is called a marline hitch.

The final turn is taken around the neck of the hammock at the foot and is secured on its own part by a half-hitch. The end is then passed neatly along the hammock under each turn.

The clews are stowed by twisting the nettles round right-handed and tucking under the turns of lashing along the hammock.

SECURING THE CLEWS OF A HAMMOCK



THE FIRST TURN IS PASSED THRO' THE EYE OF THE LASHING.
THE NEXT FIVE TURNS ARE MARLINE-HITCHED.
THE LAST TURN IS HALF-HITCHED TO ITS OWN PART