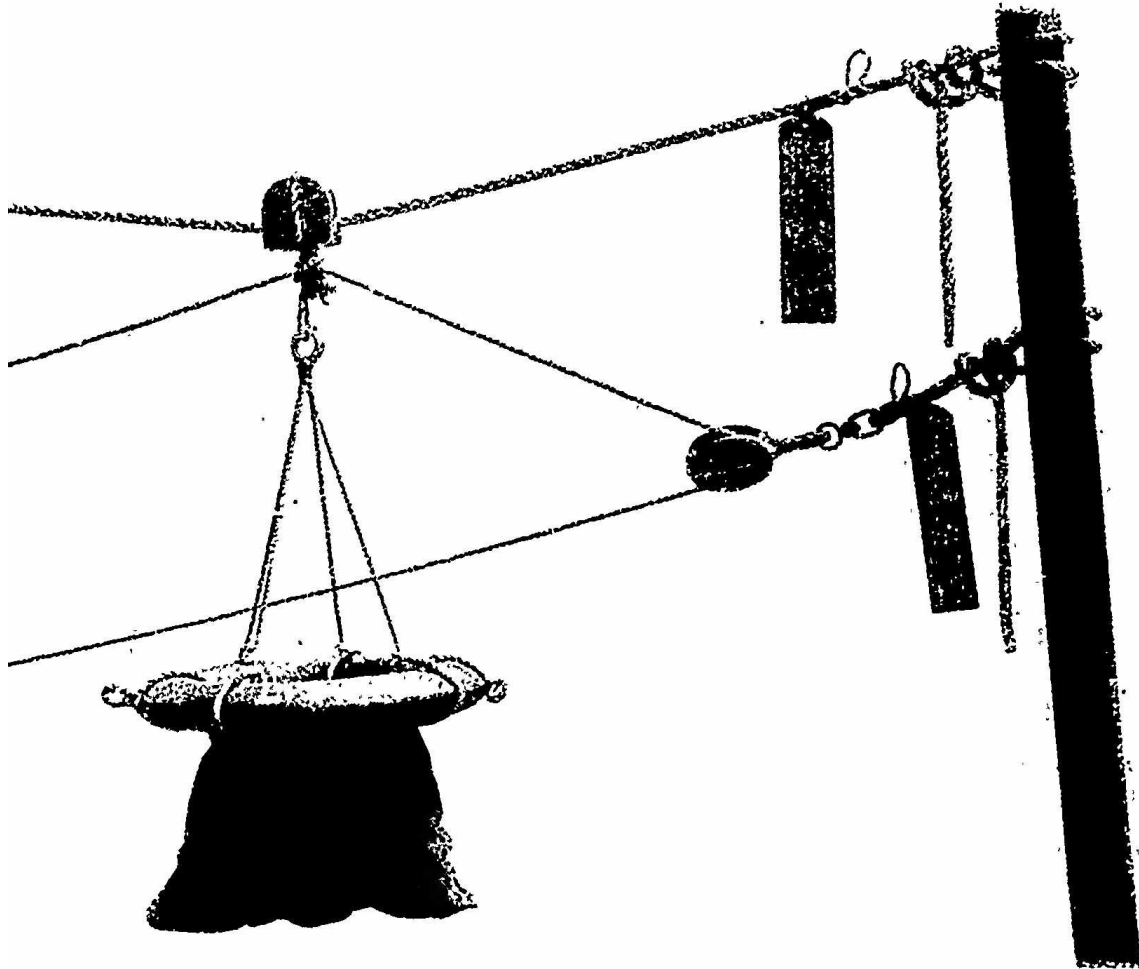


Method of Working the Rocket Apparatus  
For  
Saving Life From Shipwreck

1. A rocket with a thin line attached is fired across the vessel from the shore. The shipwrecked crew seize this line as soon as possible and when they have secured it (if in the daytime) one of the crew separated from the rest, waves his hat or his hand or a flag or handkerchief or (if at night) a rocket, a blue light, or a gun is fired, or a light is waved as a signal to those on shore.
2. Then one of the Life-saving Company on shore, separated from the rest, waves a red flag in reply, or (if at night) waves a red light as a signal to the shipwrecked crew to haul upon the rocket line until they receive, attached to it, a tailed block with an endless rope, called a "whip," rove through it.
3. The tail of this block is then made fast by the shipwrecked crew to a mast well above the deck, or, if the masts are gone, then to the best place that can be found high above the water, care being taken that the lines are kept clear from chaffing the wreck, and that that space is left above for the hawser. When the tail block is made fast, and the rocket line unbent from the whip, one of the crew, separated from the rest, again makes the signal indicated in the first paragraph.
4. As soon as the signal is seen on shore a hawser is bent to the whip-line, and hauled off to the ship by the Life-saving Company by means of the whip.
5. When the hawser is hauled on board, the crew at once make it fast to the same part of the ship as the tail block is made fast to, but about 2 feet higher, taking care that there are no turns of the whip line round the hawser. The whip must then be unbent from the hawser. When the hawser has been made fast on board, the signal indicated above is again made.
6. The Life-saving Company then set the hawser taut and by means of the whip-line haul off to the ship a sling lifebuoy, called the "breeches buoy," and the person to be hauled ashore gets into it. When he is in, and secure, one of the crew again signals to the shore, as described above. The Life-saving Company then haul the person in the "breeches buoy" to the shore, and, when he has landed, haul back the empty buoy to the ship for

another. This operation is repeated until all persons are landed from the wreck. Illustration of the manner in which the apparatus is used:-



Using the Hawser and Whip with the Breeches Buoy

It May be sometimes happen that the state of the weather and the condition of the ship will not admit of a hawser being set up; in which cases the “breeches buoy” is hauled off by the whip, which is then used without the hawser.