

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
**Outside Plant Construction**  
**and Maintenance**

**SECTION G86.350.1**  
**Issue 1, March, 1961**  
**AT&T Co Standard**

**B WORKMAN'S TENT**

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**1. GENERAL**

1.01 This section describes the B Workman's Tent and outlines the methods of installing and removing it. It is designed for placement and removal by one man.

1.02 The B Workman's Tent is a compact, lightweight shelter which can be used for shelter when working on extension ladders, aerial platforms or in manholes. This tent can also be used in lieu of a ground tent when installed on a standard manhole guard as outlined in Part 6 of this Practice.

1.03 Erection and removal of ladders, platforms, etc, are covered in other sections of the Practices.

**2. DESCRIPTION**

2.01 The cover of the tent is composed of two materials. The sidewalls consist of fire and water **resistant** canvas. The roof consists of a translucent reinforced plastic material (this provides excellent light conditions for work operations) which is securely stitched to the sidewalls. The entire cover is securely laced and tied to a collapsible aluminum frame. The complete tent weighs about 27 pounds. Fig. 1 illustrates the B Workman's Tent.

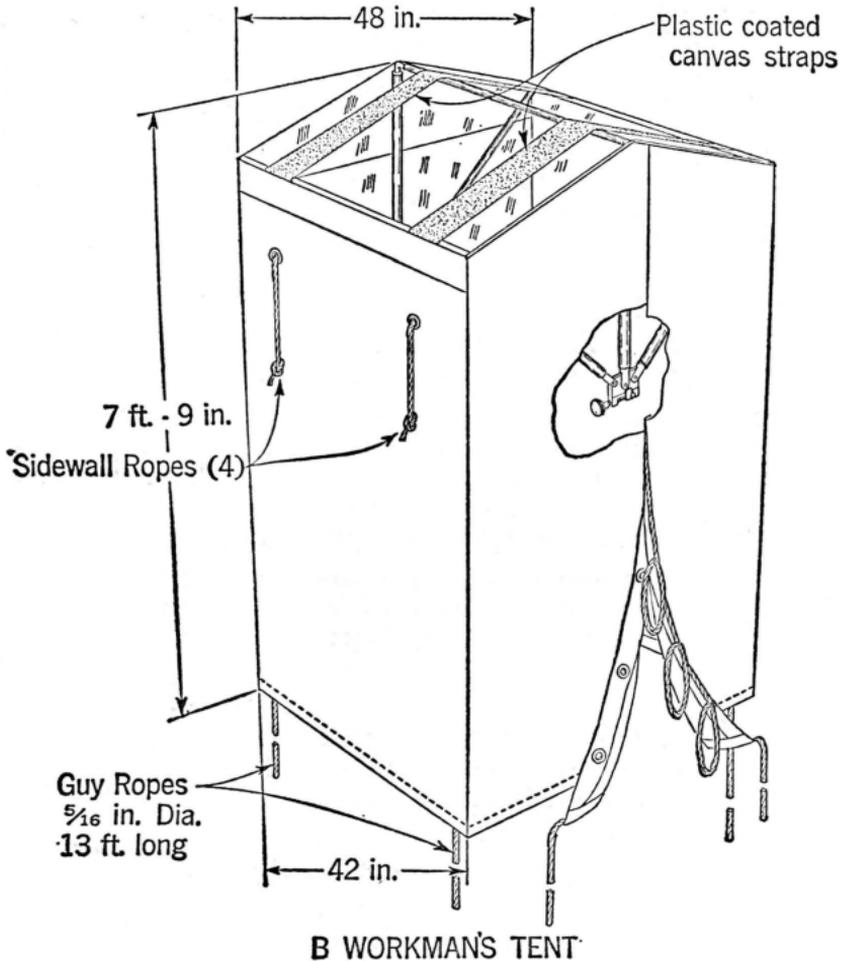


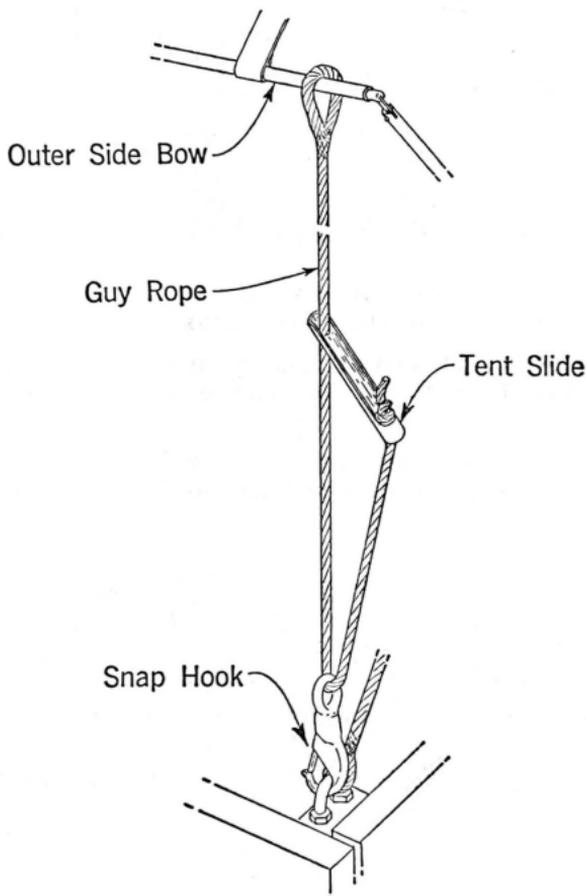
Fig. 1

2.02 The frame consists of three aluminum alloy bows which are hinged at the corners to allow the legs to be folded for storage. The legs are attached to a clamp assembly at the ends of the center bow. The side bows are hinged at this point to provide for folding these bows against the center bow when required.

2.03 Clamps provide a means of securing the tent to a mounting. The clamps are operated by turning the knob on each clamp.

2.04 Two plastic coated canvas straps are attached to the bows to minimize strain on the tent cover (see Fig. 1).

2.05 The side bows are equipped with guy ropes for anchoring the tent. Each guy rope is equipped with a tent slide (tensioning device) and a snap hook. These facilitate the installation and removal of the tent. The tent slide and snap hook are illustrated in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 2**

2.06 The end openings are equipped with grommets and ropes for closing the tent after it is installed.

2.07 Two ropes in each sidewall provide a means of securing the sidewalls when they have been rolled up. These facilitate the installation and removal of the tent. Fig. 3 illustrates the tent with the sides rolled up and tied with the sidewall ropes.

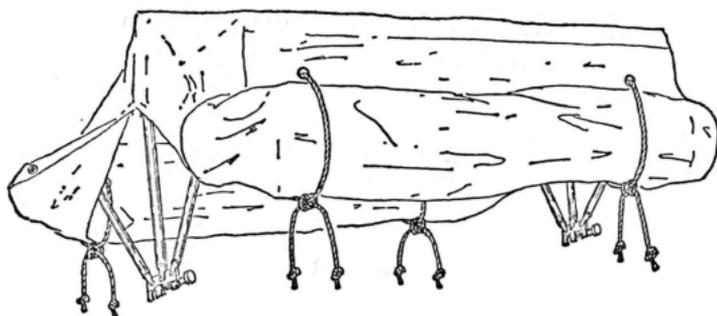


Fig. 3

2.08 Because of the hinge construction of the frame, the B Workman's Tent should be installed on the top strand when there is more than one strand in the lead (one strand above the other).

2.09 To minimize soiling of the canvas when the tent is not in use, and to protect the cover from damage, the tent should be kept in the **Aerial Tent Bag**.

### 3. PRECAUTIONS

3.01 A body belt and safety strap shall be used when installing or removing a tent aloft as well as while working aloft.

3.02 Care should be exercised when handling a tent to avoid contact with electric power wires or attachments.

3.03 Care should be exercised to protect the tent from sharp objects during use or storage to avoid punctures or tears.

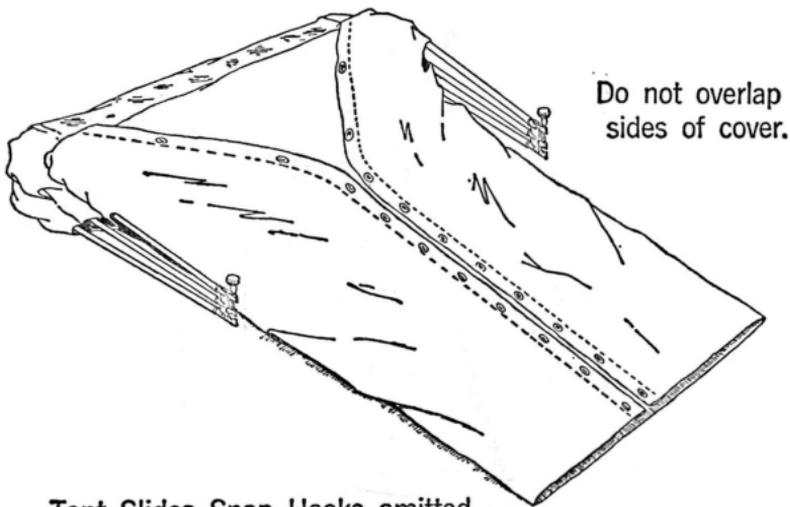
3.04 **SINCE EACH LAUNDERING REMOVES SOME OF THE FIREPROOFING, WATERPROOFING, AND LIFE FROM THE FABRIC, LAUNDERING OF THE TENTS SHOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.**

### 4. INSTALLATION ON AERIAL PLATFORM

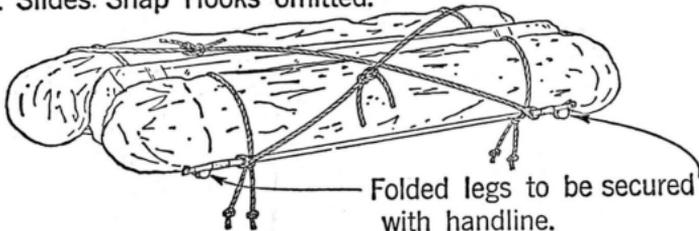
4.01 Prepare the tent for installation or storage by laying it out flat on the ground, fold the ends, roll up the sidewalls and tie them with the sidewall ropes.

**Note:** Having the sidewalls rolled up and tied prevents them from accidentally falling free and presenting a large sail area during installation or removal.

Fold the legs parallel to the top and secure the tent by tying it with the guy ropes. Fig. 4 illustrates this operation.



Tent Slides. Snap Hooks omitted.



Roll cover from bottom and tie.  
Lay rolled up sides over outer side bows.  
Secure top with guy ropes.

**Fig. 4**

4.02 With the handline block in place on the strand, tie one end of the handline around the tent at about the midpoint.

4.03 Ascend the pole or ladder to the platform, secure the safety strap on the strand, raise the tent to the platform, and remove the handline from the tent.

4.04 Release the guy ropes from around the top of the tent and unfold the legs. Estimate the guy rope length and adjust the two guy ropes on the far side of the strand to approximately this length by means of the tent slides. Engage the two snap hooks in the respective platform support rope U bolts.

**Note:** The guy rope length should be sufficient to permit the top of the tent to lean slightly beyond a vertical position toward the workman as outlined in Par. 4.06. If the guy ropes are too long they will permit the tent to roll around the strand. The approximate guy rope length is illustrated in Fig. 5.

4.05 Raise the tent into position on the strand, engage the clamps and tighten them securely on the strand. Extend the roof by allowing the side bows to drop into place. Fig. 5 illustrates the tent at this time.

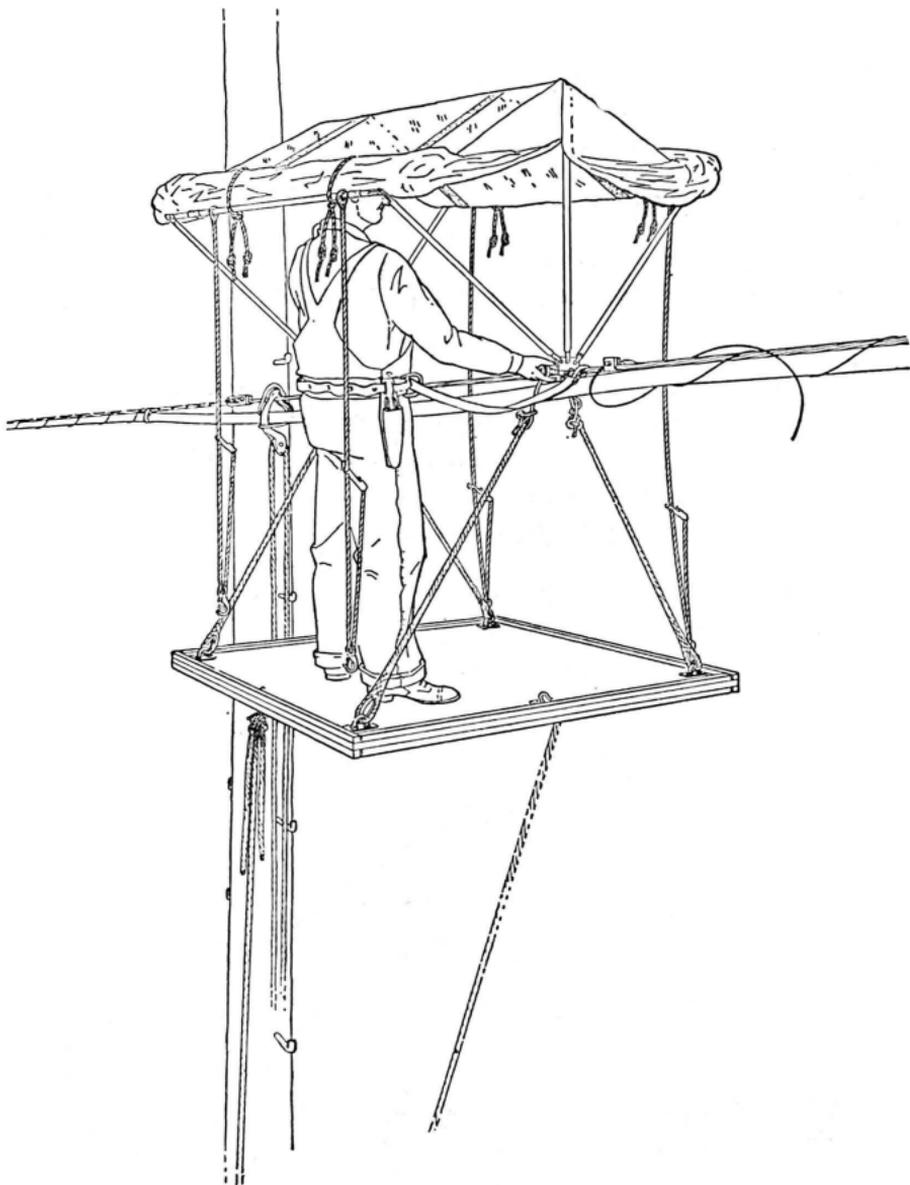


Fig. 5

4.06 Lean the tent away from the two engaged guy ropes until it is supported in a position just beyond the vertical toward the workman. Maintain the tent in this position by holding the other two guy ropes under tension. Engage the snap hooks of these guy ropes in their respective platform support rope U bolts, and loosely tension these two guy ropes.

4.07 Retension all guy ropes. Release the sidewall ropes, unroll the sidewalls, and lace up the ends as required.

## 5. INSTALLATION ABOVE A STRAND SUPPORTED LADDER

5.01 Refer to Par. 4.01 for information concerning the preparation of the tent prior to use.

5.02 Tie one end of the handline around the tent at about the midpoint. Ascend the ladder with the handline block, secure the safety strap on the strand and engage the handline block on the strand.

5.03 Raise the tent, remove the handline from the tent, and untie the guy ropes.

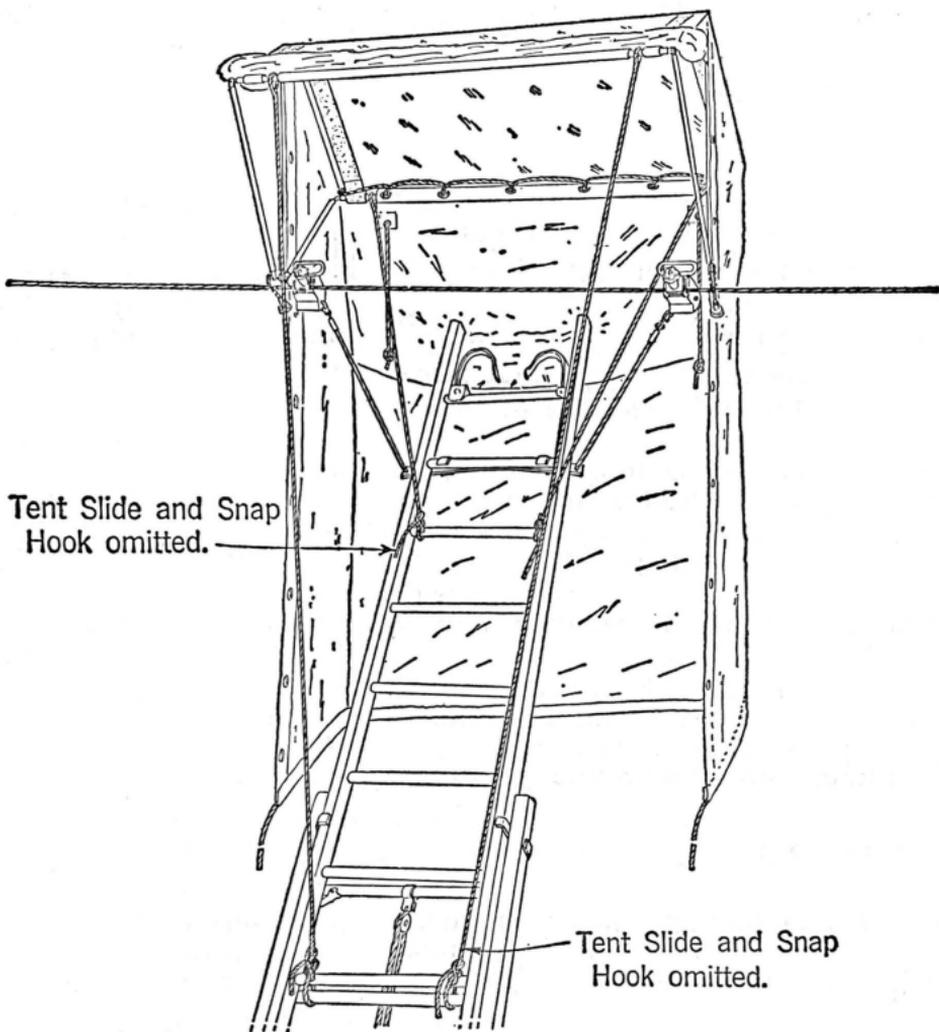
5.04 Raise the tent into position and **engage the clamps on the strand**. Tighten the clamps securely. Lean the tent back against the top of the ladder. Estimate the rear guy rope length and tie off these two guy ropes temporarily on a ladder rung.

**Note:** The tent slides and snap hooks are not practical to use on a ladder installation.

Pull the tent into an upright position with the two front guy ropes and secure these guy ropes by tying them off on a ladder rung using half-hitches (the rear guy ropes, tied off at the proper length, will prevent the tent from rolling around the strand at this time).

**Note:** For maximum stability the front guy ropes should be tied to a ladder rung about 8 feet below strand level. Retension the rear guy ropes and secure them on a ladder rung with half-hitches.

5.05 Release the sidewall ropes, unroll the sidewalls and lace up the ends as required. Fig. 6 illustrates the tent with the back sidewall unrolled and the front sidewall rolled up.



**Fig. 6**

## **6. INSTALLATION ON A MANHOLE GUARD**

6.01 Refer to Par. 4.01 for information concerning the preparation of the tent prior to use. Do not fold the legs or tie the tent with the guy ropes.

6.02 Secure the manhole guard so it will not be blown over when the tent is installed.

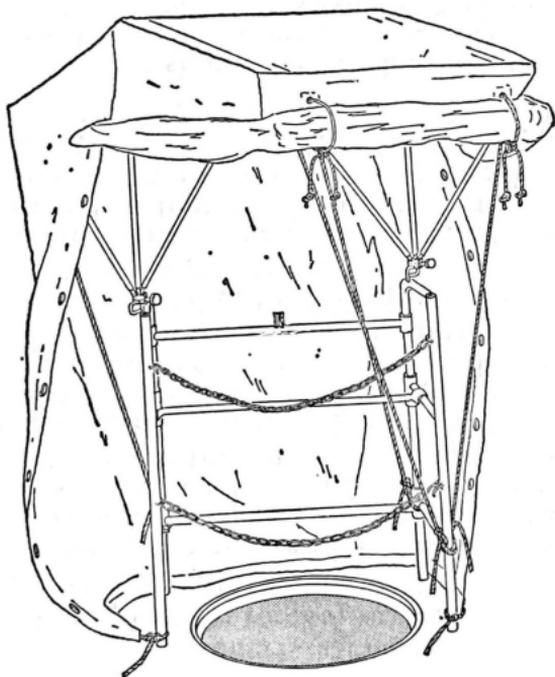
6.03 Raise the tent into position, engage the clamps on the **tent loops** of the manhole guard and tighten the clamps securely.

6.04 Extend the roof by allowing the sidebows to drop into place. Firmly support the tent with one hand while tying the guy ropes off (on the lower rungs of the manhole guard) with the other hand. Secure the guy ropes with half-hitches.

**Note:** The tent slides and snap hooks are not practical to use on a manhole guard.

6.05 The bottom of the back sidewall can be tied to the legs of the manhole guard, as shown in Fig. 7, to prevent the sidewall from flapping when the ends are not laced up.

6.06 Release the sidewall ropes and lace up the ends as required. Fig. 7 illustrates the tent mounted on a manhole guard with the back sidewall unrolled and the front sidewall rolled up.



**Fig. 7**

## 7. REMOVAL

7.01 Removal of the tent regardless of where it is installed is accomplished as follows:

- (1) If working aloft, properly attach the safety strap before proceeding with any work.
- (2) Roll up and tie (with the sidewall ropes) both sidewalls.
- (3) While holding the tent stable with one hand, slack off the guy ropes. Collapse the roof by drawing the bows together, loosen the clamps, and remove the tent from its mounting. Disengage the guy rope snap hooks.

**Note:** On a ladder installation (Part 5), untie the front guy ropes, lean the tent back against the top of the ladder, untie the rear guy ropes, loosen the clamps, and remove the tent from the strand.

- (4) Fold the legs parallel to the top and secure the tent by tying it with the guy ropes.
- (5) Attach the handline at about the midpoint of the tent and lower the tent to the ground (not required when the tent has been mounted on a manhole guard).

7.02 Prepare the tent for storage or use at another location as outlined in Par. 4.01.

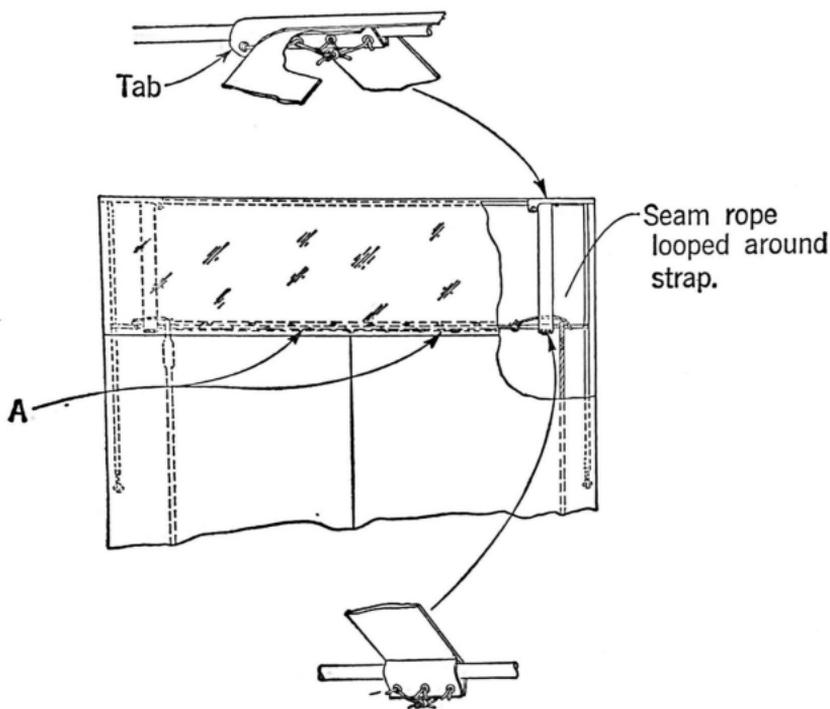
7.03 The tent cover should be dry before the tent is stored. At times it may be necessary to transport a tent with a wet cover. In that event, the cover should be dried at the first opportunity.

## 8. MAINTENANCE

8.01 Recommended rope for use on straps, tabs, or seams is as follows:

- (1) Rope, cotton, gray, 3/16-inch diameter, 3-strand,
- or (2) No. 4 braided cotton or nylon venetian blind cord. Procure the rope locally.

8.02 The plastic coated canvas strap installation is illustrated in Fig. 8. These straps are a replacement item.



**Fig. 8**

8.03 Each strap is laced to the bows at three locations. About 2 feet of rope is required at each location on each strap. If in good condition, the existing rope can be reused. If replacement of the rope is required refer to Par. 8.01.

8.04 Covers are a replacement item on the B Workman's Tent. To install a new cover on a B Workman's Tent frame proceed as follows:

- (1) Properly fit the cover on the frame, making sure that the straps are in the proper location.
- (2) Tie the tabs securely around the frame. A tab is illustrated in Fig. 8. The tabs require two 12-inch pieces of rope.
- (3) Lace the two seams (one on each side of the tent) to their respective bows using one piece of rope 5 feet long on each side. On each end of the seam, this piece of rope secures the strap and guy rope in place on the bows. This tie is illustrated in Fig. 8. "A" in Fig. 8 illustrates the location of the seam.

- 8.05 Refer to Par. 3.04 for precautions regarding laundering of tents.
- 8.06 If a tent is in need of repair, it should be handled in accordance with local instructions.

## **9. REPLACEMENT PARTS**

- 9.01 Cover and straps (see Par. 8.04 for installation).
- 9.02 Procure locally lacing rope for straps, tabs, and seams (see Par. 8.01).
- 9.03 Tent slide and snap hook.