

**FRIBRI, INC. v. SINGULAR**

Quoting from the Bible in signals used to be a very popular exercise of wit and memory, and many officers vied with one another over the number and aptness of the quotations they carried in their heads. It must be admitted, however, that a surreptitious list was often kept in the back of the Fleet Signal Book on the bridge.

Destroyer officers indulged in this form of sport more than the remainder of the Fleet, and the following useful quotes are taken from a list compiled over the years by a Chief Yeoman.

The scene is a cold, dull and misty morning. The time 0900 and Captain (D) arrives on the bridge.

'Flags, make to the squadron ROMANS 13, 12'. As the Leader gets underway, the eagle eye of Captain (D) scans the remainder of the squadron.

Noticing a line over the side of the junior ship, he calls her attention to the fault adding 'PROVERBS 3, 11-12', and receives an apologetic 'JOB 7, 21'. Having scrutinised another ship and sighting nothing amiss 'ECCLESIASTICUS 19, 29' is signalled.

During manoeuvres, one of the squadron receives 'PROVERBS 21, 16' or 'ECCLESIASTICUS 13, 10' for bad station-keeping.

Later, at a rendezvous with a convoy for a major NATO exercise when the merchant vessels have formed up (D) makes to the escorts 'ACTS 2, 1' and on leaving the lee of the land passes '1 KINGS 5, 9' to the 'SO BLUE FORCES'.

An 'enemy' aircraft is sighted close on the port bow, the escort in the sector concerned receives

'PROVERBS 6, 9' to which he can only reply 'ISAIAH 56, 10'. The air attack now develops, and from astern comes 'ACTS 2, 2-3'. The E.F.C. condemns this as out of place by means of '1 TIMOTHY 6, 20'. Just before dawn the following day the engine-room department of a screening ship ahead is scorned by 'EXODUS 13, 21' but 'ECCLESIASTICUS 22, 24' would have been an alternative.

The leader of a frigate squadron joins to augment the escort and is greeted with 'ECCLESIASTES 4, 9-11'. Having been in company with (D) before, she flashes 'ECCLESIASTES 9, 11'.

During subsequent attack on a submarine, 'JOB 5, 12' is reported by the attacking ship, and is followed by 'JOB 7, 10' after a second attack. The E.F.C. congratulates her with 'PROVERBS 31, 29'

On completion of the exercises, the squadron returns to harbour. As the first destroyer nears her alongside berth she observes an earlier arrival has not left her room to secure. A curt 'PROVERBS 24, 15' or the alternative 'PROVERBS 25, 17' is sent to the offender. Captain (D), however, is not amused and blasts with 'EZEKIEL 7, 8-9'.

On securing (D) invites his old friend the C. of S. ashore to 'ECCLESIASTICUS 9, 10' but is answered with a regretful 'LUKE 14, 20'.

After a spirited celebration in honour of a promotion or any other excuse, '2 KINGS 4, 19' is fair comment.

It is hoped that this article may enthuse some the present day Communicators to sprinkle this elegant form of expression into the mundane mixing bowl of everyday signals, and old hands might care to suggest other quotes from the good old days.

**Romans 13, 12.** *The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

**Proverbs 3, 11-12.** *My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction. For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

**Job 7, 21.** *And why does thou not pardon my transgression and take away mine iniquity? for now I shall sleep in the dust and Thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.*

**Ecclesiasticus 19, 29.** *A man shall be known by his look.*

**Proverbs 21, 16.** *The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.*

**Ecclesiasticus 13, 10.** *Press not upon him lest thou be thrust back.*

**Acts 2, 1.** *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

**1 Kings 5, 9.** *My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea, and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there and thou shalt receive them, and thou shalt accomplish my desire in giving food to my household.*

**Proverbs 6, 9.** *How long wilt thou sleep O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep.*

**Isaiah 56, 10.** *His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark: sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.*

**Acts 2, 2-3.** *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the houses where they were sitting and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

**1 Timothy 6, 20.** *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:*

**Exodus 13, 21.** *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light to go by day and night.*

**Ecclesiasticus 22, 24.** *Before fire is the vapour and smoke of a furnace.*

**Ecclesiastes 4, 9-11.** *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow but woe to him that is alone when he falleth for he hath not another to help him up. Again if two lie together then they have heat, but how can one be warm alone?*

**Ecclesiastes 9, 11.** *I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong neither yet bread to the wise nor yet riches to men of understanding nor yet favour to men of skill but time and chance happeneth to them all.*

**Job 5, 12.** *He disappointeth the devices of the crafty so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.*

**Job 7, 10.** *He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.*

**Proverbs 31, 29.** *Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

**Proverbs 24, 15.** *Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous, spoil not his resting place.*

**Proverbs 25, 17.** *Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house lest he be weary of thee and so hate thee.*

**Ezekiel 7, 8-9.** *Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee and accomplish mine anger upon thee and I will judge thee according to thy ways and will recompense thee for all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity. I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee, and ye shall know that I am the Lord that smiteth.*

**Ecclesiasticus 9, 10.** *Foresake not an old friend.*

**St. Luke 14, 20.** *And another said I have married a wife and therefore I cannot come.*

**2 Kings 4, 19.** *And he said unto his father: My head, my head and he said to a lad, carry him to his mother.*