

INTRODUCTION

1. Regrettably, the Allied Naval Signal Book does not give sufficient flexibility for Commanders and Cos to address specific operational requirements nor does it provide means whereby wit, wisdom, pleasure or displeasure may be succinctly expressed. The Barberpole Code has been designed to address this deficiency with CANFLTLANT.

METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

2. Voice

Signals may be passed on approved circuits in following manner:

- c/s DE c/s //BPC 155// Time K
- DE c/s R AR

Light

Normal call and answer procedures with text "BPC 155"

Flags

Signals taken from code are to be preceded with BPC, recipients to use the ANSWER pennant.

AUTHORISATION FOR USE

3. Use of this code is at the discretion of the appropriate Officer in Tactical Command (OTC). This code is promulgated on the authority of the most junior Commanding Officer in the Atlantic Fleet, which is to say very little authority at all.

THE BARBERPOLE CODE

1. That thing got a Hemi?
2. Your last joining procedure was
 - a) First class
 - b) Surprisingly good
 - c) Understandably awful
 - d) Indescribable
3. Punch it Chewie!
4. Bravo Zulu
5. You have done very well, although probably unintentionally
6. If I don't get my duff, we've let the terrorists win
7. Many thanks for
 - a) The mail
 - b) Nothing – that was the mail we sent you yesterday
 - c) Nothing
 - d) The newspapers
 - e) The blue movies
 - f) Change two to the OPORDER
8. Happiness is a private ship
9. The fact that I may be wrong has no bearing on the decision
10. The final word you have received should be treated as a firm maybe
11. I'd rather be fishing
12. I am fishing

13. I must be fishing
14. Mountain erected. Initiate search pattern for missing molehill
15. Things will remain much as they are or they will change
16. What you say is true but completely irrelevant
17. We seldom cheat and rarely lie
18. Who's the chief, baby?
19. a) Thank you for your valuable assistance
 - b) Had assistance been required, I would have been thankful
 - c) No, thank you, I do not require assistance
 - d) Please do not render assistance. I need your help like a hole in the head
20. If B.S. were concrete you'd be a four lane highway 600 miles long
21. Vessel (designated)
 - a) Has suicidal tendencies
 - b) Is a hazard to navigation and should be sunk
 - c) Had better have insurance
22. Regulations are a crutch for the weak, and excuse for the lazy, a benefit for the ignorant, a guide for the incompetent and are there to be broken by anyone else. You'd better stick to them.
23. Let go for my ears
24. Please speak slowly and in one of our official languages
25. Didn't he do well
26. What you see is what you get

27. We all thought your last manoeuvre was very funny
28. In case you haven't realized – we do try to be serious occasionally
29. I think perhaps you've learnt something today
30. And ever since then I've been The Champ
31. Hey Richard! Two minutes for looking so good
32. When you're this big they call you "Mister"
33. We may be small but we're slow
34. I can hear you thinking
35. You handle your ship with a certain panache – but then it must be difficult handling such an agricultural vessel smoothly
36. During that last serial you displayed definite suicidal tendencies
37. I now realize why some animals eat their young
38. Thank you for brightening up an otherwise dull serial
39. Men will follow these officers – even if it is out of idle curiosity
40. Your voice procedure is both elegant and impressive – but it is not brief
41. If all I get out of you is "Roger. Wait. Out." There's absolutely no point in my being here
42. I presume you got your ticket in a raffle

43. For the last serial you could have used any gunnery target in this hemisphere
44. I was unaware that medical standards has been revised. You must be blind as a bat
45. Once again you have demonstrated a commendable ability to practice basics
46. The last serial was so bad we watched a double feature
47. Your exercise instructions are simple, simply awful
48. I am unable to act as evasively as you wish
49. I am unable to act as unevasively as you wish
50. It's the pedal on the right, Grandma
51. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition
52. Please accept my apologies for failing to make the assigned rendez-vous. My reason is as follows:
- a) My Navigator is a Newfoundlander
 - b) I was doing something else at the time and didn't think you'd miss me
 - c) I erroneously assumed that you would be where you said you would be
 - d) My navigational equipment has not been updated since the Boer War
 - e) I have just been informed that my SDM is not the same thing as an ATM
53. I must temporarily withdraw from the exercise because of difficulties with my:
- a) Technical systems which are too difficult to explain
 - b) Motor/generators I no go right

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| c) Radars | I no see right |
| d) Ingress of water | I no float right |
| e) Fire/smoke | I no breathe right |
| f) Personnel | I no lead right |
| g) Sonar | I no hear right |
| h) Captain | I no think right |

54. Breaker one nine this here's the rubber duck, I think we got us a convoy

55. Ten-four good buddy

56. It's a pity that in wartime we'd be on the same side

57. You have been on task for several minutes. You must be suffering terribly form crew fatigue

58. We have been on task for several weeks. Next week we will probably begin to suffer from crew fatigue

59. Pray close the Fleet in order that you may be identified

60. Don't feel too proud of that last serial. You were being followed purely out of curiosity

61. Strongly advise that you do not use Braille for your next approach

62. Somewhere a village is missing its idiot

63. Missed me again

64. Have lost bubble. Will retrieve

65. Bubble found

66. The reason I'm not in station is

- a) I can't alter course – the CO is suntanning
- b) I don't know where it is
- c) I don't know where I am

- d) I thought I was the Guide
 - e) I thought we were doing navigation
 - f) I wanted to know if you were watching
 - g) It's beneath me
 - h) We're using the new math
 - i) You're in it
67. There's no place like home, Auntie 'Em
68. You look like you know what you're doing. Make me guide
69. Happiness if flag golf
70. OOW is manoeuvring to avoid station
71. Passing through station now, Now, NOW
72. I would not breed from these officers
73. Beep-beep
74. Report reason for foul-up
75. Gee shit Commander, what can I say?
76. Reason(s) is (are) as follows:
- a) I goofed
 - b) XO goofed
 - c) Somebody goofed
 - d) Inattention, for which some sonofabitch will pay
 - e) Temporary decline in usual high standards
 - f) Another example of usual low standards
 - g) I thought I could get away with it

- h) I didn't think anyone would notice
- i) Lost the bubble
- j) Finger trouble
- k) I never received the signal

77. Your report/explanation has been received with

- a) Sympathy
- b) Incredulity
- c) Relief
- d) Satisfaction
- e) Amazement
- f) Admiration
- g) Mirth

78. No, no, I swear, we're laughing with you

79. You mean to say that you never make mistakes?

80. Okay, I screwed up

81. Sorry

82. Even sorrier. RPC?

83. Your story touches my heart

84. No nagging before 0800

85. Manoeuvring without achieving station is the worst form of naval masochism

86. My CO and XO can outdrink your CO and XO

87. When someone is as good as me it's hard to be modest

88. If you provide the water, I'll provide:

- a) Soap
- b) Towels
- c) Fifty dirty bodies
- d) Whiskey
- e) All of the above

89. G.O.Y.A.

90. B.U.F.F.S.

91. P.P.P.P.P.P.

92. R.P.C. for

- a) Noon cocktails
- b) Informal operational discussion
- c) Post-exercise punch up
- d) Light meal and refreshments
- e) Nanaimo bars and tequila

93. M.R.U. because

- a) I am otherwise operationally committed
- b) I am otherwise socially committed
- c) Your last such event was disastrous
- d) I am unable to maintain your pace
- e) I don't want to come

94. W.M.P.

- a) You offer so few invitations I can't afford to pass up this one
- b) Let's do it again

- c) For a short time
 - d) For as long as you'll have me
 - e) With bells on
95. Your social event was
- a) First class. Thank you
 - b) Disastrous, as expected
 - c) One which should never be repeated
 - d) Most detrimental to health
96. Unbelievable. Will advise Mr. Ripley
97. Cool it, the Old Man just walked in
98. Two beers. My N.A.T.O. friend will pay
99. You should go places. Start immediately
100. Once upon a time there was a subbie so dumb that all the other SLts noticed
101. Come, let us reason together before I lose mine
102. I'm not sure, but I think it's the Atlantic
103. Stay where you're to and I'll come where you're at
104. Well done team, that was good
105. CO to report to me when alongside with stooping gait, bowed head, and bar chit book
(negative swords and medals)
106. There's something important you've forgotten. Cast an eye about and see if you can
sort it out before someone important notices
107. If you will please be so good as to excuse me, I'm going to see if I can't find a bottle of
whiskey and the keys to the small arms locker
108. (blank)
109. I suppose the worsening weather will mean you'll have to stop the war

110. The adverse weather is affecting us greatly. We've had to postpone the wardroom billiards tourney
111. ASW is a science of vague assumptions based on debatable figures, taken from inconclusive experiments and performed with instruments of problematic accuracy, by persons of doubtful reliability and questionable mentality
112. We can outmanoeuvre these pagan godless aircrew types at will
113. Remember, an aircraft is nothing more than a tiny object surrounded by a surface to air missile's favourite environment
114. Any ship can be a minesweeper, once
115. So many targets, so little time
116. Firefighters shouldn't complain about the heat. Submarines shouldn't complain about the explosions
117. Which one is the non-smoking lifeboat?
118. Don't you hate it when that happens?
119. I say, isn't this fun?
120. Bollocks
121. You shouldn't have joined if you can't take a joke
122. It's all pensionable time
123. I laughed, I cried, two thumbs up
124. The staff are active again. CTG must be up and about
125. Take first the log from thine own eye
126. I must have a chat with you about your sense of humour
127. Relax chaps, the A Team has arrived
128. Sorry – designated individual is now flak jacket trials officer
129. Am increasing to ramming speed
130. This is how 1812 started

131. Your parents have a lot to answer for

132. Leave two bottles of scotch in my cabin and call me the day after tomorrow

133. It seemed like a good idea at the time

134. Anyone seen my

a) Helicopter?

b) Consort?

c) Seaboat?

d) XO?

e) Trousers?

f) Ship?

g) Barracuda?

135. No doubt your mother thinks you're God's gift to

a) MCM

b) AAW

c) ASuW

d) ASW

e) The opposite sex

136. If you persist at this speed I shall have to start my second washing machine

137. Perhaps there is another way in?

138. Your ship looks good this morning

139. Your ship looks good this morning. Pity about (desig)

140. Concur

141. Really?

142. All of you get fell in behind, and follow me
143. You're so smooth, if you fell over you'd slide uphill
144. Of ye of little faith
145. That was a good manoeuvre. I would not say it was a great manoeuvre, but it was a
good manoeuvre
146. There is no biz like show biz
147. The show must go on
148. Can't wait to see how this reads on my PER
149. Whaddya'at?
150. Dis is it, buddy
151. Excellence is not a goal, it is the standard
152. (blank)
153. Good times
154. Duty is the great something something of the sea officer
155. Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!
156. C'est qui, ton papa?
157. There is no justice
158. And I want a pony