

With 18 flags over 78,000 distinct signals can be made, and the name and number of over 50,000 vessels be given.

The flags represent only the consonants of the alphabet, and it is by a combination of two, three or four of these flags in a hoist, that arbitrary signs are made which represent words and sentences of the same signification in all languages. No Distinguishing or Divisional Flag or Pennant is used to give the same series of signals or combination of signs a different meaning. Each signal has throughout the code but one signification.

The code is composed of

- 1 Burgee,
- 4 Pennants and
- 13 Square Flags,

and, in addition, one "Code Signal" or "Answering Flag," a Red and White barred Pennant.

SHOW THE CODE, READ IT OUT.

The nature of the signal is indicated by the number of flags hoisted, whether two, three or four together, thus :

Signals of *two flags* with

The *Burgee* uppermost are *Attention Signals*.

A *Pennant* " " *Compass* "

A *Square Flag* " " *Urgent, Danger or Distressed*
Signals.

Signals of *three flags*

Relate to subjects of inquiry or communication, including *Latitude, Longitude* and *Time Signals*.

Signals of *four flags* with

The *Burgee* uppermost are *Geographical Signals*.

The *Pennant C, D or F* uppermost, are *Spelling* and
Vocabulary Signals.

The *Pennant G* uppermost are names of *Men-of-War*.

A *Square Flag* uppermost are names of *Merchant Ships*.

The flags to be hoisted *at one time, never exceed four*.