

ANGELS

By Rod

This sketch was written for a 'Battle of Britain' service. It attempts to relate the remarkable achievement of 'The Few' in saving Britain to the work of the few apostles in spreading the good news of Jesus after his ascension

Possible teaching points that could be drawn out to further the analogy:

- There were only 12 apostles (a few)*
- They were not an especially talented bunch (the pilots were not supermen!)*
- Some of the 12 were young. E.g. John (some of the pilots were very young)*
- The 12 received little training (some of the pilots received little more than basic training before being thrown into action)*
- The 12 were not particularly brave (the pilots no doubt were as frightened at times as anyone would be in such a situation)*
- Jesus had no alternative plan (Britain had no other plan. The RAF had to win to save Britain)*
- Jesus sent His Spirit to equip and help his apostles (a determined 'British Bulldog spirit' inspired the pilots to perform heroic deeds)*

CAST

Air Chief Angel The commanding angel.

Rogers A fledgling angel about to get his wings.

The scene is the office of the Air Chief Angel. He is seated at his desk. Enter Rogers.

Rogers Sir. *[Salutes]* I was told you wanted to see me.

ACA Ah yes, come in Rogers.

Rogers Thank you ,sir.

ACA Well, Rogers, it's my happy duty to tell you that you have been awarded your wings.

Rogers Oh, jolly good sir. Thank you very much.

ACA *[Looking at a file]* Yes, it seems you passed all the required tests with flying colours.

Rogers *[Laughing at ACA's unintended pun]* Oh, "flying colours" – very good, sir.

ACA *[Not seeing joke]* What?

Rogers Flying colours – wings. Very drole, sir.

ACA Quite. So now you have reached the rank of Flying Angel. Well done.

Rogers Thank you, sir. When will my first mission be?

ACA I am glad to see you are keen, but I can't tell you that at present. But, in the mean time stand by.

Rogers Right oh, sir.

ACA That'll be all for now, Rogers, unless, of course, you have any further questions.

Rogers There was one thing I wanted to ask you about, sir.

ACA Oh yes, what was that, Rogers?

Rogers This morning - with some of the other lads - I was fortunate enough to meet our Commander-in Chief, Jesus.

ACA Fortunate indeed; He's an inspiration to us all.

Rogers Yes, sir, He was telling us about his latest op; it sounds pretty sticky. He was almost a goner on one occasion.

ACA The truth is, He really was a goner for a time; but He was able to conquer even death, and complete His mission in triumph.

Rogers That is remarkable, sir. He is indeed an inspiration to us all; nothing seems to deter Him.

ACA Well, you know our motto: Per ardua ad astra – Through adversity, to the stars. Jesus came through adversity to complete the most successful mission in history.

Rogers But that's just it, sir.

ACA What is?

Rogers Permission to speak frankly, sir.

ACA Permission granted.

Rogers He said He's completed His part of the mission – but there was still plenty of work to do.

ACA Yes there is, and He's left a team behind to carry on that work.

Rogers Yes, He said He'd left just twelve men.

ACA That's right .. there's Peter and his brother Andrew, James and John,...

Rogers *[Interrupting]* But there all fishermen – and John is just a boy. What use will they be?

ACA There's also Matthew. I think he's a tax-collector.

Rogers Huh.

ACA And Thomas ..

Rogers *[Dismissively]* I doubt if he'll achieve much. *[More boldly]* Look, sir, forgive me for speaking my mind, but they are just ordinary men, with no special skills or talents. I mean, what training have they had?

ACA They followed Jesus around for three years.

Rogers Yes, they followed Him and watched Him. But that's not the same as going solo. They are not battle-hardened. By all accounts, when the heat was on they fled in panic. Peter even denied ever knowing Jesus.

ACA I'm sure Jesus knows what He's doing. He has every confidence that they will succeed.

Rogers But what if they don't? All his sacrificial work will be wasted. No one will hear of His great victory. His kingdom will be at an end. He has to have an alternative in case the twelve fail. What is His Plan B?

ACA Jesus has no other plans.

Rogers What! But that's madness, sir! There are so few of them. How can they hope to win against such odds?

ACA *[Rising and moving to the front. Dambusters music begins gently]* There may be only a few of them, and they may just be an ordinary group of individuals, but they will have the Spirit of Jesus inspiring them to victory. With Him on their side – Per Ardua Ad Astra.

Rogers *[Marching to front and saluting]* Per ardua ad astra. *[Music rises to a crescendo]*

THE END