

## PAY COMPARISONS

## ANNEX D

1. Government correspondence invariably stresses that merchant seamen were paid much more than the services. One typical government comparison went like this:

"The basic pay of a seaman is \$89.94 per month plus a war risk bonus while at sea of \$44.50, a total of \$134.43. In the case of a private soldier who is single, his monthly pay is \$45.00 with a possibility of trades pay of another \$15, making a total of \$60. In addition to this, his clothing and medical care might be estimated at \$15 per month. The comparison, therefore, between a single merchant seaman and a single private soldier shows the serviceman at a considerable disadvantage."

2. *The comparison takes a single serviceman whose pay rates were maintained throughout the war. Who didn't have overseas service (no \$15 per month and no exposure to enemy action) or a wife and two children (\$37.50 per month for an Ordinary Rank) and equates him to an Able Bodied seaman who spent up to four years at sea as an Ordinary seaman at a pay scale \$20 per month lower, much of it exposed to enemy action. Many Able Bodied seamen had dependants; many had a 2nd mates ticket; all received no bonus while not on Articles, and no income while not on Articles unless permanently employed by a shipping company until the Manning Pools started in late 1941; all were liable for income tax, including tax on their Manning Pool meal allowance. All paid for their own clothing. All paid health care for themselves and their families or did without. Their families were left with nothing if they were killed other than by enemy action. In addition a Merchant Navy rate is given for 1944 when rates were at their highest as may be seen in Table 1, page 21. The 1944 gross pay for ratings was 1.43 to 2.43 times as great as the 1940-41 pay. Manning Pool pay ranged from 0.6 to 0.73 times seagoing pay for most. Note that a merchant seaman was not entitled to Workmen's Compensation and was allowed a maximum of 12 weeks sick leave only if he had joined a Manning Pool, the first of which was formed in late*