

Yes, it certainly does take some believing. Ever since I joined submarines in 1958 I have kept records of my life and career including all my pay statements and the like. I joined in October 1953 so I don't have records from that time to 1958 although the figures on this web page subject [the matrix] tell me how much I earned in that five year period. During this 25 year period, I was a WO for 8 years, a CPO for 4 years, a PO for 9 years and a Killick for 4 years, so taking the slowness of lower deck promotion of my time into account, I was no slouch.

Stripping out all entries like:

- KUA
- HTD claims
- TE claims
- Warrant Convert claims
- Boarding School Allowance claims
- Etc

and leaving in just:

- Basic pay
- Long Service Pay
- Instructors Pay
- Specialist Pay – in my case submarine pay

these are my **GROSS** earnings for the EXAMPLE YEARS 1966 to 1983: I was paid for 7th months of that year [1983] and my final pay day in the navy was the 28th July 1983 – I had to serve one day extra because many many years ago, I was awarded 1 days C.P. for a civilian offence – poaching! I shudder to think what my NET pay must have been after all stoppages. All sums expressed in decimal currency and not LSD.

1966	£1088.88 [£20.94 per week] – I had been married since 1962 and had 2 children.
1967	£1113.25 [£21.41 per week]
1968	£1183.50 [£22,76 per week]
1969	£1038.00 [£19.96 per week – left boats for general service]. Bought our first house {first of five} for £4850.00. Took LSAOP loan for £682 to be repaid at £24-3-1 per ledger period + a premium of £1-8-5. Mortgage was for £4253.00 @ 7½% - monthly payment £29-8-0. Had our third and last child.
1970	£1825.80 [£35.11 per week – big pay rise]
1971	£2531.14 [£48.68 per week]
1972	£2948.47 [£56.70 per week]
1973	£3155.91 [£60.69 per week]
1974	£3619.14 [£69.60 per week]
1975	£4405.26 [£84.72 per week]
1976	£5108.00 [£98.23 per week]
1977	£5142.78 [£98.90 per week]
1978	£6893.38 [£132.56 per week]
1979	£7588.72 [£145.93 per week]
1980	£8966.49 [£172.43 per week]
1981	£10107.12 [£194.37 per week]
1982	£11362.33 [£218.50 per week]
1983	£7014.96 [£1002.13 per month January to July]

Not for your eyes [of course] but when I look at my income now, in retirement, and I think of my fathers £8.20 a month pension and all those figures above, I wonder what my grandchildren will think of all this?

P.S. I wrote this page in 2005 and added the following on the 1st January 2018. I am not going to publish my HMRC "What your taxes of £..... paid for " [which shows a list of all that the Government spends on various things, top of which is WELFARE] - which we all get so you know what I mean - but as a comparison with 50 years ago [1968], I will compare what I got then with what I got in the tax year 2016/7.

In 1968 it was £ 1183.50 [see above] £22.76 per week.

In 2016 my income net of all income tax [for navy pension, company pension, retirement pension with SERPS] was £1183.50 x 3888% or put another way, if you added up all my annual Gross earnings between 1966 and 1979 = 13 years, and remember GROSS earning so my take home pay was very much lower than that, it totals less than my Net of income taxes for the year of 2016. How times have changed?