

The distribution of £163,000 in prize money to the officers and crew of the British navy from 2 captured Spanish frigates in 1799 followed strict Navy rules. The captain received 8 times more than the next ranking officers, 16 times more than the next ranking officers, 52 times more than each midshipman, and 224 times more than the rest of the crew.

The proportions reflected the strong class hierarchy of British society.

This satirical cartoon from 1805 illustrates the point: shortly before a battle, the sailor is praying that the distribution of enemy shot will be in the same proportions as the distribution of prize money to the officers.

Source: Brian Lavery, *Nelson's Navy: The Ships, Men, and Organisation, 1793-1815* (London: Conway Maritime Press, 2012)

