

[CHAPTER 555]

AN ACT

December 5, 1945
[S. 1364]
[Public Law 246]

To provide for the compromise and settlement by the Secretary of the Navy of certain claims for damage to property under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department, to provide for the execution of releases by the Secretary of the Navy upon payment of such claims, and for other purposes.

Navy.
Damage claims.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, or settle claims for damage cognizable in admiralty in a district court of the United States and all claims for damage caused by a vessel or floating object, to property of the United States under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department or property for which the Navy Department may have assumed, by contract or otherwise, any obligation to respond for damage thereto. The Secretary of the Navy is further authorized to receive in payment of any such claim the amount due the United States pursuant to determination, compromise, or settlement as herein authorized and, upon acceptance of such payment but not until then, such determination, settlement, or compromise of such claim shall be final and conclusive for all purposes, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. All such payments shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts. The Secretary of the Navy is further authorized to execute on behalf of the United States and to deliver in exchange for such payment a full release of such claim: *Provided*, That this section, as respects the determination, compromise, settlement, and payment of claims, shall be supplementary to, and not in lieu of, all other provisions of law authorizing the determination, compromise, or settlement of claims for damage to property hereinabove described: *Provided further*, That no settlement or compromise where there is involved a payment in the net amount of over \$1,000,000 shall be authorized by this Act.

Amount due U. S.

Release of claim.

Provisions deemed
supplementary to ex-
isting law.

Maximum pay-
ment.

Reports.

Wartime omission
of facts.

Pending suits.

SEC. 2. Within twenty days after receipt of a payment in a net amount exceeding \$3,000 due the United States pursuant to determination, compromise, or settlement of any claim under section 1 of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall file reports with the Committees on Naval Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives, setting forth the nature of the claim; the vessel or vessels involved; the amount received; the basis of determination, compromise, or settlement; and other pertinent facts: *Provided*, That during any war the reports required under this section may omit any fact or facts, disclosure of which, in the opinion of the Secretary, would be prejudicial to the national security.

SEC. 3. This Act shall not apply to any claim for which a suit filed by or against the United States is pending.

Approved December 5, 1945.

[CHAPTER 556]

AN ACT

December 5, 1945
[H. R. 1192]
[Public Law 247]

Granting travel pay and other allowances to certain soldiers of the War with Spain and the Philippine Insurrection who were discharged in the Philippine Islands.

War with Spain and
Philippine Insurrec-
tion.
Payments to certain
soldiers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who either enlisted in the Regular Army in the year 1898 under special Act of Congress for the duration of the War with Spain or enlisted or reenlisted in the Regular Army during such war for the regular enlistment period but secured his discharge under General Orders, Num-