

DVA Studies and Department of Transport Views Annex B

The Merchant Navy prisoners, the longest term group, have not been included in any medical study or even kept track of in any official way. The main Merchant Navy group endured 1,460-1,764 days (48-58 months), but their plight and that of a few servicemen who were incarcerated for longer periods is ignored. Another difference was age. An available sample of 126 MN POW birthdates (of 198) from National Archives RG12, Volume 1074, file 11-12-20, reveals an average age that would be 79 in 1989, and a median age that would be 86. The average for the service is 69. The average male life expectancy is 74 years.

The National P.O.W. Association (E.T.) proposed the following rates:

1 day to 6 months	10%
6 mos to 12 mos.	15%
12 mos to 18 mos.	20%
18 mos to 24 mos.	25%
24 mos to 30 mos.	30%
30 mos to 36 mos.	35%
36 mos to 42 mos.	40%
42 mos to 48 mos.	45%
48 mos to 54 mos.	50%
More than 54 mos.	55%

That proposal would have provided equitable rates to merchant seamen and others who were long term prisoners.

"Mortality Data (page 10)

2. Based on known deaths, former prisoners of war showed a significantly higher death rate at an earlier age than control veterans who had not experienced incarceration." *This must apply to MN POWs too, but if they didn't get a pension this factor wasn't recognized.*