

HISTORY

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The Generals of three eras: a historical-demographic study

In this article I would like to accomplish the following: (a) to compare the life span of generals and admirals in four European countries and three periods: the Napoleonic wars (1795-1815), World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945); (b) to examine the maximum life span of military commanders by country and by period; (c) to identify the number of young commanding officers (under 40) by country and by period. Technological progress of the war and the creation of ever more lethal weapons did not have a decisive impact on the life span of generals and admirals. High mortality in the war could not stop the social and medical progress. Life span of military commanders increased from generation to generation. Generals and admirals who survived military events could live to a great age. Some lived more than 100 years.

Key words: life span, mortality rate, the generals, the admirals, the Napoleonic wars (1795-1815), the World War I (1914-1918) and the World War II (1939-1945).

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