



Amigos de la Gente de Edad

British War Disability Pension

A British War Disability Pension is one benefit that is payable to eligible persons outside the UK.

Eligibility is restricted to those who served in HM Forces, including Nursing Services, or the Ulster Defence Regiment (now known as the Royal Irish Regiment) during the 1914-1918 War or up to 1921, at any time since 2 September, 1939 or have served in the Polish Forces under British Command during the 1939-45 War or in the Polish Resettlement Forces. In addition those who served with the Merchant Navy or Coastguard Service during this period are also eligible. Civilians or ex-Civil Defence workers can also claim and the widow of a war pensioner may also be eligible for a War Widow's Pension.

Similarly those who have served with HM Forces since these periods are also eligible.

The following are given by way of examples of those who may be eligible for a War Pension:

1. Fusilier, shrapnel wound in leg, Normandy 1944.
2. Sergeant, invalided 1945 with nervous debility.
3. National Serviceman, fractured leg on exercise 1954.
4. WREN, invalided six years ago, multiple sclerosis.
5. LAC, damaged spine playing rugby for RAF 1966.
6. Guardsman, off-duty, injured by IRA bomb.
7. Officer, injured in motor accident driving to duty.
8. Civilian, damaged sight during Liverpool Blitz 1941.
9. Merchant Seaman, chronic bronchitis, torpedoed 1943.
10. Naval Rating, injured knees, Devonport GunCarriage Team 1984
11. Ex-POW 1946, now suffering acute depression, anxiety state.

NOTE: Claims relating to deafness should now be made at time of injury.

Do you believe your service caused you to suffer a wound, injury, disease or other condition or has made worse a disablement you had before or during service?

War Disability Pensions are available to ex-Service people whose ill health or disability resulted from service during peace or war, or was aggravated by that service.

There are many thousands of people who are both eligible and entitled to receive War Pensions but who have not claimed for a variety of reasons. It is essential that people are aware of their potential entitlement and, if necessary, are helped to submit claims.

The Veterans Agency which, through its War Pensions Welfare Officers, has as its main function, the welfare of existing pensioners. Whilst the War Pensions Welfare Officers will assist potential pensioners and help them with their applications, it is not their primary role nor is it their task to seek out potential pensioners.

The Veterans Agency confirms that the War Pensions Welfare Service and the War Pensions Committees will both assist with action to seek out and identify potential applicants when this can be done without detriment to their primary task.

Further information may be obtained by phoning the Veterans Agency Helpline for persons living overseas on +44 1253 866043. Alternatively forms and further details can be obtained from Age Concern España, which works closely with many military charities including Officers' Association, RAF Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion and SSAFA / FHS, by telephoning Age Concern's **Infoline on 971 71 87 94** or writing to the Age Concern address given below.

Source: SSAFA / FHS

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Age Concern España exists to promote the well being of people aged 50 and over and to make their life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. This is one of a number of Infosheets on a range of subjects produced by Age Concern España. A full list is available from Age Concern España, Apartado 7, 07180 Santa Ponsa, Mallorca on receipt of an addressed envelope or by visiting our website at www.acespana.org For further information ring INFOLINE on (+34) 971 71 87 94 or send an email to info@ageconcern-espana.org