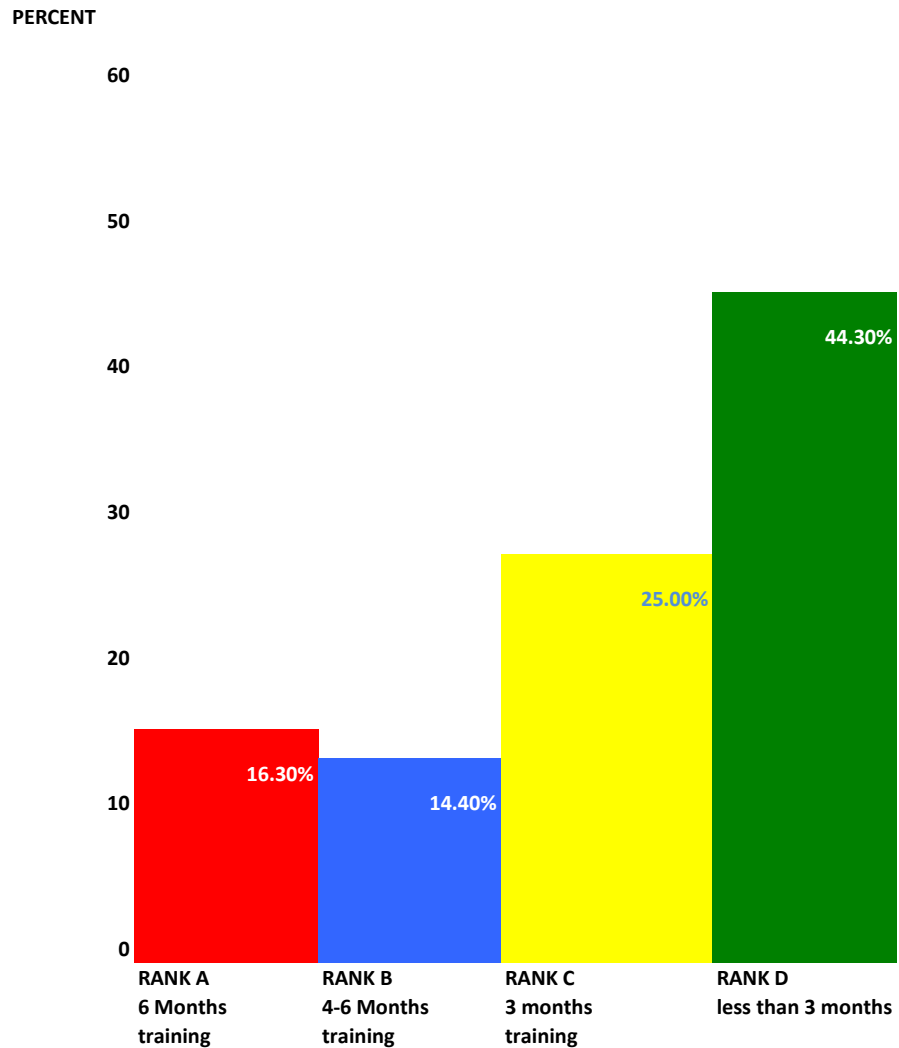


Inexperience of Japanese Fighter Pilots: 1943

Chart: E.1



By the end of 1943 some 3,900 Japanese pilots had died in battle out of the 7,000 that had started the Pacific War. The training programs could never keep up with pilot losses and as battle units contained more and more Rank D pilots they became little more than fodder for the by-now much better equipped and trained US fighter pilots.

Francis Pike, Hirohito's War, The Pacific War 1941 - 1945 [Bloomsbury 2015]