

Lessons of War:
Defining Human Boundaries

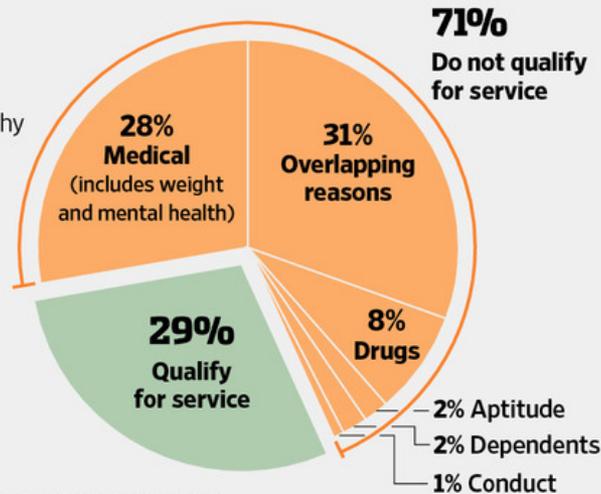
George Thompson

The University of Kansas Medical Center



Turned Away

Pentagon estimates for why 17- to 24-year-olds wouldn't qualify for the military, excluding cosmetic reasons.



Note: Figures don't add up to 100 due to rounding
Source: Department of Defense, QMA Study 2013

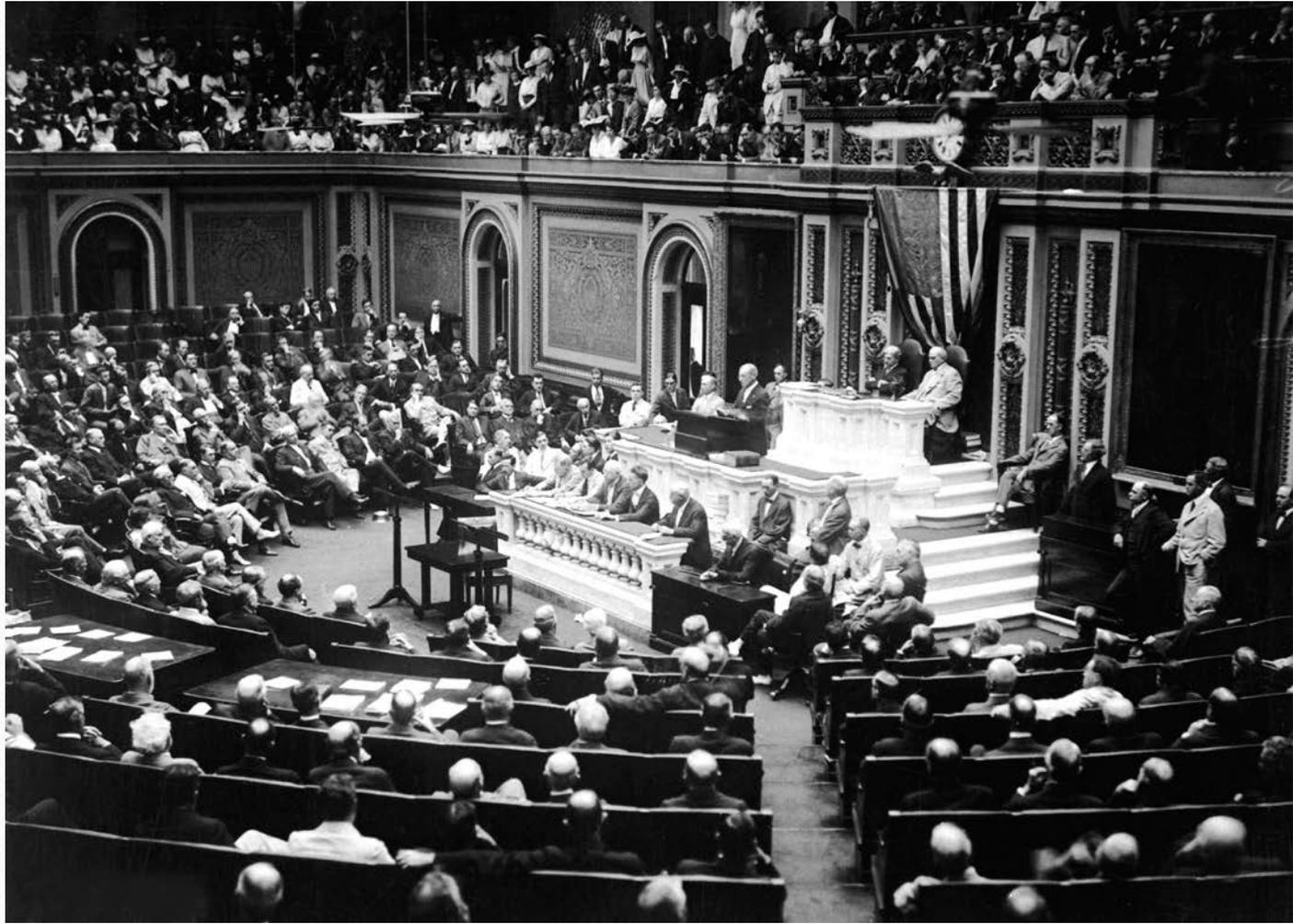
U.S. Army's enlistment requirements*

- Between 17 (with parental consent) and 34 years of age
- Scored a minimum of 33 out of 99 on Armed Forces Qualification Test, which assesses English, math, science and cognitive skills
- No felony convictions
- No persistent illegal drug use
- No insulin-dependent diabetics
- Meet height/weight standards for age group
- U.S. citizen or foreign national with legal status
- No tattoos on fingers, neck or face
- No ear gauges
- No ADHD medication in past 12 months
- High school diploma or GED with some college credits

*Doesn't include all requirements, and some can be waived at the Army's discretion.

The Wall Street Journal

This paper examines how the U.S. Army in World War I defined, utilized and analyzed the physical and psychological boundaries it imposed on its personnel.







The first boundary was to conscript over a million men.

Three phases of the Selective Service process:

- Registering men who met the age requirement
- Classifying those men based on a specific criteria
- Mobilizing the selected men by ordering them to a camp

The second boundary was to sort the fit from the unfit and who would be exempted.







**STANDARDS OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
GOVERNING THE ENTRANCE TO ALL
BRANCHES OF THE ARMIES OF
THE UNITED STATES**

FOR THE USE OF

**MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE REGULAR ARMY, NATIONAL ARMY,
NATIONAL GUARD, MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, RECRUITING-
OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND OF LOCAL
BOARDS AND MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARDS UNDER
THE SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS**

**PRESCRIBED BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN HIM
BY THE TERMS OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE LAW (ACT
OF CONGRESS APPROVED MAY 18, 1917)**

**ISSUED THROUGH THE
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
FORM 75**



**WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1918**



At this point one sees that in order to expand the Army the government set goals for:

- Quantity
- Age
- Gender
- Physical and mental standards
- Exempted categories

These benchmarks were respected and well-received, and resulted in the nation being able to field a large and effective force by the end of 1918.

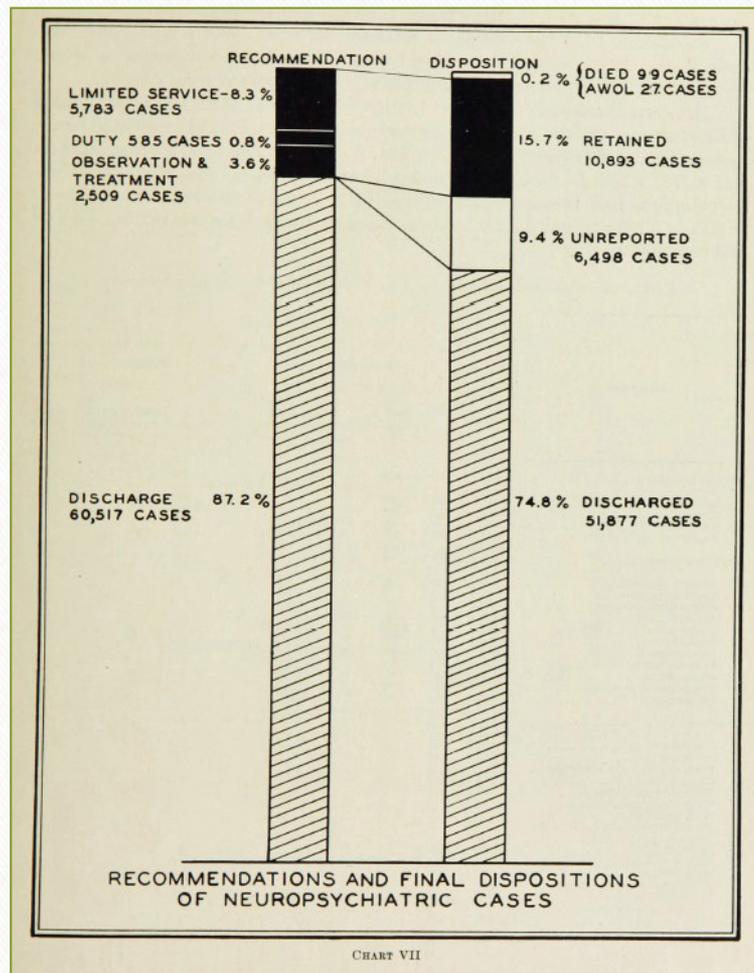




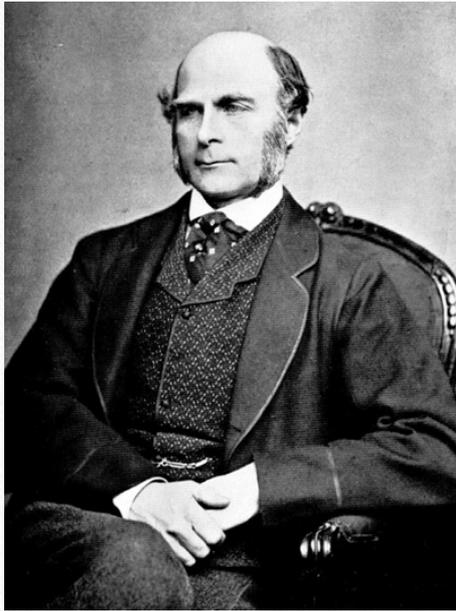
Secretary of War Newton Baker

There were two groups of experts used to accomplish this goal:

- The medical community, which performed the physical and mental screening of recruits.
- The psychological community, which screened for intelligence or to match men to jobs according to their skills.



Volume X Neuropsychiatry In The American Expeditionary Forces



Francis Galton



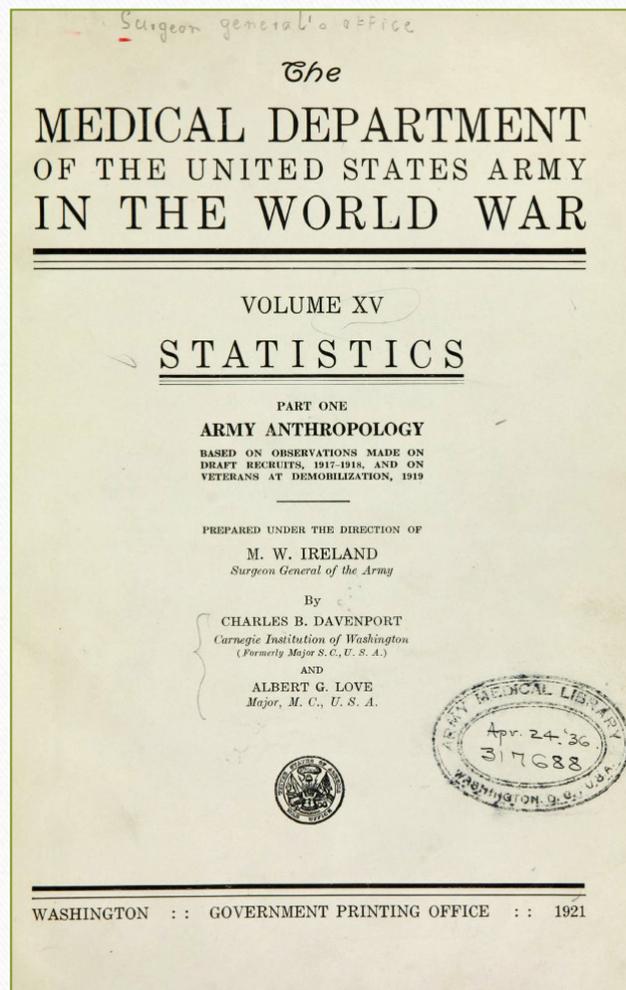
Walter Weldon



Karl Pearson



Charles Davenport





DISTRIBUTION, HEIGHT, WEIGHT & CHEST MEAS. STATES OF NATIVITY

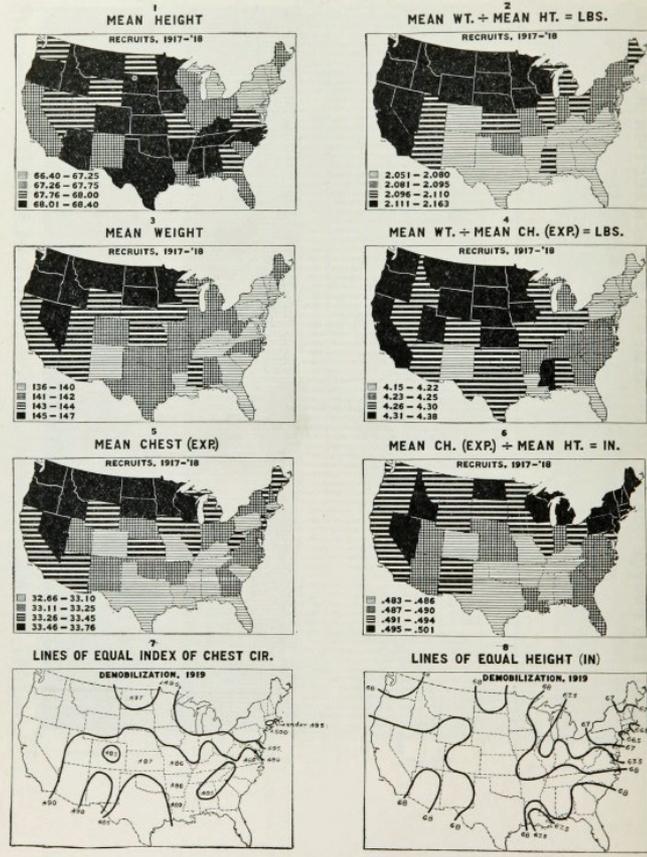


PLATE XX.

PIGNET'S INDEX MEN OF VARIOUS HEIGHTS (P_1) PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EACH HEIGHT

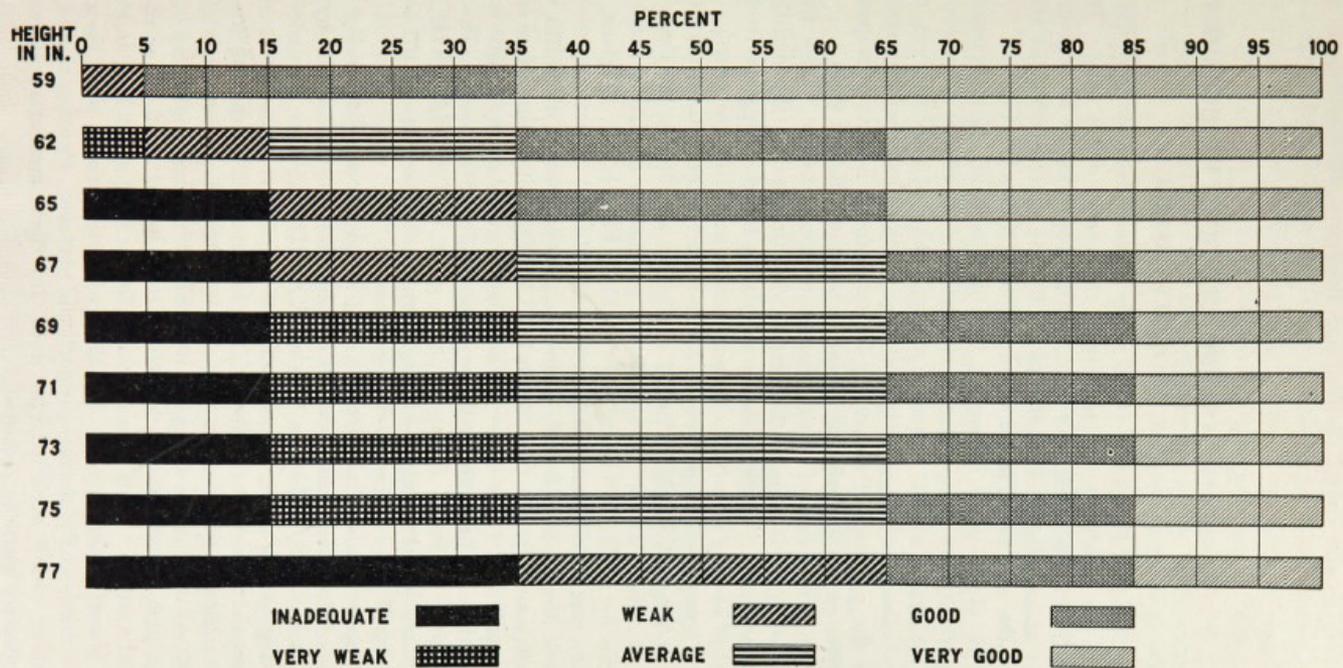
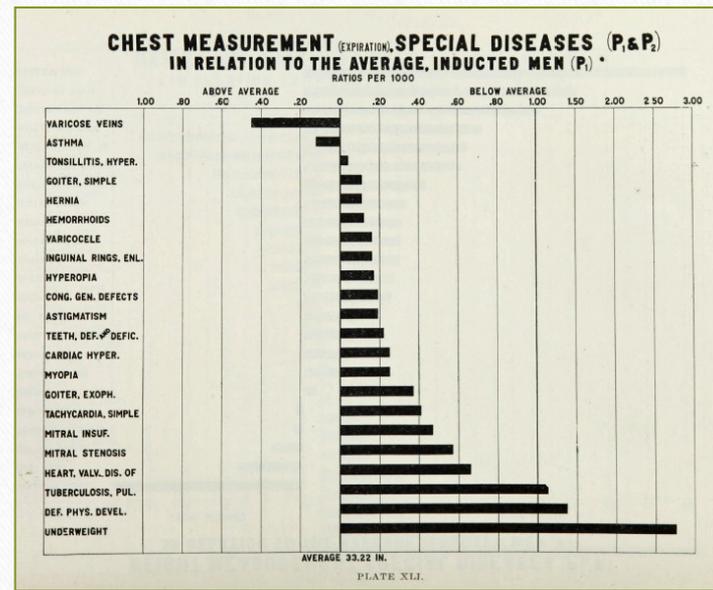
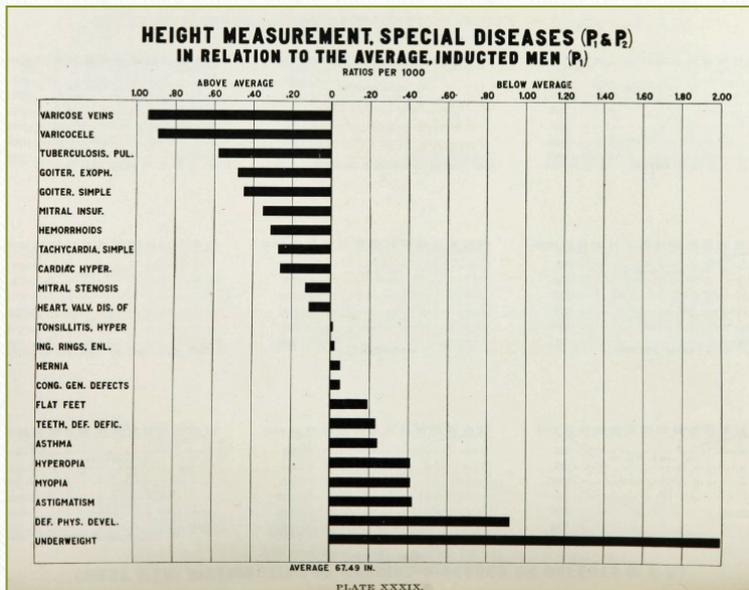


PLATE XXI.

Volume XV Statistics, Part One, Army Anthropology



Volume XV Statistics, Part One, Army Anthropology



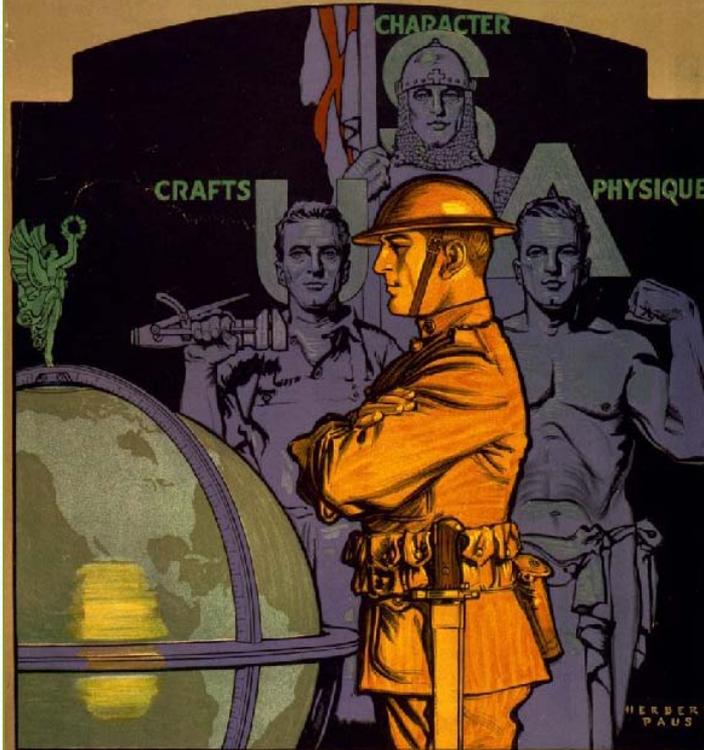
Robert Yerkes



Walter Scott

www.WW1propaganda.com

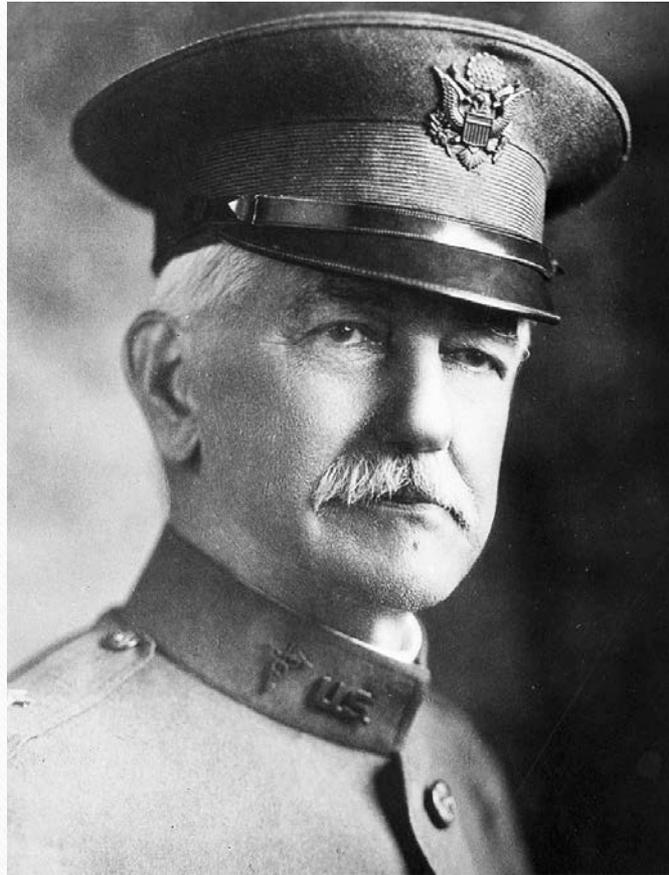
The United States Army *builds* MEN



APPLY NEAREST RECRUITING OFFICE



Authors of the Army's Intelligence Tests, Summer 1917



Surgeon General William Gorgas



TEST 3

This is a test of common sense. Below are sixteen questions. Three answers are given to each question. You are to look at the answers carefully; then make a cross in the square before the best answer to each question, as in the sample:

SAMPLE } Why do we use stoves? Because
 they look well
 they keep us warm
 they are black

Here the second answer is the best one and is marked with a cross. Begin with No. 1 and keep on until time is called.

- 1 It is wiser to put some money aside and not spend it all, so that you may
 - prepare for old age or sickness
 - collect all the different kinds of money
 - gamble when you wish
- 2 Shoes are made of leather, because
 - it is tanned
 - it is tough, pliable and warm
 - it can be blackened
- 3 Why do soldiers wear wrist watches rather than pocket watches? Because
 - they keep better time
 - they are harder to break
 - they are handier
- 4 The main reason why stone is used for building purposes is because
 - it makes a good appearance
 - it is strong and lasting
 - it is heavy
- 5 Why is beef better food than cabbage? Because
 - it tastes better
 - it is more nourishing
 - it is harder to obtain
- 6 If some one does you a favor, what should you do?
 - try to forget it
 - steal for him if he asks you to
 - return the favor
- 7 If you do not get a letter from home, which you know was written, it may be because
 - it was lost in the mails
 - you forgot to tell your people to write
 - the postal service has been discontinued
- 8 The main thing the farmers do is to
 - supply luxuries
 - make work for the unemployed
 - feed the nation

Go to No. 9 above
- 9 If a man who can't swim should fall into a river, he should
 - yell for help and try to scramble out
 - dive to the bottom and crawl out
 - lie on his back and float
- 10 Glass insulators are used to fasten telegraph wires because
 - the glass keeps the pole from being burned
 - the glass keeps the current from escaping
 - the glass is cheap and attractive
- 11 If your load of coal gets stuck in the mud, what should you do?
 - leave it there
 - get more horses or men to pull it out
 - throw off the load
- 12 Why are criminals locked up?
 - to protect society
 - to get even with them
 - to make them work
- 13 Why should a married man have his life insured? Because
 - death may come at any time
 - insurance companies are usually honest
 - his family will not then suffer if he dies
- 14 In Leap Year February has 29 days because
 - February is a short month
 - some people are born on February 29th
 - otherwise the calendar would not come out right
- 15 If you are held up and robbed in a strange city, you should
 - apply to the police for help
 - ask the first man you meet for money to get home
 - borrow some money at a bank
- 16 Why should we have Congressmen? Because
 - the people must be ruled
 - it insures truly representative government
 - the people are too many to meet and make their laws

Alpha Test for Literates

Test 6

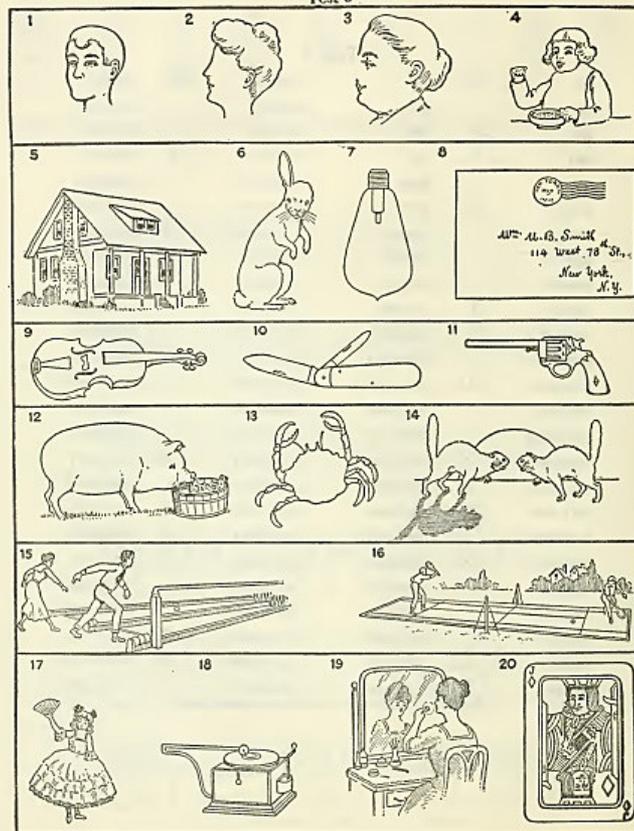


Fig. 53.—Group Examination Beta, Form 0, Test 6, Picture Competition.

Beta Test for Illiterates

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Volume XV.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINING IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

PART I.—History and Organization of Psychological Examining and the
Materials of Examination.

PART II.—Methods of Examining: History, and Development, Prelim-
inary Results.

PART III.—Measurements of Intelligence in the United States Army.

EDITED BY

ROBERT M. YERKES.

“How intelligent is the Army?”



Lessons of War: Defining Human Boundaries

The necessity to create a large American Army in 1917 illustrates how a nation defined, utilized and analyzed the physical and psychological boundaries it would impose on its citizens.

The limits for age and gender or the criteria for physical and mental health to include who might be exempted were conceptual boundaries that had to be defined.



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