

**THE AMERICAN SOLDIER SERIES
(NEUROTIC SCREENING TEST, S-74)**

3-330-81-001

DOCUMENTATION

**Record Group 330
Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense**

November 3, 1988
3-330-80-01
H. Ziemer

ABSTRACT

War Department, United States Army (USA)
Army Research Branch, Information and
Education Division. The American Soldier
Series: "Neurotic Screening Test" (S-74;
August 1943). [machine-readable data file]/
Collected by the Army Research Branch: the
Roper Center [producer] 1977; the National
Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
[distributor]

PROVENANCE: One in a series of empirical studies converted to tape from punch cards by the Roper Center in 1977. The data and documentation are copies, created from data collected by the Army Research Branch between 1942-1955. Due to factors such as age and military reorganizations, the records are no longer complete.

TYPE OF FILE: Microdata with numeric codes. Units of observation are enlisted men in the US Army.

UNIVERSE DESCRIPTION: All enlisted men in the US Army.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE: Domestic US Army camps.

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION: A study to test the possibility of screening neurotics on the basis of a score derived from a multiple choice questionnaire, specifically to be used at Induction Stations. In addition to background information, the study sought to obtain attitude responses to a wide variety of issues including, pre-Army life experiences and fears, adjustment to Army life, medical attention, combat, promotion, training, draft, officers and noncoms, mobility, discipline, equipment, the Army and war in general terms and personal views of. Scores were developed for personal adjustment and psychosomatic complaints.

The study included the following samples: two groups of normals (one group of new recruits, one group that had been in training for 10 weeks), two groups of neuropsychiatrics, and two groups of AWOLS. Only the normal and neuropsychiatric groups were used in developing the screening device.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:

FILE STRUCTURE: non-hierarchical, fixed length
FILE SIZE: 737 cases total (see agency abstract for original number of cases)

SORT SEQUENCE: arranged by card number, thereunder by survey number, thereunder by ballot number (last is a Roper Center designation).

RELATED REFERENCE MATERIALS: See NARA general documentation for the American Soldier Series.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS: See list of related publications and agency documentation described in the NARA general documentation folder for the American Soldier Series.

RELATED MACHINE-READABLE MATERIALS: See the list of "Army Research Surveys (1942-1945) Available in Machine-readable Format at the National Archives" in the NARA general documentation folder for the American Soldier Series.

See specifically, PS-82, PS-108, PS-117, PS-99

DESCRIPTORS: WORLD WAR II, US ARMY (MORALE, TRAINING, ORIENTATION, ADJUSTMENT, IDENTIFICATION WITH, ENLISTED MEN, OFFICERS, MINORITIES), COMBAT, ESPRIT.

FILE AVAILABILITY: This file is currently available from:

The Center for Electronic Records
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408
(202) 523-3267

Neurotic Screening Test (a Pretest)

S - 74

1. PURPOSE

To test the possibility of screening neurotics on the basis of a score derived from a check answer type of questionnaire capable of being administered to large groups: specifically, a screening test to be used at Induction Stations. Requested by the Surgeon General's Office.

2. PLAN

- (a) One questionnaire containing 63 questions
- (b) Ten items from the M. Harrower-Erickson Test
- (c) The following areas are included in the questionnaire:

1. Background Questions:

Age (Q. 1)
 Education (Q. 2)
 Marital Status (Qs. 3 & 4)
 Rural-urban origin (Q. 5)

2. Attitudes towards:

Army (Qs. 9 & 11)
 Chance to Show what he can do (Q. 16)
 Childhood Behavior (Qs. 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 56).
 Childhood Fears (Q. 47)
 Combat, desire for (Q. 18)
 Company (Qs. 7 & 8)
 Draft (Q. 6)
 Equipment (Q. 61)
 Family Relationships (Qs. 48 & 52)
 Fighting (Q. 41)
 Health (Q. 25)
 Make Good in Army (Q. 12)
 Medical Attention (Q. 24)
 Mobility (Qs. 49, 50, 51)
 Officers and Noncoms (Q. 62)
 Personal Adjustment (Qs. 13, 14, 15)
 Promotion (Q. 17)
 Psychosomatic Complaints (Qs. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 57, 59)
 Rules & Regulations (Q. 20)
 Sociability (Qs. 45, 46, 53, 54, 55, 56)
 Soldier - war worker preference (Q. 19)
 Sports, Boyhood (Q. 23a)
 Training (Qs. 10 & 60)
 War, personal state in (Q. 21)

3. SAMPLE

The study included two groups of normals; one a group of new recruits who had been in training 10 days and the other a group of trainees who had been training 10 weeks; two groups of neuropsychiatric patients; and two groups of AWOLs.

The AWOL's were not used in developing the screening test but the questionnaire was administered to those two groups in order to gather further data for an AWOL study which was in the planning stage.

Only the normals and neuropsychiatric groups will be considered in this discussion.

The screening device was developed on the basis of an analysis of two groups:

100 normals . . . Group I: Half of a group of trainees with 10 weeks of training.

88 neuropsychiatric patients from Hospital A

As a check on the reliability of the results the following additional groups were used:

100 normals . . . Group II: The other half of the group of trainees with 10 weeks of training.

200 normals . . . Recruits with 10 days of training (from the same camp as Group I and II) who signed their schedules.

118 neuropsychiatric patients from Hospital B.

This group was further sub-divided into:

Class I (58 cases) -- a group in which there was some tittering and disturbance during administration of the schedule.

Class II (60 cases)

Following is a list of each of these groups with their identification codes and column numbers:

Camp	Code on Col. 1	Code on Cols. 2 - 4
Aberdeen - Recruits of 10 days training (signed questionnaire)	001	001-223
Aberdeen - Trainees of 10 weeks (anonymous questionnaire)	212	001-212
Belvoir - neuropsychiatric patients	003	001-089
Belvoir - AWOL Cases	004	001-113
Meade - AWOL cases	005	001-120
Meade - neuropsychiatric patients Group I (58 cases)*		
Meade - neuropsychiatric patients Group II (60 cases)*		

* These two groups were not coded and punched on IBM cards. Since the analysis was chiefly a scaling problem, the data was transferred to the scalogram board instead of to IBM cards. However, the questionnaires are available.

The neuropsychiatric patients from Ft. Belvoir included 15 negroes.

4. DATE OF ADMINISTRATION

August 31, 1943

5. MECHANICS OF ADMINISTRATION

The first ten items in the questionnaire are from the W. Harrower - Brickson Test. For the administration of these items it was necessary to project the ink blots on a screen. The respondents looked at the blot and checked the one or two items in the list of replies given in the questionnaire for each item which came closest to being a description of the blot.

The remaining questions were administered in the usual fashion. A trained enlisted man from the Research Branch led the classes.

In the case of ANOL's, another questionnaire designed especially for ANOL's (S-63F) was administered in addition to the Neurotic Screening Test.

On the whole, the men took the Neurotic Screening Test seriously. The exception to this was Class I, 58 neuropsychiatric patients from Fort Meade, who laughed and joked and talked among themselves throughout the administration.

6. NOTES ON THE QUESTIONNAIREThe Areas of Analysis1. Personal adjustment

Measured by a scale of five items:

- a. "On the whole, do you think the Army is giving you a chance to show what you can do?"
- b. "Are you ever worried and upset?"
- c. "In general, what sort of a time do you have in the Army?"
- d. "In general, how would you say you feel most of the time, in good spirits or in low spirits?"
- e. "Do you think you can make good in the Army?"

The final scale has a maximum value of 9 (highest adjustment), being a trichotomous scale except for the last item.

2. Psychosomatic complaints

Eleven questions were used here. One was general: "Do you have any particular physical or health problem?" The other ten asked about the presence of specific symptoms: shortness of breath, hands sweating, upset stomach, nightmares, cold sweats, fainting spells, heart palpitations, hand tremors, nail biting, and sick headaches.

A score of 22 indicates the absence of all these complaints; one of zero, the presence of all of them.

3. Group-Rorschach Multiple Choice Test

The problem of developing a score for this and the following areas was somewhat different from the simpler solutions available in the first two cases where, in one case, a scale was found to exist, and, in the other, the criterion (complaining - not complaining) was clear-cut and predetermined.

Three steps were used in determining scores:

- a. Categories were defined as positive (2), neutral (1), or negative (0) on the basis of differences in marginals between normals and neurotics.
- b. On the basis of this preliminary scoring, a cutting point was established which approached, as closely as possible, the goal of scoring 90% of the neurotics and 25% of the normals below the cutting point.
- c. The joint occurrences of the various items in the score were examined in an attempt to increase further the discrimination obtained in (b).

If, by rescoreing a given category, it was possible to increase the proportion of normals or to decrease the proportion of neurotics above the cutting point without securing a proportional change in the other group the category was rescored.

In practice there were two limits to the amount of rescoreing done: Since the samples being worked with were small, it was feared that pressing this technique too far would capitalize on chance errors in the samples and make the score unstable from sample to sample. Further, some attempt was made not to do too much violence to the usual theoretical interpretation of content.

4. Childhood Background

The components of this area were:

- a. School adjustment (2 questions)
- b. Fighting temperament (4 questions)
- c. Sociability (3 questions)
- d. Heterosexual relationships (3 questions)
- e. Emancipation from parental ties (3 questions)
- f. Childhood fears (1 question)
- g. Childhood psychosomatic symptoms (4 questions)

No attempt was made either to analyze these sub-areas separately or to weight them differentially. The twenty questions involved were scored by the procedure previously outlined.

This area of childhood background was the most unstable of the four as far as the later samples of neurotics were concerned. On the other hand successive normal samples stood up well. It may be that the instability observed is not merely due to an over-use of differences attributable to sampling error but really reflects the existence of different types of neurotics and/or different criteria of diagnosis.

5. The Combined Score

The combined score is a simple count of the number of areas in which a man's score was above the cutting point set for that area.

Combined Score	Neurotics			Normals		
	Hospital B		Hospital A	Trainees		Recruits
	Class I	Class II		Group I	Group II	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
4	2	2	1	36	31	23
3	9	3	3	37	36	46
2	17	8	15	14	21	18
1	34	40	25	8	12	8
0	38	47	56	5	—	3
above cutting point	11	5	4	73	67	71
below cutting point	89	95	96	27	33	29

It is to be noted that, even though some of the components of the combined score are relatively unstable, the combination itself is stable.

The discrimination between normals and neurotics obtained by the combined score is little if any better than that secured by the use of the personal adjustment scale alone. However, as indicated in the table below, the intercorrelations among the four areas are rather low, which means that each index is screening a largely different group of men. It was felt that the use of all four indices made for greater reliability.

7. ANALYSIS MATERIALS AVAILABLE

1. Field Officer's camp notes 1/
2. Questionnaires (856) 2/
3. 1 set of 1 B M cards
4. Editing and coding instructions
5. A copy of the questionnaire with the column number for each question indicated and the marginal distribution for each of the groups included in the study. 3/
6. Photostat copies of the scale pictures 4/

8. STUDY ANALYSTS

Louis Guttman
Shirley Star
Robin Williams

9. REPORTS

This was a methodological pretest; therefore, no formal reports were prepared. The analysis of the data was used in the preparation of further neuropsychiatric studies.

10. NOTE

See also S-82, S-108, S-117 and S-99.

1/ There are no field notes available for the two groups of neuropsychiatric patients from Ft. Meade.

2/ Includes the 118 neuropsychiatric patients (packaged & labeled separately) from Ft. Meade which were not coded and punched on IBM cards.

3/ Does not include Class I and II ... neuropsychiatric patients from Ft. Meade.

4/ Scale analysis was made on the scalogram and the scale scores have not been punched on the IBM cards.

VALIDATION NOTES
(NEUROTIC SCREENING TEST)

AMS74.CLEAN (AMS0074.CDBK)

There are no codes for column 55 (camp and group ID) and columns 56-58 (serial number ID). However, data in column 55 may correspond to codes that appear in the agency abstract.

Otherwise, the remaining data and documentation appear to be all right with hand validation.

***FI18 PRINT OF HEADER LABELS:

VOL1B024240 NIH=BTHSDA
HDR1AMS74.CLEAN B0242400010161 87022 000000000000IBM OS/VS 370
HDR2F072000008040TOHP002 /GO A B 60154

***FI21 CURRENT DATA SET NUMBER IS - 00161
***WT2 BLOCK 1, RECORD 1, RECORD 1 IN ENTIRE FILE, RECORD SIZE
1074001321402232221121211121233122324323333307121112132212222222222107211536121*
***WT2 BLOCK 1, RECORD 2, RECORD 2 IN ENTIRE FILE, RECORD SIZE
2074001122221103120812031204120700051202120612061206125001*
***WT2 BLOCK 1, RECORD 3, RECORD 3 IN ENTIRE FILE, RECORD SIZE
10740023111012113111111111113452323343333330711111113322222222221101411212231*
***WT2 BLOCK 1, RECORD 4, RECORD 4 IN ENTIRE FILE, RECORD SIZE
2074002073130904090512041205100700031203120412041207125118*
***WT2 BLOCK 1, RECORD 5, RECORD 5 IN ENTIRE FILE, RECORD SIZE
10740033211011113211113111112251222143333330712211313222222222221107111323231*
***RE5 5 RECORDS PRINTED, 0 RECORDS COPIED IN THIS PHASE.

***FI23 PRINT OF TRAILER LABELS:

EOF1AMS74.CLEAN B0242400010161 87022 000000000017IBM OS/VS 370
EOF2F072000008040TOHP002 /GO A B 60154

***FI29 BLOCK COUNT IN EOF1 LABEL DOES NOT MATCH RECORDED BLOCK COUNT. THIS MAY BE DUE TO SKIPS, OR BACKSPACES.

80 .
80 . } 1 logical record