MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY REPORT NO. 12

Memorandum on Inventory

of Musical Background, Form B.

W. D. Neff

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from the

Medical Research Division
U.S. Submarine Base

December 15, 1942.
Memorandum on Inventory of Musical Background,

Form B.

The questionnaire on musical ability included as part of the selection tests for fleet transfers has been given to ninety-four sound school candidates who also received the Seashore tests of pitch, loudness, and rhythm. The individual items of the questionnaire have been examined in order to determine those which most nearly predict the ability to make the types of discrimination demanded by the Seashore tests. The biserial-r method of analysis was used, but the validity of the items was estimated from inspection of the distributions obtained without actually calculating r values.

Fifteen items were selected in this manner and each individual was given a score on the basis of his answers to those items, total score being the number of "yes" answers. Similar score was calculated for the total test of thirty-two items. Bicircular r's were then calculated for each of those scores against the raw scores (number of errors) made on each of the Seashore tests. Results are given in Table I. As may be seen reduction of the items on the questionnaire by about
one-half results in a definite increase in its value as a means of predicting performance on such tests as the Seashore pitch, and Seashore loudness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seashore Pitch</th>
<th>Seashore Loudness</th>
<th>Seashore Rhythm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total test</td>
<td>( r = .38 )</td>
<td>( r = .12 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32 items)</td>
<td>( PE = .08 )</td>
<td>( PE = .08 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Selected items* | \( r = .55 \) | \( r = .29 \) | \( r = .16 \) |
|-----------------| \( PE = .07 \) | \( PE = .09 \) | \( PE = .09 \) |

* Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27. See attached questionnaire.

The selected items are for the most part those which refer to some aspect of one's musical experience or training. Items which ask for an expression of preference seem to have no value. Item 20 was answered "yes" by all subjects.

W. D. Hoff
NDRC Psychologist
December 15, 1942.
Inventory of Musical Background, Form B

Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Rate ___________________________ Place ___________________________

Each of the following questions may be answered by either Yes or No. Draw a circle around the word following each question which shows your answer. In case you are doubtful, encircle the question mark. Answer every question.

1. Are you inclined to be musical? Yes No ?
2. Can you carry a tune when singing with a group? Yes No ?
3. Can you carry a tune when singing alone? Yes No ?
4. Can you set the pitch of a song (start a song) for a group to sing? Yes No ?
5. Can you sing in a twopart harmony? Yes No ?
6. Can you imitate with your voice almost any note which you hear sounded on a piano? Yes No ?
7. Can you whistle a tune? Yes No ?
8. Can you play a musical instrument by ear? Yes No ?
9. Can you play a tune on a comb? Yes No ?
10. Do you imitate any bird calls well? Yes No ?
11. Do you experience difficulty in keeping time to music? Yes No ?
12. When a singer is off key, are you quick to notice it? Yes No ?
13. If a pianist hits a false note in playing a selection, are you likely to notice it? Yes No ?
14. If you hear two notes which are next to each other on the piano played one after the other, can you usually tell which note is higher? Yes No ?
15. Can you recognize any of the notes of the scale when you hear them sounded? Yes No ?
16. Can you usually tell whether or not a piano needs tuning by hearing it played? Yes No ?
17. Can you name three or more bird calls when you hear them? Yes No ?
18. If you hear a musical selection for the first time, can you usually recognize it if you hear it again within a month or two? Yes No?

19. Do you tend to be aware of the everyday sounds which occur around you? Yes No?

20. Do you like to listen to music? Yes No?

21. Do you sing for pleasure at home or in informal groups? Yes No?

22. Have you sung in a chorus, glee club, or choir? Yes No?

23. Have you had training by a teacher in singing? Yes No?

24. Have you played the harmonica with a group? Yes No?

25. Have you played a musical instrument as part of an informal group of players? Yes No?

26. Have you played in an orchestra or band? Yes No?

27. Have you had training by a teacher in playing any musical instrument? Yes No?

28. Do you often listen to music of any kind? Yes No?

29. Do you have definite preferences as to the type of music to which you listen? Yes No?

30. Do you have any favorite musical selections or composers? Yes No?

31. Do you like to hear long musical selections? Yes No?

32. Do you have difficulty in paying close attention to music which you hear? Yes No?