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Medical

## MILITARY ANTHROPOMETRY

A Research Note

[**Anthropometry** (an.thru.POM.uh.tree) = re human body measurements.]

### GENERAL

For a brief history of physical standards of military service since ancient times, see Physical Standards in World War II (D807.U6.A56v7), cited below, pp. xiii-xviii.

Churchill, Edmund. Anthropometry of U.S. Army Aviators, 1970. Natick, MA: Natick Labs, 1971. 335p. GN59.S7.A57.

Folkmar, Daniel. Album of Philippine Types Found in Bilibid Prison in 1903: Christians and Moros (Including a Few Non-Christians): Eighty Plates Representing Thirty-seven Provinces and Islands. Manila, PI: Bureau of Public Printing, 1904. 160 p. DS665.A42.

Hart, Gary L., et. al. Anthropometric Survey of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea: Final Report. S.I: Natick Laboratories, 1966. GN58.K6.H37.

Hooten, Earnest A. Body Build in a Sample of the United States Army. Natick, MA: QM Research & Engr Center, 1959. 348 p. GN59.S7.H66.

Lucas, George R., Jr. Anthropologists in Arms: The Ethics of Military Anthropology. Lanham, MD: AltaMira, 2009. 234 p. DS79.767.M67.L83.

Newman, Russell. The Assessment of Military Personnel by 1912 Height-Weight Standards. Lawrence, MA: QM Climatic Research Lab, 1952. 18 p. UH627.N485.

White, Robert M., & Churchill, Edmund. The Body Size of Soldiers: U.S. Army Anthropometry, 1966. Natick, MA: Natick Labs, 1971. 329 p. GN59.S7.B63.

## SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS

### Revolutionary War

Dr. Robert K. Wright, Jr., CMH, suggested that the wartime document most likely to indicate height is a size roll, rather than a muster or pay roll. It was intended for a commander's personal use rather than for Army headquarters. See Wright's Continental Army (Wash, DC: CMH, 1983), p. 186.

A search here uncovered only one pertinent document, namely, size rolls of Col Elisha Sheldon's 2d Continental Light Dragoons, which list the height of each enlisted man. See:

Connecticut. AGO. Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War. Hartford, 1889. pp. 271-83. E263.C5.C5.

### Civil War

Baxter, J.H. Statistics, Medical and Anthropological, of the Provost-Marshal-General's Bureau...  
2 vols. Wash, DC: GPO, 1875. UM24.1861-5.A23.

Gould, Benjamin A. Investigations in the Military and Anthropological Statistics of American Soldiers.  
NY: US Sanitary Commission, 1869. E631.A62.1869v2.

### World War I

Davenport, Charles B., & Love, Albert G. Army Anthropology. Pt 1 of Vol XV: Statistics. In the series  
Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War. Wash, DC: GPO, 1921.  
UM24.1917-18.A45.

See especially pp. 67-69.

\_\_\_\_\_. Physical Examination of the First Million Draft Recruits: Methods and Results. Wash, DC:  
GPO, 1919. UB333.P49.

Hoffman, Frederick L. Army Anthropometry and Medical Rejection Statistics. Newark, NJ: Prudential,  
1918. 114 p. UB333.H63.

Compendium of papers read at 1917 conferences.

**World War II**

A search in medical and selective service sources, as well as Medical Bulletin of US Army, failed to uncover data on the average height of the WWII soldier.

According to the US Army Center of Military History (Reference Branch), a Surgeon General Memo on file there indicates the following as average:

1943 composite inductee = 68.11"  
150.75 lbs  
25 yrs old

**See also:**

Foster, William B., et al. Physical Standards in World War II. In the series Medical Dept, US Army. Wash, DC: Office, Surgeon General, 1967. 356 p. D807.U6.A56v7.