Fear Gripped 99 Per Cent
Of U.S. Fliers, Survey Shows

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5. (AP)—Fear gripped 99 per cent of our fliers at some time or other as they blasted out the victory path, an Army Air Forces study reveals—and for most men fear increased rather than lessened with the number of missions.

This was reported today to the American Psychological Association by a wartime air forces psychologist who said the study represented the most comprehensive survey of fear reactions ever made among normal personnel.

4,504 Fliers Interviewed
Dr. Laurance Shaffer, of Columbia University, chief of the Air Surgeon's psychological division during the war, told the association's fifty-fourth meeting that research on the problems of fear was made by interrogating 4,504 fliers on their return to the United States from combat duty.

The men interrogated included 1,965 flying officers—more than half of them pilots, the rest navigators and bombardiers—and 2,539 enlisted men, mostly gunners.

Here's what else they reported:
Thirty-three per cent of the officers and 43 per cent of the gunners were afraid on every mission or almost every mission.

Latter Missions Fared Most
Most fliers feared the last missions more than the early or middle ones. (At first, their fear was that they would show personal cowardice; but as they became more self-confident, the fear of death and injury increased.)

Fear was accentuated by “being hide when in danger,” or by “being attacked when one cannot fight back.”

Fear was lessened by keeping busy, making a good hit, “talking on the interphone, joking and hearing others jokes,” and by “seeing others calm.”

Commendations or citations, flying pay, hatred of the enemy or a strong belief in the righteousness of our war aims had little or no value in controlling fear.

And here's what they said it means to be scared when in a fighting plane:
"Scare" Sensations
It means your heart beats rapidly, your mouth dries, you sweat, you tremble, you have funny sensations in the stomach, and sometimes lose control of bodily functions.

And afterwards, you're fatigued, restless, depressed; you overreact to loud sounds; and sometimes you have obsessive thoughts and bad dreams.

Doctor Shaffer said that the study in showing the results of strong fear in normal men, may contribute something to an understanding of the role of emotion in the psychoneuroses.

Hatred Spurred O.S.S.
Hatred of the Germans and Japs came to the least of the motives among men to seek dangerous assignment with the O.S.S.—Uncle Sam's corps of secret agents—the psychologists declared today.

Dr. Amelia Hartmann, Mt. Holyoke psychologist, declared motivated by such jobs very inter-