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

(ALL WE HAVE TO FEAR, IS FEAR ITSELF)

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 abated 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 persons.

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 1,985 flying officers—more than half of them pilots, the rest navigators and bombardiers—and 2,519 enlisted fliers, mostly gunners.

Here's what else they reported: Thirty-three per cent of the officers and 42 per cent of the gunners were afraid on every mission or almost every mission.

Latter Missions Feared 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 idle 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 joke," 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 the least of the motives sign men to seek dangerous assignments with the O.S.S.—Uncle Sam's ops of secret agents—the association was told today.

Dr. Elnia Hanfmann, Mt. Holyoke College psychologist, declared candidates for such jobs very infre-

quently said they were motivated by any specific ideologies.

The psychologists declared this was one of the findings made in a study of "motivation for wartime service overseas" made among 503 candidates for posts with the Office of Strategic Services.

She said only 11 per cent "mentioned democracy or peace as one of their goals."

Modern War

THERE may be fine moments in modern war—the Battle of Britain, Arnhem, the invasion of Normandy; but these moments become progressively less frequent, and in the atomic warfare of the future will not exist at all. What is still valuable in military service—and no one who has had experience of it would dismiss military service as wholly despicable—is a certain spirit which emerges from the corporate life of battalions, squadrons, destroyers, etc., rising to noble heights of self-sacrifice in situations of common danger. In short, it is the group consciousness of the Army or Navy or Air Force which endows modern warfare with any lingering trace of glory or vitality.

But this sense of community or group consciousness is not, of course, peculiar to the armed forces. We find it in the coal-pit or the merchant ship, in the cooperative farm or the college. We can dissociate it from war, and only regret that peace does not at present offer more opportunities for its emergence.

Herbert Read, in "Education for Peace." (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

It was a war without exaltation or grandeur. It is tempting, particularly for Americans, to regard the war fondly, as an era of national purpose and moral confidence, to lend it the glamor of heroism and crusading zeal, and to be fascinated by this or that brave exploit against great odds. All the more reason to heed the Norwegian resistance fighter who, having seen much death and danger at close range, expressed himself with immense realism:

"Though war can bring adventures which stir the heart, the true nature of war is composed of innumerable personal tragedies, of grief, waste and sacrifice, wholly evil and not redeemed by glory."