

estimates based on the assumption that by 1944 the Anglo-American bomber force would have 4-6,000 bombers, which of course it never did. In other words, they are purely hypothetical, and to employ them in the film without explaining their context is misleading.<sup>(47)</sup> It calls into serious question the claim by Brian McKenna that "the words spoken by all the actors in the films are based on scrupulous research."<sup>(48)</sup>

Another attempt at showing Harris' bloodthirsty side appears to be equally dishonest. "In spite of all that happened at Hamburg," Harris' alter ego states, "bombing proved a relatively humane method. There is no proof that most casualties were women and children."<sup>(49)</sup> The film-makers choose to omit a large part of this quote, taken from Harris' memoirs, including these words immediately following the first sentence: "For one thing, it saved the flower of the youth of this country and of our allies from being mowed down by the military in the field, as it was in Flanders in the war of 1914-1918." Harris continues in this vein for several sentences until he states at the end of the paragraph: "There is no estimate of how many of these were women and children, but there was no reason why bombing, like the blockade, should fall most heavily on women and children; on the contrary, the Germans carried out large schemes of evacuation, especially of children, from the main industrial cities." Whether the last claim is accurate or not, the words do not agree with those quoted in the script, nor do they refer explicitly to Hamburg, but to the bomber offensive as a whole.<sup>(50)</sup>

Harris' devotion to area bombing is taken even further. It is stated that he objected to the bombing of precision targets during the Normandy campaign because it would divert his forces from attacking German cities. In the end, he "got his way." Virtually every witness who appeared before the Sub-Committee pointed out the inaccuracy of this last statement. Although Harris was reluctant at first to commit his forces to the Normandy campaign, he did eventually obey orders. In a letter to Dwight Eisenhower on 21 September 1944, Harris expressed his personal gratitude to "my dear Ike" for the relationship they had enjoyed during the invasion and pledged "our utmost service whenever and wherever the need arises. I hope that we may continue the work together to its completion." Eisenhower, in turn, was most grateful to Harris for his assistance. Few historians would disagree that the precision bombing of communications and transportation facilities in France by Bomber Command was crucial to the success of the Normandy campaign. By ending the film with the disastrous raid on Nuremburg in March 1944, the viewer is left with a misleading impression. The Allied air offensive reached a crescendo after D-Day (more than half the bombs dropped on Germany during the war were done so after

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(47) Donald Elliott, *Proceedings*, 7:107-108.

(48) *Proceedings*, 9:67.

(49) Post-Production Script, *Death by Moonlight*, p. 31.

(50) See Harris, *Bomber Offensive*, p. 176-77.