

bears no physical resemblance to his subject) as a "cruel, sneering, often demonic murderer, having no compassion for those he sent out to bomb and those on whom the bombs fell."⁽⁴²⁾ The Sub-Committee was told that in order to support this view the film-makers deliberately distort and omit evidence.

The viewer is first introduced to Harris in the context of British officers' "colonial attitudes" towards Canadians, attitudes which the film insists "came from the top." In what appears to be an attempt by the film-makers to display Harris' contempt for colonial troops (they neglect to mention that Harris was himself a colonial), the actor portraying Harris refers to them as being "damned bad horsemen and damned bad shots." However, as Donald Elliott, past President of the RCAF POW Association, pointed out to the Sub-Committee, these words from Harris' memoirs are taken out of context. The quote concludes: "...unless and until they have been put through the standard riding school procedure, in the days when horsemen meant something, and the standard musketry drill of the armed forces. After which they are no better and no worse than the British themselves."⁽⁴³⁾ While Mr. Halliday admitted that some RAF officers were condescending to Commonwealth personnel and at times lumped them together as "colonials", there is little evidence to suggest that such an attitude came from the top. Attempting to prove it "by mangling a quotation" hardly demonstrates unbiased research.⁽⁴⁴⁾ Several witnesses suggested that such an attempt reflected the film-makers' anti-British bias.

There is no doubt that Harris was bent on destroying German industrial centres as a way of defeating the enemy. To do it, he realized full well that German civilians would be killed in large numbers. He accepted that responsibility. *Death by Moonlight*, according to some witnesses, chooses to play up this side of Harris, insisting that killing civilians never bothered the Commander-in-Chief and citing his flippant remarks to policemen as his definitive attitude. Once again, to prove their argument, the film-makers bend the rules. The actor playing Harris states that "we shall destroy Germany's will to fight. Now that we have the planes and crews, in 1943 and 1944 we shall drop one and a quarter million tons of bombs, render 25 million Germans homeless, kill 900,000 and seriously injure one million."⁽⁴⁵⁾ However, these words are derived (not quoted exactly) from a war cabinet paper by Sir Charles Portal, Chief of Air Staff, written in November 1942 "with the assistance of Harris."⁽⁴⁶⁾ Who is to know how much Harris contributed to this document? Moreover, the figures cited in the memorandum are only

(42) John Turnbull, Proceedings, 7:20.

(43) See Proceedings, 4:35-36 and Sir A. Harris, *Bomber Offensive* (London, 1947), p. 63-64. When Honourable J.R. Barr asked one of the film's researchers why these words were omitted, the latter's response was that "we didn't have time." Proceedings, 7:65.

(44) Proceedings, 6:10.

(45) Post-Production Script, *Death by Moonlight*, p. 27.

(46) See D. Saward, *Bomber Harris* (NY, 1985), p. 175-77.