

As Lieutenant-Colonel A.R.W. Lockhart, Chairman of the Conference of Defence Associations and a prominent journalist, explained to the Sub-Committee: "The historical method calls for a balanced review of all positions or at least the primary positions. Then clearly from those documented positions, one draws a conclusion."⁽⁷²⁾ In other words, history requires an open mind and, in the words of Maurice Tugwell, President of the Mackenzie Institute, "a calm acceptance of evidence and a willingness to form conclusions in the light of that evidence, not in spite of it."⁽⁷³⁾ The Sub-Committee is strongly of the opinion that the film-makers failed this test. Brian McKenna has allowed that many of the issues addressed in *Death by Moonlight* are "open to debate." Unfortunately, as the evidence placed before this Sub-Committee demonstrated, the full range of the debate is never suggested in the film. Given the nature of *Death by Moonlight's* audience - millions of Canadians with a limited knowledge of Canada's wartime history - the writers have failed to discharge their responsibility.

The film-makers' decision not to provide balance and context to their portrayal of events and personalities seemed to reflect a serious bias. As Mr. Halliday, who was approached by the film-makers during production, informed the Committee, it was clear that "the viewpoint was to be skewered - that the absence of context would not be accidental."⁽⁷⁴⁾ Brian and Terence McKenna clearly believe that all war is deplorable - and of course, they are right. They also seem to carry a strong anti-British and anti-establishment bias. Unfortunately, fitting material into such an interpretive framework requires the distortion and omission of evidence. To make matters worse, the film-makers rely heavily on hindsight as a tool of history. Professor Copp of Wilfrid Laurier University pointed out that such a tool should be used to sharpen the historian's questions, not answer them. Otherwise, history becomes devoid of its complexities and nuances. Simple explanations become the goal, and the search for villains begins. Thus, in *Death by Moonlight*, the picture that emerges is terribly misleading. Were the Allies really relentless, even bloodthirsty aggressors, the Germans innocent victims, and Bomber Command aircrew the unknowing agents of slaughter?

The use of actors in such a production is dangerous. Dramatic sequences, even when accurately documented, are still open to considerable misinterpretation and bias through voice and demeanour. Sensationalism often prevails. For this very reason, Ken Burns, producer of the acclaimed PBS documentary *The Civil War*, relies exclusively on narrators reading exact quotations from letters, diaries and other documents.⁽⁷⁵⁾ When it is clear that the actors are not

(72) Proceedings, 9:15.

(73) Proceedings, 9:23.

(74) Submission to the Committee, p. 10.

(75) Proceedings, 7:112-113.