

debatable. While the Sorpe Dam was indeed never breached, Albert Speer suggested that if the bomb had exploded a few inches lower, the results may have been drastically different.⁽⁶⁴⁾ The losses sustained by the Germans, minimized in the film, were not insignificant: repairs took most of the summer of 1943. Certainly, to suggest that the raid did more damage to England than to Germany is highly contentious. As for the alleged lessons to be learned from the raid, in particular that precision bombing was possible, Hugh Halliday commented that "the film producers cannot make up their minds about the Dams Raid; on the one hand, it is a model of the precision bombing they say Bomber Command could and should have been doing; on the other hand it is a PR stunt, an act of folly..."⁽⁶⁵⁾ Finally, *Death by Moonlight* fails to mention that the Tall-Boy, which the film-makers seem to imply was scorned by Bomber Command, was in fact used against a variety of precision targets later in the war, including the battleship 'Tirpitz.' But these precise targets could only be bombed by very small forces. According to Walter Thompson, the capability to drop the Tall-Boy directly onto industrial targets from over 25,000 feet never existed.⁽⁶⁶⁾

TECHNICAL DETAILS

While much of the controversy surrounding *Death by Moonlight* centres on lack of context and balance, witnesses appearing before the Sub-Committee also pointed out factual details - some minor, some not so minor - that displayed a certain sloppiness in research. Mr. Halliday pointed out that "the program takes an easy and hence misleading approach with technical details."⁽⁶⁷⁾ He noted, for example, that the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan produced 131,553 aircrew, not 137,000 as stated in the episode. The Lancaster bomber, described in the film as an "efficient killing machine" that could carry up to ten tons of bombs, could in fact only carry that weight of bombs near the end of the war, and only then if it had been specially modified. The statement that fighter pilots were given a campaign medal but bomber pilots were not is misleading. The only special award granted to fighter pilots was the "Battle of Britain Clasp," which was appended to the 1939-1945 Star.⁽⁶⁸⁾ Dr. Harris added another item to this list: bomb aimers were not terribly careful about bombing aircraft below them, since it was impossible to see other aircraft in the night sky.

(64) Frank Williams, Proceedings, 8:54.

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

(66) Proceedings, 7:87-88.

(67) Proceedings, 6:9.

(68) Doug Sample, an employee at the NFB and a Bomber Command veteran, pointed out this mistake, and apparently many others, to the film-makers, but he was ignored. Proceedings, 8:41.