

heard from a wide range of witnesses both for and against the series, including Mr. McKenna and Mr. Gelbart, as well as Joan Pennefather, Chairperson of the NFB. Representatives of the CBC refused to appear.

CHAPTER II

This report summarizes the Senate Sub-Committee's investigation of the authenticity of *The Valour and the Horror*, from its origins in the winter of 1992 to January 1993. The following two chapters appraise the two most controversial films in the series, *Death by Moonlight: Bomber Command* and *In Desperate Battle: Normandy 1944*. Chapter IV then examines the role of the CBC and the NFB in the production of the films. Finally, the Sub-Committee makes a number of recommendations based upon the evidence placed before it.

disgusted and misled by this so-called documentary."
William Dalrymple, *Proceedings*, 543.

"(*Death by Moonlight*) was a gross distortion of the very complex subject which was Bomber Command's war over a period of six years. Whether that distortion was the result of incompetence or of deliberate malice, I cannot judge."
Martin Middlebrook, letter to the Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs, 26 October 1992.

AN ONGOING DEBATE

The episode of *The Valour and the Horror* has generated more controversy than *Death by Moonlight: Bomber Command*. Given its theme, this should not come as a complete surprise. As the Sub-Committee was reminded, the bomber offensive against Germany has long been the subject of controversy. During the Second World War, the strategic and moral implications of the campaign were hotly debated within the British Government, the military establishment, and to some extent even the public domain. Since then, historians have continued the debate. Some, with the benefit of hindsight and newly available documents, have questioned the bomber offensive on moral and strategic grounds while assuming its contribution to ultimate Allied victory. Because of conflicting evidence, wide differences of opinion continue to exist. However, most experts will agree on one point: the story of the bomber offensive is extremely complex. Meticulous research aimed at placing the campaign in its full historical context is required before any conclusions can be reached. Even then, the issues are rarely clear-cut.

These are the parameters within which Sub-Committee members have examined *Death by Moonlight*. They did not set out to condemn the film, as some have suggested, simply on account of the controversial issues it raises. Rather, what the Sub-Committee wanted to learn was whether the views expressed in the episode were based on thorough and balanced research, the essential ingredients in any historical presentation. The CBC and the NFB, as public agencies, owe that not only to the veterans depicted in the film, but to the millions of ordinary Canadians who watched the series and who have an important stake in our history.