

CHAPTER 2 IN WAR A Magic Lantern Poem

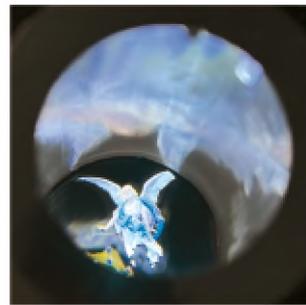
Edward Murray

The magic lantern poem *Chapter 2 in war* is presented in a world that could be on a path of unnecessary suffering in the name of honour. The majority of the poem was written on the day Russia invaded Ukraine (24 February 2022). The poem has changed in some places over the past couple of years. But the war persists.

Each slide has had the cover glass removed and then re-bound, combining a slide of one or more angels with someone in a position of war. Each conflict is matched with force. In war, each side has their own god and angels, both sides fight in the name of their righteousness. There are five combination slides. There are five laws, or principles, of war which are commonly cited as principles of international humanitarian law that govern the legal use of force in an armed conflict: military necessity, distinction, proportionality, humanity (unnecessary suffering), and honour.



After the combination slide is projected, a homemade handheld projector breaks the fourth wall, another angel appears and attempts to touch the heart of the righteous. The six homemade projectors are meant to be, or mimic, a follow spot. In a theatre a follow spot is a high-intensity light that projects a focused beam to highlight a performer, or object, on stage. My follow spots are named the 'Royal Aerial Steam Carriage Regiment (Mechanized)'. Each follow spot consists of an LED light purchased from Walmart that uses three 'AA' batteries providing 500 lumens. The condenser lenses and aluminium housings are salvaged from Simmon Omega B-22 photographic enlargers. The two lenses are planoconvex with the convex sides facing each other with aluminium spacers cut and re-sized from Simmon Omega D2 photographic enlargers. The slide's wooden frame was drilled in four places and the condenser housing, with added chaffing material, was then tightened between the holes already in the shop light and the wood frames. Two different sizes of plumbing PVC pipe were used – one as a lens mount and the other as the lens barrel. The lens mount is held to the slide with aluminium tape and the mount and barrel are not held together at all, they were sanded and slide easily for focusing. The end of the smaller diameter lens barrel has a single Simmon Omega B-22 planoconvex supplementary condenser lens with the convex side facing back towards the slide and used for focusing. The supplementary lens is held to the barrel with aluminium tape.



Effects slides

Chapter 2 in war

[sound of an explosion (thunder)]

down goes one

the back alley
blackened from the afternoon rain
steam sifting asphalt
mud burnt on the side of the road
tank tracks



grass like finders keepers
weepers weeping
hide and seeking
sun peeking between I-beams



small rocks skip across sidewalks
and black tops
leaving rounded ripples embedded in the ground

[indistinguishable and muffled, ringing, silence ...]



now we are here
now what?
down goes another one
[indistinguishable noise]
sides of buildings crinkled like folded paper
do you believe in giants?
I don't know
I don't think so
down goes another
and another



the sound is gone
the sun is dust
the morning upon us
all my things
all other things
I leave with you
down goes the last one

Royal Aerial Steam Carriage Regiment (Mechanized)

(See a performance on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u9FQL5gPts)
Edward Murray is the author of *Stranger's Pilgrimage*. He is a film-based photographer, worker in silk-screening, filmmaker and writer, contributing to many publications. See TML 37, p. 11 and TML 39, p. 7 for more.