

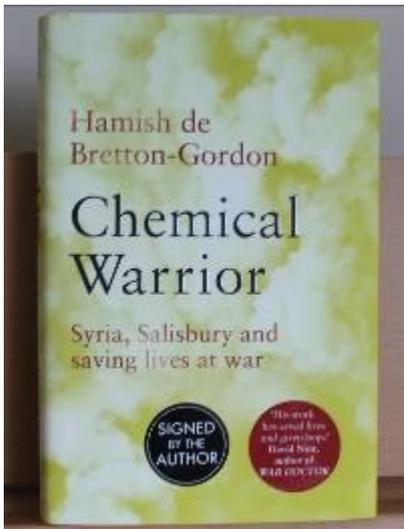


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CHEMICAL WARRIOR

Author HAMISH de BRETTON GORDON OBE



This very recently published book is written by a Wiltshire based author who has built a reputation for being one of the world's leading authorities on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. I found it a fascinating read but I confess that it left me in fear of what the future holds. Hamish more than hints that the Novichok attack in Salisbury is but a foretaste of what could be to come.

If this country is subject to another attack from weapons such as nerve gas the expertise that Hamish has will be

of vital importance.

In this autobiography Hamish gives us details of his early life, meeting and wooing his wife, Julia, and then his 23 year career in the Army. Hamish always had ambitions to fight in tanks and he was delighted to be commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment. He saw action in Iraq and had an experience during a Scud missile attack that left a lasting impression on him. As the missiles landed it was feared that they carried the deadly sarin nerve gas but when Hamish pulled on his gas mask it malfunctioned leaving him with the choice of ripping off the mask and risking being poisoned or trying to survive on the very limited amount of air in the face piece until the all clear was given. I will leave you to read what choice he made.

He progressed to Lieutenant Colonel rank and was hoping to be given command of one of the tank regiments. This didn't happen and he was given command of the UK's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment instead. This challenged him to become really knowledgeable about these aspects of warfare and he soon realised that the concept of fighting wars with tanks was rapidly becoming out of date.

The book becomes really fascinating (and frightening) in the latter chapters when Hamish tells of him leaving the Army to set up a private company called SecureBio based in rented offices at Porton Down. He and his family live on the outskirts of Salisbury. His skills and knowledge have been regularly employed to give advice and instruction to those medical staff and relief workers in Syria who have been the victims of repeated chemical attacks that President Assad and President Putin deny have taken place. I heartily recommend this book. ISBN 978-1-4722-7454-0

John Craig