MEDICAL ASPECTS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE
The Coat of Arms
1818
Medical Department of the Army

The first line of medical defense in wartime is the combat medic. Although in ancient times medics carried the caduceus into battle to signify the neutral, humanitarian nature of their tasks, they have never been immune to the perils of war. They have made the highest sacrifices to save the lives of others, and their dedication to the wounded soldier is the foundation of military medical care.
Textbook of Military Medicine

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Editor in Chief
Brigadier General Russ Zajtchuk, MC, U.S. Army
Director, Borden Institute
Commanding General
U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Professor of Surgery
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland

Managing Editor
Ronald F. Bellamy, M.D.
Colonel, MC, U.S. Army (Retired)
Borden Institute
Associate Professor of Military Medicine
Associate Professor of Surgery
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland
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... 

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling,
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound’ring like a man in fire or lime . . .
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.¹

... 

—Wilfred Owen

The poetry, excerpted from Dulce et Decorum Est, was written by Lieutenant Wilfred Owen of the Royal Army, who was killed in action in France on 4 November 1918.

“Gassed,” the frontispiece painting, shows the horror of chemical warfare in World War I as perceived by the artist, Gilbert Rogers.² As Keegan and Darracott observed, “Rogers was an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps commissioned to record medical work during the First World War. The subtitle to this painting, “In Arduis Fidelis” (Faithful in Hardships), suggests the subject is a stretcher-bearer who has succumbed to gas while transporting wounded.”³

Editorial Staff: Lorraine B. Davis
Senior Editor
Colleen Mathews Quick
Associate Editor/Writer

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- The Medical NBC Information Server http://www.nbc-med.org
- Medical Research and Materiel Command http://mrmc-www.army.mil
- Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense http://chemdef.apgea.army.mil
- Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (numeric) http://140.139.42.105