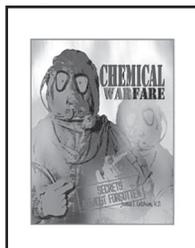

Book Reviews



By Mr. Reid Kirby



Chemical Warfare Secrets Almost Forgotten, James S. Ketchum, MD, self-published, 2006.

First person narratives are usually not worthwhile reading. But this book is an exception! This self-published book has the aesthetics of a high school yearbook, with numerous illustrations and photographs in the layout. It is a detailed account of the career of Colonel James Ketchum (U.S. Army Retired), a military surgeon in the Chemical Corps psychochemical program.

This book is a significant contribution to Chemical Corps history. In 1978, because of a potential conflict of interest, medical defense research was separated from the Corps and, consequently, from the command historian at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, leaving few to tell the history of these researchers. Dr. Ketchum recounts the research, people, and events of the medical laboratories at Edgewood Arsenal, describing the actions of such figures as Colonel Douglas Lindsey, Specialist Ephraim Goodman, and Dr. Frederick Sidell.

Chemical Warfare Secrets Almost Forgotten is also an excellent resource on the effects of incapacitating chemical agents, with firsthand accounts of human exposure to lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate (BZ), and other agents. In this respect, the book is narrowly focused on agent medical research, rather than other areas in the psychochemical program. The underlying conflict in this book is Chemical Corps research experiments using human volunteers and the questionable research activities of the Central Intelligence Agency (such as LSD research on unwitting victims).

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