

My report about the industrial chemical plant at Nancekuke, undoubtedly producing CS gas and other secret war materials, was the first ever to appear in the press, and thus might well have given an enemy of Britain, at the time the Soviet Union, an additional target for aerial bombardment, if they had not already known about it. No general censorship of the British Press existed at the time, and my only obligation was to submit any doubtful material I wrote to a special Advisory Committee, if and when I thought that my writing would threaten national security. The chemical plant at Nancekuke, in existence at least since 1956, did not qualify. I did not have it checked by the Committee.

The Nancekuke story which appeared in the paper on 22 July 1968 was not my last article on the subject of biological and chemical warfare, CBW, which had suddenly become 'News'. On 7 June I had reported on my second visit to Porton, 4 years after the first, and it was headlined "Army Protection for Germ Warfare Centre". Hostile demonstrations from students of Southampton University were expected, but nothing happened.

On my second visit I was given a list of the names of the 23 British university professors, including six FRS, who were acting as scientific advisors to the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton. This was following USA practice, where the authorities had also failed to recruit top scientists for CBW and had therefore contracted out to Universities some of the vital basic science research for CBW. I had written about this, but it was never published.

Similarly, my review of the BBC Programme "A Plague on your Children" broadcast on 6 June, stating that TV cameras had for the first time been allowed inside Porton security fence, was not published. However, a comment by an American General during the BBC programme, that Britain was "Open to Gas and Germ Attack", because of the prevailing western winds over the Island, appeared in the newspaper on 7 June.

CBW had become a 'running story' with new facts being revealed constantly. On 10 June I wrote that "Porton Scientists use 85000 Animals a Year". In the same published article I told the story of the 'Green Monkey' virus, a killer disease—as deadly as the notorious *Ebola virus*—which had been traced by the Microbiological Division of Porton and thus underlined the close link between offence and defence in this kind of research. All animals used, from mice to horses, were bred on a special farm inside the security fence. A year earlier, seven deaths and 30 cases of severe illness had occurred among research workers and hospital staff in Marburg, Germany, who had worked with green, virus infected, monkeys from Africa, which had arrived in animal cages at Heathrow Airport, London. After identification, the new deadly virus has been called the *Marburg virus*.