Contents

Preface *xiii*
Contributors *xv*
Acronyms and abbreviations *xvii*

Part I. Introduction to the problem

1. Introduction 3
Thomas Stock and Karlheinz Lohs
I. The scope of the problem 3
II. Definitions 7
III. The focus of the study 8

Part II. Chemical warfare agents and munition and toxic armament wastes

2. Characteristics of chemical warfare agents and toxic armament wastes 15
Karlheinz Lohs and Thomas Stock
I. Introduction 15
II. Chemical and toxicological properties of chemical warfare agents 16
III. Military smoke agents 28
IV. Toxic armament wastes 33
Table 2.1. Properties of organoarsenic chemical warfare agents 21
Table 2.2. Comparative data on phosgene and diphosgene 23
Table 2.3. Properties of hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride 24
Table 2.4. Properties of selected riot control agents 25
Table 2.5. Physicochemical properties of nerve agents 26
Table 2.6. Estimates of toxicity of nerve agents to humans 27
Table 2.7. Clinical effects of nerve agents in humans 27
Figure 2.1. Metabolic pathways of sulphur mustard 18
Figure 2.2. The hydrolysis of lewisite 20
Figure 2.3. Neurotoxic effects of nerve gas exposure 28

3. Old chemical munitions and warfare agents: detoxification and degradation 35
Thomas Stock and Karlheinz Lohs
I. Introduction 35
II. Deterioration of old chemical munitions 35
III. Detoxification and degradation of chemical warfare agents 45
IV. Conclusions 52
Table 3.1. Chemical warfare agents used in World War I and later 36
Table 3.2. Shell designation and code- or camouflage names of World War I chemical munitions 38
Table 3.3. Acronyms and code-names used for some chemical warfare agents in World War II 42
Table 3.4. Solubility of chemical warfare agents 46
Table 3.5. Half-life of sarin in water 48
Table 3.6. Stability of chemical warfare agents in fresh water 49
Table 3.7. Persistency of chemical warfare agents 51
Table 3.8. Stability in storage and corrosive action of chemical warfare agents 52

Part III. Coping with old munitions and toxic armament wastes: technical experience

4. Decontamination of former military bases in eastern Germany 55
Karl Lehmann and Reiner Escher
I. Introduction 55
II. Areas of potential contamination 57
III. Treatment of hazardous waste sites 58
IV. Decontamination activities and findings 60
V. Hazardous military waste and its conversion 63
Table 4.1. Typical functions and services available on WGT bases 57
Table 4.2. Types of hazardous waste likely to be found on a military base 58
Figure 4.1. Distribution of former WGT bases in the new federal states and Berlin, as of July 1992 56
Figure 4.2. Distribution by size of the former WGT bases in eastern Germany, as of July 1990 56
Figure 4.3. Contamination of the solid by mineral oil hydrocarbons on former WGT bases 61
Figure 4.4. Contamination of the soil by mineral oil hydrocarbons at a filling station with a ground-water level of three metres 62
Figure 4.5. Contamination of the soil by mineral oil hydrocarbons at a fuel depot with a ground-water level of three metres 63

5. Decontamination of the Wehrmacht gas laboratory at Spandau Citadel, Berlin: technical and organizational experiences 65
Wolfgang P. W. Spyra
I. Introduction 65
II. Research 66
III. The decontamination strategy 67
IV. Hazards 68
V. Basic considerations 69
VI. Safety precautions 70
VII. Securing the site on a daily basis 73
VIII. Conclusions 73
Figure 5.1. Chemical decontamination activities at Spandau Citadel 67

Part IV. Chemical weapons: past production activities

6. The production of chemical warfare agents by the Third Reich, 1933–45 77
Bernd Appler
I. German chemical warfare agent armament, 1919–45 77
II. Production of chemical warfare agents in the Third Reich, 1933–45 78
III. The status of chemical warfare agents at the end of World War II 94
IV. Chemical warfare agents as toxic armament wastes 97
Table 6.1. List referred to in the letter of 6 August 1942, from the Army Ordnance Department to Minister of Armament and Ammunition Albert Speer 83
Table 6.2. Requests from the General Staff for sulphur mustard 84
Table 6.3. Plants which the German Government ordered to be built for the production of chemical warfare agents 85

Table 6.4. Plants for the production of chemical warfare agents that were built but which never functioned 85
Table 6.5. Production of chemical warfare agents during the Third Reich 86
Table 6.6. The quantities of chemical warfare agents requested by the General Staff as of 1 April 1944, and the amounts of these agents which existed at that time 87
Table 6.7. A partial list of the colour-coding system for German CW munitions in World War II 88
Table 6.8. Mustard agents and mixtures used to fill munitions during the Third Reich 89
Table 6.9. The effectiveness of chemical warfare agents in 15-cm shells 93
Table 6.10. The effectiveness of chemical warfare agents in the KC 250 bomb 93
Table 6.11. Actual and estimated inventory of munitions filled with chemical warfare agents as of 1 April 1944 95
Table 6.12. Munitions filled with chemical warfare agents captured by the Allies 96
Figure 6.1. Location of German plants which produced chemical warfare agents before and during World War II 81
Figure 6.2. Organization of the Army Proving Ground (Heeresversuchsstelle Raubkammer) at Munster, Germany 91
Figure 6.3. The Army Proving Ground (Heeresversuchsstelle Raubkammer) at Munster, Germany 92
Appendix 6A. A chronology of German research, development and preparation for chemical warfare agent production 99
Appendix 6B. German plants that produced chemical warfare agents and their total production output 101
Table 6B.1. Production of sulphur mustard and nitrogen mustard at Halle Ammendorf 102

7. Chemical weapon production in the former Czechoslovakia 104
Jirí Matousek
I. Introduction 104
II. The development of chemical defence and retaliatory potential 105
III. Chemical defence institutions and preparation for the use of chemicals in war 107
IV. Destruction and disposal of chemical weapons 110
V. Conclusions 111

8. The history of chemical weapons in Poland 112
Zygfryd Witkiewicz and Kazimierz Szarski
I. Introduction 112
II. The use of chemical weapons in World War I 112
III. The interwar period 113
IV. Research activities 114
V. Manufacturing activities 115
VI. World War II 115
VII. The post-World War II period 117
VIII. The remaining CW stockpile 117
IX. Chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea 119
X. Conclusions 120

9. Chemical munitions in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the surrounding seas 121
Judith Perera
I. Introduction 121
II. Chemical weapon stockpiles 121
III. Chemical weapon production 124
IV. Storage depots 128
V. Environmental contamination on land 129
VI. Dumping at sea 132
VII. Chemical weapon destruction 134
VIII. Conclusions 136
Table 9.1. Chemical weapon production from before World War II to 1987 123
Table 9.2. Main chemical weapon facilities during World War II 125
Table 9.3. Postwar chemical weapon facilities 127
Table 9.4. Distribution of chemical weapon stockpile by storage mode 129
Table 9.5. Russian storage depots 130
Table 9.6. Proposed deadlines for destruction of the Russian chemical weapon stockpile 135

Part V. Chemical weapon disposal and destruction

10. The destruction of old and obsolete chemical weapons: past experience 141
Ronald G. Sutherland
I. Introduction 141
II. Chemical destruction technology 141
Table 10.1. Summary of the experience of the US Army in industrial-scale chemical agent/munition disposal, 1974–91 148
Table 10.2. Experience in the destruction of chemical weapons 153

11. The technical challenge of dismantling and destroying old and abandoned chemical weapons 156
Frédéric Guir
I. Introduction 156
II. The scope of the task 156
III. A proposed universal solution: the firing pool 161
IV. The destruction process 163
V. Conclusions 165
Table 11.1. Quantities of chemical warfare agents produced by France and Germany in World War I 160
Table 11.2. Total quantity of chemical weapon-filled shells fired in World War I 161
Table 11.3. Quantity of chemical weapon-filled shells delivered to the Allied forces by France in World War I 161

12. The German programme for the disposal of old chemical weapons 166
Hermann Martens
I. Introduction 166
II. Types of OCW munitions and chemical fills 166
III. Steps for disposing of old chemical weapons 167
IV. Destruction of chemical agents 170
V. The incineration plant 170
VI. Operational data 175
VII. Control of emissions 177

VIII. The disposal balance of the incineration plant 177
IX. Cost considerations 177
X. Conclusions 178
Table 12.1 Operational data for the Munster incineration plant, as of March 1993 176
Table 12.2 Waste air and waste water data for the Munster incineration plant, as of March 1993 176
Table 12.3 Disposal balance for the Munster incineration plant, as of March 1993 177
Table 12.4 Cost for operation of the Munster incineration plant, as of March 1993 178
Figure 12.1. Composition of the clumps of viscous mustard gas 171
Figure 12.2. Functional diagram of the Munster incineration plant 172
Figure 12.3. The main combustion chamber 173
Figure 12.4. Destruction of chemical warfare agents 174
Figure 12.5. Flue gas scrubbing 174
Figure 12.6. Destruction of chemical warfare agents, arsenic precipitation 175

13. Postwar destruction of chemical weapons in the former German Democratic Republic 179
Karlheinz Lohs
I. Introduction 179
II. The postwar situation in the former German Democratic Republic 180
III. Destruction activities at Kapen 180
IV. Special problems 181
V. Other munition sites and activities 182
VI. The status of destruction in 1962 183
VII. Nerve agents 184
VIII. Smoke-producing agents and obscurants 185
IX. The status of destruction: 1962–89 186
X. Conclusions 186

14. The storage of old and abandoned chemical weapons in Austria 187
Josef Stolz
I. Old and abandoned CW munitions in Austria 187
II. Protecting the environment from the CW munitions 191
III. Recently discovered CW munitions 193
IV. The recovery and disposal of CW munitions in Austria 194
V. Conclusions 195
Figure 14.1. The hydrolysis of Nitrogen-Lost 194

15. The destruction of old chemical munitions in Belgium 197
Jean Pascal Zanders
I. Chemical warfare in Belgium in World War I 197
II. Early disposal of old chemical munitions 201
III. Belgian chemical weapon production 207
IV. Sea dumping of old chemical munitions 208
V. Description of the stock of old chemical munitions 211
VI. The dismantling facility: a brief overview of the policy-making process 215
VII. The dismantling facility: a brief overview of planned procedures 219
Table 15.1. Pickett et Fils production rates (explosive and chemical munitions) 205
Table 15.2. The evolution of the stocks of toxic munitions, 1980–96 212

Table 15.3. Summary of munitions at Poelkapelle 214
Figure 15.1. Procedures in the identification building 220
Figure 15.2. Procedures in the dismantling building 221
Figure 15.3. Procedures in the decontamination building 222
Appendix 15A. Chemical attacks on the Belgian front, 1915–18 223

16. Chemical weapon agent and historic chemical munitions disposal: the British experience 231
Ron G. Manley
I. Introduction 231
II. Disposal options 232
III. Disposal of bulk CW stocks 233
IV. Decontamination and disposal of the GB pilot plant 234
V. Disposal of historic chemical munitions 235
VI. Safety and environmental aspects 239
VII. Conclusions 240
Figure 16.1. Principal components of the Chemical & Biological Defence Establishment's hazardous waste incinerator 237

17. UNSCOM's experience with chemical warfare agents and munitions in Iraq 241
Ron G. Manley
I. Introduction 241
II. Iraq's CW agents and munitions 241
III. CW production facilities 242
IV. Planning the disposal of Iraq's chemical weapons 243
V. Safety and environmental considerations 244
VI. Transportation, draining and destruction of munitions 244
VII. Hydrolysis of the bulk nerve agent 246
VIII. Incineration of mustard gas 248
IX. Disposal of 122-mm nerve agent rockets 249
X. Disposal of CW agent precursors 250
XI. Destruction of production facilities 251
XII. Completion of CW destruction operations 251
XIII. Future compliance monitoring 251
Table 17.1. The target emission standards for the incineration plant at Al Muthanna 249

Part VI. Sea dumping of chemical weapons

18. Legal problems related to old chemical munitions dumped in the Baltic Sea 255
Hans-Joachim Heintze
I. Introduction 255
II. International law and old, dumped chemical munitions 256
III. International law and dumping at sea 257
IV. The Helsinki Convention 259
V. Conclusions 262

19. The Baltic and North Sea dumping of chemical weapons: still a threat? 263
Fredrik Laurin
I. Introduction 263
II. Historical overview 266
III. Conclusions 275

Table 19.1. Known dumping sites in and near Scandinavia 264
Figure 19.1. Sites of chemical munition dumping after World War II 266

20. Investigation of the ships filled with chemical munitions which were sunk off the Norwegian coast after World War II 279
Frode Fonnum

I. Introduction 279
II. Information from British sources 279
III. Norwegian information 281
IV. US reports 283
V. The Norwegian investigation 284
VI. Analysis of the data 287

Table 20.1. List of ships scuttled in the sea provided by Einar Høvding 282
Table 20.2. Positions of ships sunk in Operation 'Davey Jones Locker', 1946 283
Table 20.3. Positions of ships sunk in Operation 'Davey Jones Locker', June 1947–Aug. 1948 284
Table 20.4. Positions of wrecks identified by sidescan sonar in the Norwegian Trench 285
Figure 20.1. Positions of the shipwrecks as determined by the use of sidescan sonar, a Trisponder navigation chain and Decca 286

Part VII. Legal issues

21. The Chemical Weapons Convention and old and abandoned chemical weapons 293
Thomas Stock

I. Introduction 293
II. The CWC provisions on old and abandoned chemical weapons 294
III. Chemical weapons buried or dumped at sea 297
IV. Provisions of the CWC related to former CW production facilities 297
V. Provisions for declaration, identification, verification and destruction of old and abandoned chemical weapons 298
VI. The function of the Preparation Commission 301
VII. The role of the individual State Party 304
VIII. Destruction technology 305
XVII. Conclusions 306

Table 21.1. Obligations and definitions related to old and abandoned chemical weapons for parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention 296
Table 21.2. Technologies for the destruction of chemical agents 306

22. The legal problems associated with sites contaminated by chemical warfare agents in Germany 308
Thomas Kurzidem

I. Introduction 308
II. Defining the problem 309
III. German environmental law and sites contaminated by old armament wastes 311
IV. Responsibility and liability for environmental damage 316
V. Legislative initiatives of the states related to sites contaminated by old armament wastes and contaminated military sites 321
VI. Military forces and German environmental law 323
VII. Conclusions 326

Part VIII. Final discussion and recommendations

23. Conclusions 329
Thomas Stock and Karlheinz Lohs
I. Introduction 329
II. Major findings of the study 330

SIPRI publications on CBW 336