

The Silent Attacker

The onshore mid-winter wind whipping
Semaphore beach is cold & sharp
this morning

& i have to work hard to push
back into it

on the other side of the world
Ukraine forces are working hard
to push back against an advancing
Russian column

& the crack of rifle fire
& whistling of heavy weaponry
is their constant sound track

regardless of where we are positioned
& whether we be man or woman
trans or bi or gay
or even an innocent child
we can & may come under attack

my current attacker is unseen to my
naked eye & silent
& it's not psychological
but extremely logical
as a CT scan & cystoscopy reveal

after four surgical removals of bladder
cancers & biopsies
doctors have revealed a new plan
of attack
in just a few days . . .
French weaponry will be deployed
to attack & destroy my three
remaining cancers

for six weeks i will have 50ml of BCG
vaccine immunotherapy
instilled into my bladder
through a catheter
 & the consensus of my medical
team is that then
 i will piss those cancers off.

This poem forms part of a forthcoming manuscript
'Never Give In & Never Give Up: Surviving Cancer Again.'

BCG Vaccine: Bacillus Calmette-Guérin

Originally developed between 1908 and 1921 by French bacteriologists
Albert Calmette and Camille-Guérin to fight tuberculosis