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SWORD AND PEN
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Editorial

“How Long Before I Can Defend Myself?”

THOSE persons coming into a martial arts program with but one single purpose — i.e. to become able to defend themselves effectively — often ask, understandably, *how long will it take before their training in*

the program they are enrolling in will provide them the ability they are after?

Bottom line: neither we nor anyone else can answer that question with any degree of certainty for anyone. However, our studies have indicated that certain *fairly* accurate *estimates* can be made, *if* we begin with an understanding of the potential and background of the person in question. If we assume someone between the ages of 20 and 35 who is male, in good health, who is physically fit and of at least average strength for his size (about five feet ten inches in height and about 165-180 pounds bodyweight or larger), and who is totally receptive to the **mindset** required for managing a violent aggressor, then the following is a pretty good indicator of “how long” it will take him before he can deal with most unarmed attacks by assailants who act alone and who are not armed:

Assumption is that the individual will train at least three times a week under a qualified, professional teacher —

Kodokan judo One and a half to two years

A classical style of karate, taekwon-do,
“kung fu”* One year

A classical style of ju-jutsu ** One year

American Combato, or a similar all-practical combat
method of personal defense
and attack Two to three months

* *Not* competition (“sport”) karate ** *Not* BJJ/MMA or *any* sport form.

That’s what might be referred to as a “ballpark estimate”. It’s reasonable and probable, but not guaranteed or certain. To an extent how long it takes before practical skill is established in any individual depends upon that individual. There are so many differences between people that it is

wisest to approach the matter of skills acquisition by accepting *your unique characteristics, attitude, talent, and genetic propensities*.

Women, unpopular and politically incorrect as it may be to say it, are **NOT** equal to men. They have advantages over men, in some respects, and disadvantages in regard to men, in other respects. **If a woman trains under a genuine professional she will not be encouraged, idiotically, to think in terms of “fighting with” men, or of “fighting like” men. She will be taught to be deceptive and to capitalize upon the openings and advantages that the attacks on females by males normally provide. And she will learn appropriate tactics.**

Beware of any short-term or weekend seminars that imply that attendees will leave with any appreciable level of ability. Possibly a highly experienced black belt in a martial art who attends a brief seminar will be able to employ much of that which the seminar covers when he leaves, *but no complete newcomer to close combat will become an “overnight success” in learning to employ the techniques*. This, even though quality techniques are very simple. Skills must be **practiced**, not merely “learned”. Rex Applegate put it brilliantly in *Kill Or Get Killed*: “There is a big difference between *being able* to throw a man, and *knowing how*.” Not an exact quote perhaps, but certainly precise enough to convey the full meaning of the late Colonel’s admonition. It was true in 1942 when first published, and it is no less true in 2020.

Some people who enter upon training are resistant to accepting the proper attitude and developing the right mindset. **There is no nice way to defend yourself.** To be effective in an emergency you must be *ruthless, aggressive, willing to immediately inflict serious injury*, and able to recognize *at once* when the moment has come when you must take decisive action against your assailant. Some people correct their resistance in time; some do not and will not. *Unless the right attitude is embraced and developed and maintained*, mastery of the physical skills — however excellent that mastery may be — will not be enough against a truly dangerous foe.

Anyone — *anyone* — who comes to training with the right attitude and who intensifies and nurtures it as he trains, and who applies his physical and mental concentration to regular, consistent practice sessions, will reach his goal much faster than average. Few people do this, however. Most (yes, **MOST**) drop out.

There are individuals who whine, snivel, complain, criticize, bitch, and bellyache, but *never* settle down to serious effort. These people, obviously, get nowhere — even when they show up for classes, because they train without spirit and focus. Usually these people go from school to school, teacher to teacher, and enjoy casting criticisms about their experiences on the mindless internet forums (which seem to be made for these emasculated sloths).

If you are not yet training, then do yourself a favor: *Enter whatever class or DVD program you commence with the attitude that you will **work hard** at developing the skills presented, and that you will **accept and cultivate** the mental conditioning elements that any decent teacher will be lacing into the course.* Avoid sport training. Competition does not prepare you for combat. Competition skills are, **at best**, only adoptable to emergencies when the possessor is in hard training and relatively young. The techniques in sport are not the best for close combat. Realize that if you approach a **classical** system of training it will take far longer before your skills will enable you to defeat a determined aggressor — but if you are prepared to apply yourself over time, you should do well.

If, as we suspect you likely are (if you are a visitor to this web site) a self-defense/close combat **purist**, then go for a serious close combat/defense course. There is a huge difference between skills that have been designed and intended for war, and whatever else is offered in the martial arts field. Without saying that one or another approach is “better” than another, just realize the truth that approaches are *different*. Combat skills bear the same relation to classical/sporting skills that fighter jets bear to commercial airlines.

Summing up, it is ultimately up to you and to the *type* of training you undertake, how long it will be before you can handle yourself in an encounter. We have tried here to give you a sensible *general* idea of how to figure and plan things.

But please remember this: **You will never enjoy any ability if you *don't settle down, get started, and train seriously.***

Bradley J. Steiner

Don't Miss This!:

Simple, elementary lessons in American Combato are available (with more on the way!) on YouTube. Prof. Mark Bryans describes simple and effective skills that almost anyone can learn and use in any emergency. Additionally, we (Prof. Steiner) will be providing

a whole series of short training talks and tactical instruction on YouTube. Straightforward no-nonsense material. Get a tongue-tip-taste of what we teach!

DVD Course Now Available!

You Can Learn Self-Defense and Close Combat At Home.

Here are a few comments about us and what and how we teach, from a handful of the many genuine authorities in the field of close combat



and self-defense who are familiar with us and with our

work:

“Brad Steiner is one of the three finest instructors of close combat and self-defense that I know of, in the world”

— James R. Jarrett, Former U.S. Army Special Forces and LAPD SWAT/Protégé of the late, internationally famous defensive tactics and baton master, Robert Koga. Mr. Jarrett holds a 5th degree Black Belt and is a renown firearms, self-defense, and counterterrorist instructor. He is a former university professor and an author.

“ [Brad Steiner] is simply the finest teacher of any subject that I have ever had . . . I feel deeply blessed to be able to know and to study under him”

— Greg Anderson, Third degree black belt, author of Weapons At Hand, accomplished professional athlete (wrestled at the national level and played college football), world-acknowledged authority on physical training, author, and Director of Ideal Exercise, one of the finest fitness facilities in the Western states.

“Brad Steiner knows real self-defense and what works in hand-to-hand combat like no one on earth! His Method is incredible!”

— Detective Ralph Friedman (NYPD Retired), Ralph was, at the time of his retirement, the most decorated police officer in the history of the NYPD. He has received, among other awards, the coveted ‘Combat Cross’. Ralph was featured, along with his brother — an NYPD Transit Police Officer — on the TV Show Top Cops.

“Your Method is excellent. You have expanded upon and improved considerably the method I learned from Fairbairn and Sykes during WWII and what the USMC taught to the Raider Battalions. And you’re a very good student and teacher”

— Maurice (“Maury”) Geier,
Former U.S. Federal Agent and counterintelligence officer during WWII. Also a combat shooting instructor for FBI and other federal officers, as well as a hand-to-hand combat teacher who was so fierce he earned the nickname “Deathhouse Geier”.

“Your American Combato is a very good System”

— Charles (“Charlie”) Nelson,
WWII hand-to-hand combat judo instructor with whom we trained for nearly three years. It was from Nelson that we learned the O’Neill System, as well as what A.J. Drexel Biddle taught (Charlie was one of Biddle’s students).

“You are indeed a ‘Professor’ of combat arts! I quote you all of the time”

— Grandmaster Jim Harrison,
The premier pioneer in America of the Asian fighting arts of ju-jutsu and karate. The late Bruce Lee once said of Jim Harrison that he is the one person he would not like to fight. It would take a thick pamphlet to describe all of Jim Harrison’s accomplishments and contributions to the combat arts in America.

“From you I learned the valuable lesson of ‘attacking’ instead of ‘defending’ when you have to defend yourself”

— Grandmaster John McSweeney,

The “Father of Irish Karate”, John was one of Ed Parker’s first Black Belts. John also studied boxing, judo, ju-jitsu, and kung fu. The quotation above is from a letter John sent to us after reading our Tactical Skills of Hand-to-Hand Combat. We maintained a correspondence and friendship until John’s passing.

“You certainly do make many excellent points about how mental conditioning for self-defense may be achieved. Although I had never anticipated RET (Rational Emotive Therapy) being utilized for martial arts training, you have done quite an impressive job. I appreciate your outstanding abilities with hypnosis, and I think that your innovative ideas deserve a widespread audience”

— Dr. Albert Ellis,

One of the most famous psychologists in the world. Of him Dr. Robert A. Harper once wrote that he believed Dr. Ellis’ contributions are as significant as those of Dr. Sigmund Freud. We owe a good deal of how we work with students to achieve all sorts of psychological breakthroughs to our intensive study of Dr. Ellis’ works.

“ [Y]our articles are read, studied, and saved whenever they are published. You have an understanding and command of the subject of fighting that very few people have”

— George Kalishevich,

Former USMC Sergeant and combat veteran of Southeast Asia. Kalishevich was a multiple Black Belt holder, a boxer, weight trainee, and hand-to-hand combat teacher since the 1960’s. He was also an experienced bouncer. He passed away several years ago.

“As a law enforcement officer working dangerous assignments in the most violent parts of the New York

metropolitan area in the 1970's, I found that Mr. Steiner's advice was always on the money. The information contained in his articles in *Combat Handguns*, *Handguns*, *American Handgunner*, and *Soldier of Fortune* magazines was lifesaving. As a professional armed and unarmed combat trainer, I regularly referred to many of the concepts Mr. Steiner wrote about. He often went right to the source to discover how and why certain methodologies worked. Bradley Steiner is one of the few civilians actually certified by Col. Rex Applegate to teach close combat.

The late John McSweeney . . . dubbed the 'Father of Karate in Ireland' told me that he also was greatly influenced by Mr. Steiner's writings, especially the idea of paring down close combat techniques to a few essential strikes, trained to perfection. Mr. McSweeney told me that he had a pet name for Brad Steiner. He called him 'The Monk,' in reference to Mr. Steiner's vast knowledge of martial arts and mayhem. My own writing about martial realism was inspired by Brad Steiner's".

— Grandmaster John Perkins,

The brilliant innovator of 'Guided Chaos', John Perkins' background in unarmed combat (and armed combat) is the result not only of training but of lots and lots of real world experience.

The First and Only Complete Self-Defense and Close Combat Course in American Combato (Jen·Do·Tao) on High Quality DVDs!

Eleven carefully prepared professional instructional DVDs describe and demonstrate the most practical, powerful, reliable, and authentic skills of no-nonsense realistic and war-proven unarmed and armed hand-to-hand combat methodology and personal defense developed since WWII! This Course, describing methods from that System developed in the early 1970's by Bradley J. Steiner, which crystalized into the American Combato (Jen·Do·Tao)[™] all-in modern close combat/self-defense martial art in 1975, will teach you how to defend yourself and those you love in any situation! Some of these methods have been copied, imitated, and pirated during the last 25 years, but a complete self-defense course derived directly from the original and authentic System — and the only authorized presentation of American Combato — is now available for home study. All of the techniques, all of the theory, and all of the mental conditioning and related doctrine in these DVDs is presented by the System's originator, Prof. Bradley J. Steiner, himself. Like Fairbairn, Sykes, Applegate,

O'Neill, Brown, Begala, and Biddle in the second world war — from whose lineage this modern Martial Art is a direct descendant — Prof. Steiner clearly, simply, and plainly instructs in real world, lifesaving combatives doctrine.

You can order any of the eleven DVDs individually, or you can purchase the entire Course, in which case you pay for only ten DVDs. You receive one FREE!

Each DVD contains the equivalent instruction normally given in four to eight private lessons. This Course is the equivalent of at least 50 private lessons with Prof. Steiner, personally! And you can review this instruction again and again, and save the DVDs for your children to study when they are old enough.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!:-

The system of martial arts presented in these DVDs is not a "traditional" or "classical" martial art.

These DVDs, and the information, and techniques contained within should not be taught, shown, or divulged to anyone under 18 years of age.

Due to the serious nature and lethality of the techniques shown, no one under 18 should be instructed in the techniques.

Due to potential serious injury or death, minors under the age of 18 should not be allowed to purchase or view the techniques demonstrated on the DVD's and in the system.

Minors lack the proper judgment and emotional restraint and discipline and should not be entrusted with the techniques contained herein.

Please utilize the techniques only in those situations where you would utilize a lethal weapon, similar to using a firearm, an improvised or edged weapon.

Please keep DVDs in a safe place out of the reach of minors, similar to safekeeping of firearms.

Contents:—

DVD #1 FUNDAMENTALS

- How to stand, move, distance, and position yourself
- The combat color code
- Attack mindedness
- Evasive footwork
- How to shield
- “Fairbairn’s Four” —

The chinjab smash, the handaxe chop, the tiger’s claw, and the side kick. All clearly explained and demonstrated so that anyone with no prior experience in any martial art can understand and develop the skills! These are the first four of *American Combato’s* 16 Key Blows (originally regarded by W.E. Fairbairn as the “most essential” basic blows, comprising a complete mini-system of personal hand-to-hand combat, once mastered).

DVD#2 BASIC BLOWS

- Continuing from “Fairbairn’s Four”, this powerful presentation completes your lessons in the remaining 12 Key Blows — the most practical and effective blows — in unarmed close combat.
 - The straight heelpalm
 - The knee attack
 - The front kick

- The elbow smash
- The fingertips *thrust*
- The fingertips *jab*
- The snap kick
- The backfist-forearm smash
- The hammerfist-forearm smash
- The basic straight punch
- The ear box
- The throat lock

DVD#3 ATTACK COMBINATIONS - FIRST SERIES

• Powerful and devastatingly effective combinations of attacking actions which are adaptable to an infinite number of situations and emergency circumstances. These attack combinations utilize the Key Blows, and include additional offensive unarmed combat actions and tactics. which enable you to infinitely combine, and improvise limitless sequences and applications of ferocious attacks of your own.

This DVD focuses on attack combinations leading with *HANDAXE CHOPS* and *THRUSTING ACTIONS*, the first two categories of “attack combinations” in *American Combato*.

In this and the next DVD you will learn more combinations of each type than you would ever possibly need.

DVD#4 ATTACK COMBINATIONS - SECOND SERIES

• Completing a well-balanced, comprehensive curriculum in vicious, unconventional, yet simple and readily applicable attacking sequences which enable the practitioner to overwhelm and disable any assailant. These combinations continue to expand your capability with the Key Blows and with other actions and tactics, and turn you into a dangerous, unpredictable, offensive combatant in close quarters combat. You’ll be an expert at taking the battle into the enemy’s camp and *attacking your attacker!*

This DVD trains you in *DISTRACTING LEAD ATTACKS, KICKING LEADS, and MISCELLANEOUS LEADS.*

DVD#5 COUNTERATTACKING THE UNARMED FRONTAL ASSAILANT

- No realistic close combat system is worthwhile unless the matter of *counterattacking* (i.e. reacting to attacks which you have been unable to preempt) is covered. In this DVD you will learn:
 - How to immediately react with devastating and decisive force against any grabbing type attack from the front
 - How to break holds that attackers might apply if they catch you off guard
 - How very simply to counter punching or kicking attacks

DVD#6 COUNTERING THE UNARMED REAR ATTACK

- Attacks from behind are *deadly*. Learn first and foremost to guard against leaving access to your rear. However, if caught unaware, learn
 - How to counter sudden grabbing attacks from behind
 - How to counter holds that may be applied from behind

DVD#7 COUNTERING KNIFE AND CLUB ATTACKS

- The proper tactics and mental ploys applicable to these situations is emphasized. Technically, you will be taught
 - How to deal with knife *threats*, from varying positions
 - How to save your life if attack by an adversary who is determined to slash or to stab you with a knife
 - How to counter overhand club attacks
 - How to counter the backhand club or baseball bat swing

DVD#8 COUNTERING HANDGUN AND SHOULDER WEAPON THREATS

- Obviously these, like knife and club attacks, are *deadly* threats and only the simplest, most basic and reliable methods should be studied. No weapon “takeaways” or complicated nonsense here! These are commando type actions and will work under the most adverse conditions. Intended to save lives — not your wallet.

- Frontal handgun threats
- Side handgun threats
- Rear handgun threats
- Frontal shoulder weapon threats
- Side shoulder weapon threats
- Rear shoulder weapon threats

DVD#9 COUNTERING MULTIPLE ATTACKERS

- Key principles and tactics of countering more than a single aggressor
- The core *scenarios* and how to develop counterattacking capabilities against two or more attackers that *really work*.

DVD#10 HOW TO USE THE STICK FOR SELF-DEFENSE

- Basic stick techniques
- The *complete* Fairbairn stick method (beyond what is taught in *ALL-IN FIGHTING/GET TOUGH!*)
- The USMC’s Kengla Technique
- Some advanced stickwork combinations
- How to use the *yawara* hand stick (for modern applications)

DVD#11 KNIFEWORK

- Psychological factors
- The universal grip (for stiletto and Bowie type knives, as well as for kitchen, utility, and all other types of knives, and for improvised stabbing and cutting implements)
- Knife *offense*

- Defending yourself with a knife

The cost of each individual DVD is \$59.95 + \$6. shipping and handling (**\$20. postage and handling for foreign orders**)

If you purchase the complete 11-DVD Course you pay only for 10 DVDs, bringing the total cost to \$599.50. You get one DVD FREE. **Add \$20. for postage and handling (\$40. for foreign orders).** That's just under \$600. for \$7,500. worth of training!
All DVD purchases are of course nonrefundable.

Personal checks may take up to three to four weeks to clear, in some cases. For *immediate* shipment send cash, or a postal money order, bank check or bank money order, payable to Brad Steiner. Send your order to:

**Brad Steiner
P.O. Box 15929
Seattle, Washington 98115
U.S.A.**

You will want to study these DVDs again and again, as they are rich in content and packed with solid, reliable information and instruction!

Knowing What To Use — And When

A martial art, if it is truly *martial* (that is, “of or pertaining to war”) encompasses unarmed combat and armed combat. We see unarmed combat and physical readiness as the foundation upon which physical

and technical skills are built. In fact this is nothing new; it is exactly how the martial arts of the world originated. That is, *not* as sports or mere esthetically satisfying fitness builders, but as systems and methods of engaging enemies in battle — during war. Later on, as the weaponry of nations became so advanced and sophisticated as to minimize hand-to-hand close-in combat and became much more technological, the unarmed combat of the classical arts became sports, and the *personal weaponry* part of the arts took a distant back seat to crew served machineguns, mortars, canon, etc. The **personal combat** that once dominated warfare in ancient times has been surpassed by technological combat. Such infantry as exists today is normally utilized *following* bombardment by sea and air. And while hand-to-hand close combat is still taught to military personnel, unarmed, knife, stick, tomahawk, and so on, if and when taught, is allotted only a minimal amount of time.

We would, were we in charge of the American military, establish a very rigorous and complete close combat program. By becoming well versed in the art of combat much more than technical physical ability develops. That is, *an all-important sense of what to use and when to use it* naturally evolves as the combatant becomes truly expert.

Many who resort to violence at the first slight hint of what they think of as “disrespect”, or a challenge to their manhood, or as a need to quickly beat someone — before he beats them, etc. do so because they are not skilled enough to feel the inner confidence that comes from being genuinely prepared.

A very unfortunate misconception that prevents some parents from enrolling their children in self-defense courses, and that also blocks a lot of adults from considering the study of serious close combat is the completely erroneous idea that training in how to deal with violence *by using overwhelming violence* automatically makes the individual aggressive, anti-social, and belligerent. **Nothing could be further from the truth.** In fact it is the person who *lacks* skill and confidence in his abilities who is the most likely to become needlessly volatile, and get into avoidable encounters with others.

A serious lack of self-confidence accounts for why some bullies (not all, by any means) do what they do. They seek to bolster their own poor sense of personal strength, efficacy, and formidability by dominating those whom they feel certain cannot fight back. The obvious and clear solution to a youngster's problem with a bully is to teach him or her how to defend himself. A powerful retaliatory action taken by surprise and leaving a bully injured, humiliated, scared, and aware that he has indeed picked the wrong person, will make further attempts to bully the one who defeated him very unlikely.

Concern over excessive force by law enforcement officers is everywhere being expressed today. In point of fact the overwhelming majority of police officers are *not* inclined to be excessively violent. However, the very nature of their work places them daily in situations where some degree of force is necessary to control, arrest — sometimes even knock out or worse — an offender. It must be done. The best if not the only way to insure that force will be employed appropriately is to make certain that by the time a police recruit graduates basic academy he is thoroughly prepared to handle violence — **with violence**. When you know and feel that you can do whatever needs doing to a suspect *if* he resists or attacks, you have no problem using discretion and attempting all available alternatives to seriously injuring him.

Quality teachers of combat skills and self-defense will always emphasize the need to avoid trouble if at all possible. Only when it becomes clear that you are in danger do you drop all restraints and deal with your aggressor viciously and without mercy. Why? *Because that is what violent predators do when they move on their victims.*

Having sufficient and serious training in what to do and how to engage the situation mentally, a person is most likely to apply the right amount of force required by the immediate circumstance. Training — the more the better — is what goes most certainly to assure that *appropriate* and *necessary* force will be rendered.

The police officer has certain advantages since his department will always provide him with definite guidelines relevant to the use of force against suspects or/and assailants. Guidelines cover the officer's use of his hands and feet, his sidearm, his baton, and any chemical agents he may be equipped with. In basic academy he is also taught verbal and interactive skills. *For the police officer the rule is: **follow the mandates as set forth by your department or agency.***

The private citizen faces a different problem. He is not indemnified by a law enforcement agency and the city, state or federal government for whom he works. *His* job is not to be prepared to look for and deal with troublemakers, but to *avoid* trouble and resort to force only when no alternative exists. Whether with bare hands or with a properly licensed weapon, the **only** time the private citizen should allow himself to employ force is when danger to his life or to the life of another innocent person is *imminent*. Otherwise . . . walk away, run away, apologize, do anything reasonable and feasible to **NOT** allow a situation to escalate.

Any instruction that advocates “fighting” (other than in a sporting context) is going to get the student in deep, serious trouble one day, and it may well result in his being imprisoned or/and heavily sued in a civil court. Quality instruction in close combat and self-defense for the private citizen should emphasize avoidance as the first and most desirable option as far as dealing with any troublemaker is concerned. We stress this again and again and doubtless there will be morons who object to the advice, viewing it as not being “macho” enough. ***To hell with those idiots.*** But our concern is providing the best possible advice that we know of for those who are concerned about self-defense. And this is exactly what we are doing.

Only if and when actually attacked — confronted by imminent danger — should your skills and combat attitude be summoned and directed. And when that happens, if God forbid it ever does, waste no time or energy on talk, reasoning, restraint, sympathy, compassion, ethics, decency, or concern. **Just go get the assailant!** Bring your mind, your spirit, your strength, your speed, your resolve, your skills, and every

ounce of your determination to bear, *and do not hesitate or pause, but keep on attacking until the assailant has been neutralized and you are safe.*

Question: “What about people who are annoying but not dangerous, or what some have referred to as ‘mild attacks’; you don’t seem to offer an option here?”

Answer: Any attack by someone who you either do not know personally to actually *be* a mere pest, or by a stranger, is **serious**. You cannot afford to assume that what is initiated as a “mere” wrist grab, arm grab, clothing seizure, shove, etc. is in fact not serious. ***Murders have been initiated by smiling approaches!*** **The fact that an adversary’s first move is not destructive or damaging may be only because he is a clod. He may followup that “merely annoying” move with a knife stab, a powerful punch to your face, or some other seriously damaging action.** Sorry . . . but without being able to read minds it behooves you to assume the worst when you have no solid reason to believe no real danger is in the offing.

View self-defense skills as *weapons*. Not merely those skills that actually involve weaponry, per se, but unarmed skills, as well.

There is a very good reason why self-defense techniques need to be damaging, dangerous, simple, and doable *for life*: Real world violent attacks are extremely dangerous, and they are directed against persons of both genders and all ages. And this is also why you do not use self-defense techniques — which must be harmful and vicious in the extreme — until or unless you find yourself in real danger. To knock-out, maim, cripple, or kill a human being is a terrible thing. It must only be done when there is absolutely no other alternative, in order to prevent an innocent individual from being knocked-out, maimed, crippled, or killed. The purpose of martial arts training is to insure a safer, better human society . . . not to give license to wild animals.

Against Whom Will You Be Defending?

VIOLENCE is abhorrent to any civilized human being. But there are hundreds of thousands of incidents of foolish and childish violence committed by foolish and childish people every day — and it is these types of violent intervention into their lives that lead many individuals to seek out instruction in personal defense. Usually it begins in childhood and adolescence with punks and bullies and other assorted obnoxious living trash that makes the lives of those who are trying to grow up normally very unpleasant.

Very few people who commence the study of self-defense do so with a realistic concept of just how dangerous and life-threatening real world physical violence is. Their image of an “attacker” is a punk who thinks he’s tough, a schoolyard bully, or some loudmouth who becomes mildly abusive and who is inclined to humiliate but not cripple or kill them. Without dismissing the concern of the typical new student to self-defense about being victimized by this low-level, worthless scum, we want to alert those who may not have considered the idea before that *it is **not these examples of piddling trash and human debris that pose the serious threat for which the decent citizen ought to prepare himself.***

With time, training, and self-confidence, known pests and annoying jerkoffs can be shrugged off. Certainly they need not be feared. What is essential is that the student of self-defense be ready to cope with the dangerous, experienced, hardened felon — the vicious, murderous and determined psychopath or nutjob whose objective is to beat, maim, kidnap, rape, torture, and often *kill*. If a program or course of training in self-defense neglects training in mindset and skills that enable one to stand a good chance of destroying one of **these** societal monsters, then the prospective student should keep on looking.

We remember how many ju-jutsu techniques we spent hours training to master in which an “attacker” was (we would say today, *optimistically!*) subjected to some stupid pain compliance hold, lock, or grip. Wrist turning (kote gaeshi) and arm locking (kansetsu waza) were emphasized.

And as time went by we could perform these actions very well — on fellow students. We could also apply judo’s hip and shoulder throws, and of course *osoto-gari* — the standard leg-reaping technique. We could (again, against fellow students or, *maybe*, against slow-moving dolts) apply armlocks and throws against someone attempting to punch us. The big problem with all of that fancy fluff is that — if and when confronted by a determined killer who had been acclimated to vicious violence since childhood — the attempt to apply such fine motor, non-lethal nonsense would surely get us killed!

Like most individuals we came to the martial arts with no real concept of what hand-to-hand violence is. We were a child, and we simply accepted the assurances and instructions of (a doubtless well-intentioned) teacher about *how* we would be attacked, by *whom* we would be attacked, and *how we could and should deal with their attack* as it was directed against us, without question.

Had our interest in self-defense been passing and superficial we would never have gone on to discover the truth about violent crime, violent people, and dangerous criminal attacks by antisocial garbage whose mentality had never risen to an appreciation of the value of human life.

When we learned more about what a determined violent offender could and would do — and was doing, every day, to someone somewhere whom he had targetted for his goddamn “entertainment” or satisfaction — we woke up, grew up, saw the light, and began focusing on what worked for real, in the real world, against real attackers.

We looked to serious, destructive skills — and modern weapons — as the solution to dangerous, violent criminal violation. **SO SHOULD YOU.**

If you are ever attacked for real it will be by a dangerous individual or individuals who are deadly serious about causing you dreadful injury. This is not pleasant to consider, but if you want to be able to defend

yourself when it matters, **get with this concept and train for this eventuality.**

Some have said that wartime hand-to-hand combat skills are inappropriate to situations of self-defense that arise in “peacetime”. We vigorously disagree. First, because you can be maimed or killed just as easily by a violent street attacker as you can be by an enemy soldier, and second, because violent offenders are far more likely to be ruthless and dangerous than are enemy soldiers (who in private life might be very decent, law-abiding citizens). A soldier fights *in wartime* and in service to his country. A violent offender injures and kills because he feels like it and/or to gratify his criminal desire for another’s property, or for the pleasure of sadistic domination. True enough, an enemy soldier may be well-trained, determined to kill, and a very formidable threat. ***But you need fear encountering him only in war. The violent scum is out there — 24/7 — on the streets, in the parks, office buildings, schools, and everywhere humans go in the normal daily course of their lives.*** When and if you are so unfortunate as to encounter his kind then you want to be able to surpass his mindset of ruthless disregard, and maim, cripple, disable, and — if absolutely necessary to save innocent life — kill him. Not a “nice” thought at all; but a thought that every student of self-defense had best be thinking.

If ever you must defend yourself for real it will not be against a bothersome smartass, a dojo training partner, or a half-determined fellow who is momentarily angry. It will be against someone whose life has been steeped in violence; someone who is at home with violence, who has no regard for the well-being of his victims, and who delights in whatever harm and damage he brings to you.

Please be mindful of all of this when you train, and let how you train and the techniques that you study reflect your appreciation of that which the real world offers.

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We've been a pioneer of what today is called “Reality Based Self-Defense” and the purveyance of the “WWII Close

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— — long before most of today’s “instructors” were born! Our writings reflect the knowledge, skills, and teaching experiences acquired over a period of 60 years, and of our training, learning, and doing!

What’s With This “WWII Methods” Thing?

WE plead to being guilty of having to a large extent started the fascination with WWII close combat methods in the field of martial arts. Back in the 60’s we realized several important things about the classical/traditional martial arts of Asia:

- They were complicated methods and normally required at a bare minimum several years of hard, consistent training before they were actually reliable in serious emergencies
- They approached the matter of personal combat and self-defense by demanding what are in many instances very unnatural movements and body actions be mastered
- They were generally practiced in an atmosphere of mysticism and a suggestion of the arcane
- They focused entirely on *defense* when dealing with violence, and neglected the all-important *offense*, which history had proven is always essential for defeating enemies — whether

opposing nation (in war), or individuals (in personal combat)

- Their various curriculum seemed always to require the study of many more different, individual techniques than were in fact necessary for victory in real world close combat
- Their modern forms seemed always to emphasize that the methods were for *both* sport *and* actual combat, failing to identify the inevitable fact that each area of focus demanded a unique and radically different approach— mentally, technically, tactically, physically, and strategically
- Their inclusion of weaponry was either non-existent or centered about antiquated weapons that were state-of-the-art when the system was developed and utilized, but that are basically of no practical use today
- Their underlying theory of physical readiness was flawed because of a disdain for progressive resistance (weight) training
- Their implied arrogance which was apparent when dismissing dangerous street fighters and violent offenders as being easy to defend against
- Their woefully impractical methods of knife and firearm defense — using fine motor moves and unrealistic control and takeaway skills in situations demanding *lethal force*.

It was a combination of training under the late Charles Nelson and our study of *Kill or Get Killed*, by Rex Applegate, *Get Tough!*, by William Fairbairn, and several other wartime books that we managed to acquire that set us on a different — and we believe *much more realistic and practical* — path. It led us to adopt the wartime philosophy and methods and, what was more, begin to cull the classical *ju-jutsu*, *kenpo-karate*, *taekwon-do*, and *varmannie* for such techniques as these methods could yield which actually met the wartime standards. (There is a

significant amount of material in the classical/traditional systems that is of serious merit, but it takes a lot of parsing and ferreting-out over time to discover them.) The comprehensive martial art that we developed as a result of this, i.e. *American Combato (Jen•Do•Tao)*, is rooted in the WWII methods (i.e. in **practical, war-proven** methods) and makes use of the strong points of many classical approaches, modern physical training, what is known about mental conditioning and its inculcation by hypnosis, and modern weapons.

“What’s the big deal about the WWII methods?” Simply this: ***They work. They were proven in vicious combat with trained, disciplined enemies whose own methods failed when tested against them.*** And by holding the core principles that underlie the WWII methods as the standard for accepting any other techniques for inclusion in our repertoire, we can expand realistically upon those relatively brief wartime courses and establish a comprehensive, *modern* martial art.

The WWII combatives teachers paved the way! In fact we will go so far as to say that “martial arts” per se really were stagnant bodies of traditionally-rooted doctrine until the 20th century when *Western* — not Eastern — innovation, due in large measure to wartime necessity, propelled hand-to-hand combat into a truly functional, practical realm.

Today, we believe that those concerned exclusively with close combat, self-defense, and the *modern* applications of armed and unarmed personal battle skills **must** draw heavily upon both the curriculum *and* the guiding philosophy that produced the WWII methods, while rigorously wringing out the classical/traditional arts for their practical nuggets, and combining them with the course-offerings of Fairbairn, Biddle, Applegate, O’Neill, Feldenkrais, and others.

Because of the tendency of some who are either incredibly stupid or amazingly dishonest (or possibly both) we need to emphasize that we are in no way “against” classical/traditional martial arts, and those who are devoted to their practice. These arts will always remain worthy systems of personal development, self-discipline, esthetic satisfaction, physical

fitness, character-building, and — when mastered to a *very* high level of proficiency — self-defense. If these be anyone's particular cup of tea, we say "Go for it. And may you always enjoy and benefit from your studies." But for those who, like ourself, came to the martial arts solely for **practical, functional, reliable, modern, lifetime skills** in actual, real world individual combat with and without weapons, we urge that what the WWII methods offer be respectfully and deeply explored.

Just consider *one brief passage* taken from the 1942 Classic *Kill or Get Killed*, by then Capt. Rex Applegate. It offers an acid test for determining the merits of any skills offered as being suitable for close combat:

“Will this work so that I can use it instinctively in vital combat against an opponent who is determined to prevent me from doing so and who is striving to eliminate me by fair means or foul?”

There you have it! Honestly measure what you train in against *that* standard, and if your repertoire measures up, rest assured that you are training in reliable and worthy combat skills. If your techniques do not meet that standard then discard them for superior methods, or alter them so that they *do* measure up.

Way back in th 1960's we saw the superiority of the WWII methods — the very finest of which turned classicism on its head and emphasized **OFFENSE** as the key to winning in dangerous combat, as opposed to "defense". (**Note:** Lest some choose to misinterpret this, **get this straight:** *We recognize defense as the only legitimate reason for the use of any degree of force, unarmed or armed. But while holding to defense as the only morale **motive**, we insist that offense remains the most effective **means**.) You can't stop a determined kidnap attempt by breaking the kidnapper's hold on your arm. You *can* stop such an attempt by breaking the would-be kidnapper's leg, or by driving a powerful attack to his eyes. And *these* are typical of the methods taught and emphasized strongly in the methods of WWII.*

While thorough mastery of unarmed combat is a necessity, of no less importance for the student of comprehensive self-defense today is the mastery of modern weapons: the handgun, the shotgun, the carbine, the knife, the stick, and improvised weapons-at-hand. It was in the WWII programs where the *synthesis* of modern weaponry and unarmed close combat was strongly stressed for the first time in the modern era. (Weapons, as we have pointed out previously and elsewhere, have *always* been integral to martial arts; but until WWII “martial arts” per se did not teach autopistol and revolver use, the employment of shoulder arms, the fighting knife and such stick weapons as the blackthorne walking stick, the Koga baton, etc.).

We insist that there certainly *is* a great deal to be taken from the WWII methods, and that their programs offer what is considerably more, in some instances, for the modern student of self-defense, than such courses in karate and ju-jitsu as are popularly taught today.

Thank goodness we have available for study the written works of some of the WWII teachers. Thus, you can see — and read — for yourself what the men who trained the Axis Forces thought and taught about close combat. Reprints of most of these publications are readily available:

1. *Kill or Get Killed*, by Rex Applegate
2. *Get Tough!* / or / *All-In Fighting* — and — *Shooting to Live*, by William Fairbairn
3. *Combat Judo*, by Robert Carlin
4. *Do Or Die* (1944 edition), by Anthony J.D. Biddle
5. *Hadaka-Jime: The Core Technique For Practical Unarmed Combat*, by Moshe Feldenkrais
6. *Hand-to-Hand Combat*, U.S. Naval Institute (V-5 Series Book)
7. *Combat Without Weapons*, by E. Hartley Leather
8. *U.S. Army Field Manual 21-150 Combatives* (1971 edition) — This Publication provides a synopsis of an O’Neill System-based approach to hand-to-hand combat

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Brief #3: Fairbairn's "Silent Killing Course"

(Original and full outline as Fairbairn drafted it — with commentary)

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Brief #4: "Stay On Your Feet!"

(The truth about real individual combat vs. sporting matches, and why the myth of ground fighting for self-defense and military close combat is misleading many regarding effective combatives)

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Brief #5: Rules Of Self-Defense

(Of course there really are no "rules" in a self-defense emergency; but this Brief synthesizes those precepts that will guide you to realism in your training)

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Brief #6: Close Range — Quick Reaction!

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defense and in war)

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Brief #7: Remembering Charles Nelson And His Valuable Lessons

(We remember our years with "Charlie"; including some of the actual self-defense tips he taught, and a copy of the Men's Magazine article about Charles Nelson, from 1960)

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(Although judo is much more than a mere “sport”, it is not an all-in combat method. Some judo experts may be able to apply their training in real combat, but to make judo really effective in an emergency the modifications enumerated in this Brief are necessary.)

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Brief #21: *Fighting Vs. Self-Defense*

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(Training without a partner is essential for the fullest development of self-defense skill and mental preparedness. This Brief teaches why this is so, and how to train solo with optimum benefits and maximum practical skill development.)

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Brief #23: *Find And Depend Upon Your Best Techniques*

(Every student and expert is different and everyone serious about self-defense must discover and perfect his own best skills, which need to be drawn from combat-proven doctrine. Here’s how to do it.)

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(A potpourie of insights and tips covering all aspects of practical self-defense and close combat as garnered in over 60-plus years of immersion in and passion about the subjects.)

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Brief #25: *Tactics For Countering A Gun Or Knife Threat*

(There are numerous “techniques” for dealing with an enemy who threatens you with a knife or gun. We believe, and many agree, that the American Combato methods are — hands down — the best. But regardless of what particular techniques you train in, unless your psychological/tactical interface is correct, the odds for you being successful are not at all that

good. This Brief explains clearly what interfacing tactics you need to develop.) **\$4.**

Brief #26: *Triple Your Learning And Retention With Mental Review*

(Few give any thought to the importance and value of mentally reviewing the physical skills that they acquire and wish to be able to use. Fewer still do their “mental reviewing” correctly. Learn how from this Brief, and start to enjoy much greater progress in your personal skills and confidence building.) **\$4.**

Brief #27: *The Fighting Knife: A “Must Master” Weapon*

(This is a unique instructional work for all students of self-defense and close combat. It offers a complete analysis of the significance of the fighting knife — its indispensable role in the combat arts curriculum — and valuable training advice for achieving mastery.) **\$4.**

Brief #28: *Finding The Right Teacher And Method For Yourself*

*(There are more martial arts schools and teachers in the State of California or New York alone than in all of Asia! And today there are hundreds claiming to be teaching practical, reliable close combat and defense. From the Founder of the first comprehensive and authentic all-combat American martial Art here is a **complete** guide to locating and evaluating the right teacher for you. Also — what to do if you have limited recourse and can't find a teacher.)* **\$4.**

Brief #29: *Conditioning The Natural Weapons*

*(In this 21st century the student of practical self-defense needs impact practice more than the kind of comprehensive natural weapon hardening typical of the classical “karate” schools. Still, for the super-enthusiastic self-defense/close combat student there are some efficient toughening approaches that should be used if hardening of the **practical** weapons is desired.)* **\$4.**

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(All of the martial arts are good; but they are not all good for the same thing. Very definitely, there are distinctive characteristics that make a system in question better for combat and personal defense than another system. This Brief provides the information needed to properly assess a given system's value for combat — not for competition or tradition.) **\$4.**

Brief #31: *Repetition And Attitude: The Real "Secret" Of Developing Ability*

*(Most who take up martial art training of any kind do not succeed in achieving their desired objectives. And the reason is simple: They do not do enough, and they do not do what they do with the right spirit and attitude. Ninety five percent of those who consider themselves "martial artists" spend more time on backyard-gossip type "forums" and other idiotic medium instead of **training hard with the right mindset**. Here's how to do it right!)* **\$4.**

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(Principles of intelligence tradecraft are extremely valuable to those who are serious about self-defense. During the Cold War secret agents working in the most difficult denied areas for CIA [and England's MI6] were guided by an above-Top Secret set of rules called the "Moscow Rules". Now declassified (but still in use by secret servants) these Rules are valuable for all seriously concerned self-defense students. **\$4.**

Brief #33: *Tiger Moves*

(The late John McSweeney was a close friend and colleague of ours for many years. He is correctly known as "The Father of Irish Karate", and in addition to being a marvelously practical and realistic teacher of armed and unarmed self-defense, John was

the creator of a System of exercise which he called “Tiger Moves”. We recommend that everyone — including those who train with weights or some other medium — learn this excellent Program.) **\$4.**

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Brief #36: “73 Rules Of Spycraft”

(After his death a paper by Allen Dulles (Head of CIA) was found among his effects. Titled “Some Elements Of Intelligence Work” this Document was an unpublished goldmine of tradecraft. Here it is reproduced in full. A marvelous companion to The Moscow Rules.) **\$4.**

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(Much more solid tradecraft enabling you to engage

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(Methods employed by trained agents and underground warriors who fight in reistance to tyranny.) **\$4.**

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(Spies are taught to notice everything. You can learn to be as alert and observant as the finest secret agents, if you'll follow the guidance in this Training Brief.)

Brief #42: *Urban Escape And Evasion*

(Escaping from captivity is a fascinating aspect of tradecraft training for secret intelligence and special operations military people. It takes courage, fitness, resolve, ingenuity, and a mastery of that which is described in this Brief.) **\$4.**

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Why We Advocate The Shooting

Method We Do

(And Why We Do *Not* Advocate The Popular Approach)

Weapons are and always have been a part of our System's curriculum. We therefore include articles on combat shooting, use of the knife, stick combat, improvised weapons, etc. on our web sites.

Until the unfortunate introduction of what has been referred to as the "new technique of the pistol" it was understood that point shooting was the proper method of employing a revolver or automatic in close combat. We say "unfortunate" because, while the so-called new technique offers a fine and most enjoyable approach to *competitive* shooting, it does not, in our view, offer anything relevant to the **close range / quick reaction** type of shooting that real, honest-to-goodness combat requires, when, as Fairbairn put it, you are *shooting to live*.

A correspondent recently asked us our personal opinion of the late Col. Jeff Cooper. We did know the man, took training in his "new technique" personally under him before he founded Gunsite, have been certified by him, and had occasion to visit him at Gunsite when he ran the facility in the late 1970's.

In our experience and opinion Jeff Cooper was an extremely intelligent and articulate man whose written works are delightful to read. We thought him a staunch patriot and a fine social commentator. We respect him also for his record in WWII as an officer of marines, having served in the Pacific.

Jeff Cooper was certainly one of the world's top authorities on small arms. We do not, however, accept the method of competitive shooting that became (as Cooper would refer to it) "the new technique of the pistol" as a *combat* shooting method, per se, nor certainly not as any replacement for the method of handgun shooting that was developed and taught by Fairbairn, Sykes, Applegate, Bryce, Jordan, O'Neill, Weston, and others, and that **is** true combat shooting: i.e. the *point shooting* method.

Cooper's so-called "new" technique grew out of experiences gained by avid shooters in competition and sport shooting matches. The earlier (Fairbairn, etc.) method — i.e. **point shooting** — evolved directly and

exclusively from actual combat experiences and studies of what the human organism goes through *involuntarily* in lethal combat.

Some of Jeff Cooper's pet comments, which follow, reflect what were *his personal opinions*. An awful lot of experience and evidence can be referenced to demonstrate their falsehood:

"The *new technique* allows a man to use his pistol with the effectiveness of a rifle."

"You are only 'outgunned' if you miss."

"High capacity handguns are useful if you plan to miss a lot." (Note: This may have originated with one of Cooper's very close associates, Bruce Nelson)

"Revolvers are antiquated."

"Keep your trigger finger *off* the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire." (This grew 100% out of the concern for range safety when teaching novices. *Wartime instruction and post-WWII instruction (most notably of the FBI) always stressed getting your finger inside that trigger guard and ready to pull the trigger immediately when you drew your weapon.*)

We will always have a great deal of respect for the late Col. Cooper, and while completely disagreeing with his "new technique" *for combat shooting of the handgun*, we nonetheless acknowledge that his knowledge of small arms per se was world class, and his writings are immensely worthwhile and well done. We also acknowledge the great value of his emphasizing *mindset* and mental conditioning for combat when he taught and wrote.

Note: It is possible that some whose reading comprehension skills and capacity to think logically need brushing up will regard my acknowledgement of Cooper as a top authority on small arms, while

insisting that his *theory of combat handgun shooting* per se is **wrong**, as a contradiction. It is not. To use an analogy: There are individuals who are world class authorities on the construction and capabilities of the world's fighter jets, and possibly on different *theories* of what is most effective in air-to-air combat, yet who are *not themselves qualified fighter pilots*. These individuals might come up with one or two theories about how to fly a fighter jet when engaging an opposition aircraft in battle, but their concept about this could be totally incorrect and inapplicable. **Fighter pilots with lots of combat experience** are the ones to consult here; just as **those who have engaged in deadly gun battles and prevailed** are the ones to consult about the way to engage enemies in gun battles.

Ah! . . . lest someone point out that Cooper *was* experienced in combat and that he *did* use his sidearm — twice, actually — to save his life during WWII, **he did so using POINT SHOOTING** (which he advocated strongly before he and his friends decided — following the war — that how they could best win recreational shooting matches translated into what everyone needed to do when the shooting was for keeps!)

Note-2: The genuinely mindless might ask the rhetorical question: “So who the hell are *you* to speak on this subject; *you have never been a soldier or a police officer*, and probably have never been in a real gun battle?” To which we reply:

Right you are! That's exactly why we refer to those who *have* been and done, and why we constantly urge that *their* advocacies (and not the half-baked crap that so many “firearms instructors” and “shooting schools” are pumping out) be regarded as a source of viable doctrine.

And it really ought to be noted and marked well that *the mere fact that someone is or was employed in law enforcement or in one of our armed services hardly serves as verification that he knows much about combat shooting — or even about guns, for that matter!* It is fashionable today for anyone who likes guns and who worked or works in any capacity at all where carrying one was or is part of his daily attire to present himself as a “combat handgun expert”. This is a complete myth and should be understood as such.

And . . . P.S.: Although not a combat veteran per se, we have been immersed in the dedicated study and practice of combat arts — with and without weapons — and in researching that which others in every area of public service and the private sector who have had experience have had to teach on the matter for more than **60 years**. And we have been officially certified by *both* the late Cols. Cooper *and* Applegate to teach their methods. (Obviously, we only teach the point shooting system which Applegate taught to more than 10,000 combatants during WWII). *That's* “who the hell we are to speak on this subject”.

Postscript: If you are interested in a thorough, well-researched, fully documented presentation that explains the entire history of authentic close combat shooting, and how and why the “new technique” is a most misunderstood, *ineffective* and *unnecessary* “replacement” for it; actually a **misguided** attempt to replace a thoroughly proven method that is as valid in the 21st century as it was when developed in the early years of the 20th, get hold of the Classic **QUICK OR DEAD**, by William Cassidy. A brilliant, comprehensive work.

PPS:— THE FACTS

We have pointed out (often!) that Jeff Cooper was a point shooter in his years prior to the post-war Big Bear Lake competition years. In fact Cooper dispatched the two wartime adversaries whom he shot during the war in the Pacific using point shooting! *He knew very well that point shooting is combat shooting.* The unfortunate myth that the post-war sporting form of competition shooting (“Weaver” stance, use-of-sights, etc.) took hold, however, and influenced untold numbers of shooters who never bothered to learn about real combat.

Here is a post-1970 photo of Cooper in which you see him using the (in my opinion ridiculous) “finger-outside-the-trigger-guard position. This was advocated for safety reasons, and for liability purposes when teaching commercially:



Now here is a photo of the young Jeff Cooper, taken from one of the books in which he contributed some excellent material on combat shooting. Not only was Cooper (quite correctly) an advocate and user of point shooting then, he included in his shooting style the CORRECT finger-inside-the-trigger-guard position (as you can see for yourself!): Please note that we do not present this as an “attack” on, or an attempt to “denigrate” Jeff Cooper. He was certainly one



of the world's top authorities on small arms. *However*, the plain truth (however many choose to ignore it) is that he was **WRONG** when he insisted on —

- a) His “new technique” being a combat and not a competition technique. It is *definitely* the latter.
- b) His technique being an advancement over the point shooting method. It certainly is *not*.
- c) It being desirable to attempt to use the handgun’s sights for close quarters combat shooting. Utterly wrong and physiologically and psychologically all but *impossible* under actual combat conditions. (And unnecessary).
- d) The so-called “Weaver” stance (interestingly enough, first depicted in his book *SHOOTING* by Fitzgerald) being a desirable combat stance. It is not. It is too complicated and goes against how the human body tends to move involuntarily under deadly combat conditions.
- e) Keeping the trigger finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger until a decision is made to fire. Real world close combat training specifically dictated that the trigger finger always bbe inside that trigger guard, never outside and off the trigger until “ready to fire”!

Don't miss the article in www.seattlecobatives.com “Monthly Instruction” Section on proper training for the combat use of the handgun!

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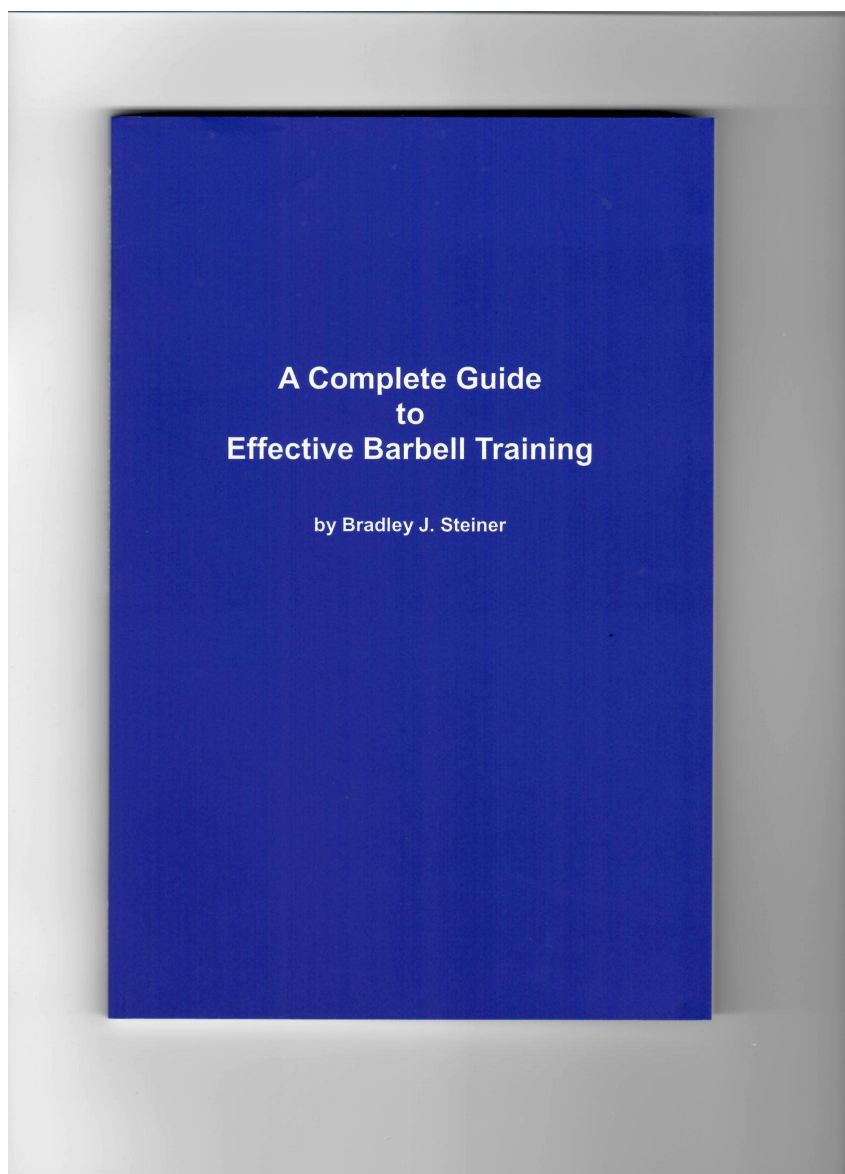
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What *Really* Works!

Student of Prof. Bryans, Paul Fisher, was kind enough to send the photo below — taken from that video posted on YouTube of the U.S. Army Special Forces soldier vs. the Peruvian Special Forces soldier. Both black belts, and this was a *real* encounter.

Obviously the U.S. SF soldier used a tiger’s claw type attack to the Peruvian SF soldier, which ended the encounter in the first second. The Peruvian soldier was seriously injured and took hours to recover enough to get treatment.

While we do **not** condone fights and believe that this one was unnecessary and *should not have taken place*, we can see what works for real by what occurred during this second-long “engagement”.



The “Tiger’s Claw” thrust is one of *American Combato*’s **16 Key Blows** and was advocated by both Fairbairn and Applegate as a near-perfect solution to any frontal attack.

As we receive numerous requests to quote items and passages that appear here in *SWORD & PEN* and on our other web site,

www.seattlecombatives.com, from the various sections there, we will again state the terms by which our material may be used **and used only non-commercially**:

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