HOP-LITE

Newsletter of the International Hoplology Society — No. 8, Fall 1999

Form And Function

Comments on Modern Training

The problem with all modern military non-firearm close-quarters combat training is its seemingly inherent philosophical separation from firearms combat. The thinking seems to be that the neuro-psychological basis of human combative behavior is going to be different for non-firearms combat and firearms combat. The behavioral patterns related to aggression and combat evolved during pre-human through early and prehistoric human development. The time period since the advent of agriculture and sedentary or pastoral societies–roughly 10,000 years before present–has not been long enough for significant adaptation to occur for dealing with the combat/warfare of village, state, or nation. And certainly the last six hundred years of firearms use is too short a time for humans to have evolved new genetic coding for aggression and/or combat. The fact, then, is that we deal with aggression and combat with the same wiring that our hunter/gatherer ancestors did; using a Glock instead of a club is of no significance to our behavioral base.

In this issue...

It stands to reason then, that those base factors should be of primary interest in preparation for combat. Indeed, the most effective way to train for combat is to work with the patterns with which we are genetically wired. In other words, if you want to train someone to be more effective with a gun, you could easily and effectively start the training with a club, sword, knife, or spear. This is not because the modern combatant is likely to have to resort to those weapons, but because he is going to have to resort to behavioral patterns that are best enhanced in the context for which they evolved, i.e., close-quarters, hand-held-weapon combat.

The Gō no Kata:

An Introduction to the Forgotten Form of Kodokan Judo

Antony Cundy

In 1998, the 51st annual meeting and tournament of the Dōyūkai (道友会 "Association For Friends of the Way") was held at the Kodokan in Tokyo, Japan. There, Ochiai Toshiyasu, 7th dan, and Taniguchi Yutaka, 4th dan, presented an exhibition of the Gō-no-Kata (剛の型 - "Forms of Hardness/Inflexibility/Strength"). It was the first time in 50 years that these kata had been seen in the cradle of modern judo. The re-emergence of the Gō-no-Kata is a significant event in the world of modern judo, where it represents an important historical link between the classical practices of jūjutsu and the all-round educational emphasis of Kano Jigoro's Kodokan Judo. This kata was reckoned by late 9th dan Kuhara Yoshiyuki to be the oldest original kata in the Kodokan.

The Gō-no-Kata in practice is a complex of prearranged movement patterns, executed by two practitioners who engage in short bursts of strength matching exercises, which are then concluded by the application of a throwing or choking technique. For example, in the first technique, the exponents take a grappler's embrace, and then attempt to push each other backwards; they then reverse their efforts

and attempt to pull each other forward. The pushing procedure is then resumed until the predetermined winner breaks from the pushing action, and utilizes his partner's momentum to execute a shoulder throw. For exhibition purposes, the timing for the push-pull changes is roughly decided beforehand, however when done in normal training, the timing is not predetermined. This kind of semi-cooperative resistance training is not only an excellent conditioning exercise, but forces the practitioners to act decisively under intensive physical and mental pressure. This type of training differs from the standard Jū-no-Kata (柔の型 - Forms of Suppleness/Flexibility/Gentleness), which more typify Kodokan training. The Jū-no-Kata are a fully cooperative kata.

In all, seven distinct techniques are practiced. Three of these are repeated with different entering patterns. This then brings the total to ten.

The names of the techniques are:

1: Seioinage
2: Ushirogoshi
3: Sukuinage
4: Seionage
5: Ukigoshi
6: Hadakajime koshikudaki
7: Tobikoshi ukigoshi
8: Osoto otoshi
9: Ushirogoshi
10: Kataguruma

The Gō-no-Kata are believed to have been taught privately by Kodokan Founder Kano Jigoro in the earliest days of Kodokan Judo. They are said to have been used as warming up/conditioning exercises at the start of a class, in the way that modern practitioners engage in Uchikomi.

One immediately noticeable aspect of the kata is the adoption by both exponents of the Jigotai posture. It is from this low hip posture that all movements are initiated in the Gō-no-Kata. Jigotai can be seen in many older pictures of Kodokan Judo, and is still preserved in the current Kodokan throwing techniques (Nage-no-Kata), such as Sumikaeshi. Jigotai is especially important in developing hip and thigh strength. The use of this posture in the kata allows the use of the hips as the strength basis for the pushing and pulling actions, rather than relying on the shoulders. The late 9th dan judo great, Sakamoto Fusataro, noted that this posture is ideal for developing the correct balance of will, energy, and strength that is necessary for the correct application of movement and technique. Incidentally, the concept of harmonizing these three elements–will, energy, and strength–in action is a fundamental teaching of Tenjin Shinyō Ryū, one of the jūjutsu traditions upon which Kano based his judo.

Another interesting aspect of Gō-no-Kata is the avoidance of gripping the opponent's clothing. (It should be noted that the sleeves of the early judo tops would only reach down to the elbows, and pant legs only down to the knees.) All the techniques in the kata are functional no matter what the apparel, whether a modern type of judogi or no clothing at all. This obviously contributes to the combative efficiency of the techniques.

Under the guidance of Ochiai sensei, the Gō-no-Kata are at present being reintroduced to modern practitioners through courses held by the Dōyukai. Ochiai sensei also intends to publish an instructional book on the Gō-no-Kata in the near future. However, it is doubtful that the kata will ever become one required for Kodokan grading. Interestingly, a video made of Ochiai sensei demonstrating the Gō-no-Kata had to be copied over 50 times to fill the demand by Japanese judo teachers and students for information on the reemergence of this piece of Judo history.

The Gō-no-Kata is of great historical importance, and should be of special interest to modern practitioners of Kodokan Judo. It offers an unique glimpse into the transition from *-jutsu* to *-dō* through which many Japanese combative arts passed.

In a future in-depth article on the Gō-no-Kata, I intend to examine the kata more closely, introducing important figures involved in its preservation. Further, I will hypothesize on why the kata were developed by Kano Jigoro, and why then it was almost lost to later generations.

****

ICS Corner

Interviewing the Combative Man

Interview conducted by Lt. Col. George Bristol, USMC

Colonel Anthony "Cold Steel" Walker, USMC (Retired)

In a slight deviation from our usual format, I give IHS members an insight into one of the members of what can be termed "an elite within an elite." Colonel Walker was a Company Commander in the 4th Marine Raider Battalion during World War II. Additionally, he was a 30 year Marine, coming through the ranks and seeing service in Korea and

Viet Nam. Now retired, he and his wife live in Middletown, Rhode Island. A Yale graduate, he has three sons who have also served in the Corps. The Colonel is a published author who has written a book, *So Few The Brave*, which details the Rhode Island Militia in the Revolutionary War.

Now in his eighties and as articulate as ever, he is a true combative man. This interviewer was fortunate to spend several afternoons with Colonel Walker as he commented on topics ranging from hand-to-hand combat to career tracks for officers. The Colonel is as interested in today's conflicts as he is in those with which he was involved; his questions and responses cut through all political rhetoric, and are both entertaining and to the point. The questions and answers here are part of a larger interview that took place in three sessions.

GB: Well Sir, before we get too far along, I have to know about your nickname, "Cold Steel." How did you get it?

Col. W: (Laughing) Not the worst nickname I guess..., but truth be told, I got it because I ran the Bayonet Course before I came to the Raiders. I have always been a little embarrassed by it..., but not enough to do away with it altogether!

GB: What is your background regarding combatives?

Col. W: Well, I was a football player, does that count? Seriously, I enlisted right before the war and realized that it was going to be a tough, knock down struggle, so I got to it. I liked the rough and tumble stuff from football already, and we were dead serious about our training... I will say this, they painted the Japanese soldier about ten feet tall, and when you were asked to go all out on a bayonet course or an assault, that was much on your mind. We stressed aggressiveness, and George, you know Marines... they don't have to be told twice. We had some fabulous boys there as well, big and strong, thin and wiry, all types - but tough and ready to fight for their country. You combine that with the thought that you were definitely going to be in combat, and you have a pretty effective motivator.

GB: Sir, what type of training did you find most effective?

Col. W: A lot of hiking at a fast pace with lots of obstacles thrown in. Then, a hard assault with a high degree of physical stress. For individual [training], I liked the bayonet because it gave the Marine confidence to close with the enemy. My theory as a Company Commander was grenades followed up by point blank rifle fire - and that stood us well. But the ability to close with that bayonet was a factor. The Japanese was tough, I'll give him that... but well trained Marines closing to destroy were more than a match for him. My boys were a tough bunch - I was proud to have led them, and in that training period leading up to combat we knew that we could depend on each other. At the small unit level, that factor can make you double tough.

GB: Sir, what was your leadership philosophy in combat?

Col. W: Survive! We were in tough, relentless fighting with an enemy that did not want to lose. My feeling now - after a few years to think about it - was love for my boys. But then, we were on the move, and I had trust in my small unit leaders, and I tried to keep us moving. It is a tremendous feeling–surely you know it too–to have those Marines with you, asking for so little, giving so much. It is not corny or sentimental to say that Marine officers love their troops. The men I worked with–Jimmy Roosevelt, Harry Liversedge, Sam Griffith, Alan Shapley–they all cared. When it comes to the tough part, it is not for some lofty ideal, it is for the guy next to you suffering along with you. The term you mentioned, "group self-protection," is very valid.

GB: What are your thoughts on the term, "combat mindset?"

Col. W: You realize the horror, you know the risk, but when push comes to shove, you go. Before I had seen combat, I talked to guys that had.... but you can never really prepare totally. I will say that conditioning is very important. The energy expended in combat is phenomenal. Plus, you aren't eating well, your sleep is off and on, and you are stressed. I dropped a lot of weight there, and I looked bad, but I was hard. Some of the things I saw Marines do–cover ground, shoot and move, push on wounded–I wouldn't have believed possible. Combat mindset is a hardness, a toughening.... when you get it, it is a unique thing. Keeping it is tough as well.

GB: Sir, any thoughts on yesterday versus today?

Col. W: I saw a lot of Marines in three wars, and I always thought that if training was correct, then the Marines would be fine. But I do think that life in my youth was a little more direct, a little more simple. In the days leading up to World War II, enlisting was what everyone was doing. America's finest wanted to answer the call. We had Olympic athletes, scholars, successful businessmen, you name it.... they wanted to serve. Things may be different now - young people don't always have that same feeling about the country. But at the risk of sounding totally sentimental, I do think that the thought of losing what America has would spur on many to serve if we were threatened. And one thing I do know and believe is that amazing things can be done by the "average guy" if he is trained, cared for, and believes in what he is doing. I think that the Marine Corps has always had that at its center. Our success in peace and war has been because of that.

END OF INTERVIEW

Colonel Walker is a true renaissance man - well rounded and able to expound on a variety of subjects. Sitting there as I interviewed him, I was struck by his humanity and humility, as well as his interest in the Marines of today. His handshake is still firm and he looks you in the eye; he is still a "Marine's Marine."

In closing, I would ask IHS members to reflect on the generation that has spawned so many like Colonel Walker. The men of his Raider Company—on their 50th anniversary—gathered a small volume which recounted their recollections of combat together and what they have done since. The scope of stories is stunning - both emotional and lasting in their candor and content. In each case, a Marine would usually remark that "Captain Walker was my inspiration" or "he was up front the whole time..." When I mentioned this to the Colonel, he would simply shrug and change the subject. His personal narrative mentions several things, but of particular note was this: "We were young and strong, and we went off to see the wizard in places far away.... let each man tell his tale with pride."

The combative man lives in Colonel Walker's generation, and those of us who strive to study, learn from, and emulate would do well always to seek them out and hear what they have to say. It is a series of lessons that we cannot learn too often or too well.

Mary Spears (l) in armor and Pat Lineberger performing Shinkage Ryū *kata* - Enpi-no-tachi with *ōdachi*.

Training in Armor

Mary Spears

Being 'in shape' begs the question, 'being in shape for what?' This was brought home once again when Pat Lineberger (IHS board member) brought a set of replica Japanese armor to the Big Island for training. The opportunity to train in armor is quite a privilege, and I am thankful to Pat for allowing me to wear and train in his expensive set of armor.

The armor is constructed of lacquered pieces of steel attached together with silk. There are eight pieces in a set of armor - two shin guards (臑当 - suneate), a breastplate (銅-dō), a short skirt (佩楯 - haidate), two shoulder pieces (袖-sode), a helmet (兜 - kabuto) and a face plate (面具 - mengu). The armor covers the front of the body most effectively. There are several seemingly vulnerable openings on the rear of the body, but a soldier on the battlefield would expect those behind him to be comrades. In this armor, the breastplate carries the symbol of the Tokugawa clan. The helmet has large wings that extend from the sides of the forehead. Assembled on a table, it is quite beautiful.

None of the equipment weighs much. The individual pieces don't feel heavy alone but in combination they weight about 18 kg (40 lbs).

Lineberger assisting Spears in donning armor.

As I learned, a better understanding of armor comes not from looking, but from wearing it for its intended use - combat. Although, of course, we were not engaged in real combat, I did have the chance to wear it and train with an opponent using replica weapons.

Putting the armor on required an assistant. In our case, several - to hold, tie, and adjust the pieces. I was able to put on the shin plates, but beyond that I just stood and perspired while others held, tied and adjusted the pieces. The heat was greater than I expected. Just standing, the heat was intense. The temperature was in the low nineties, and Hawaiian humid. Once the breastplate was on, I started perspiring intensely. My 'dressers' weren't very practiced, so I tried to find a chair to perch on while they figured out the assembly. The breastplate is adjustable, but we couldn't figure out how to shorten the shoulder ties enough to keep the piece from sitting on my iliac crest. The longer the dressing took, the more I became aware that the weight felt heavier worn than it looked off the body.

Once the body pieces are on, sitting is a difficult activity - a stool works. I wondered whether Japanese bushi had servants who carried portable stools for them. Or perhaps they just didn't sit much. My respect for these warriors of the past was growing, and I hadn't yet begun to do anything beyond stand or sit.

By the time the helmet was placed on my head, I am sure the silk of the armor was soaked with sweat. I passed on wearing the face plate. When I stood to move into position for training, I was aware of a sense of instability and

claustrophobia. With the weight of the helmet on my head, just turning slightly left or right required care. Lowering my chin required extra strength to raise up again. The helmet restricted peripheral vision significantly. Forward visibility disappeared if I turned my head slightly in one direction or another. The only way to maintain maximum visibility and balance was to keep my head still, centered with eyes forward facing my opponent.

Moving in the armor created a loud noise. The helmet acted like an echo chamber. increasing the volume of everything. All the small plates slapping against each other were quite loud. The shoulder plates may have been incorrectly attached because when I turned, they flew up off my shoulders and returned with flourish.

The place in my body where I felt the armor most was my legs. When I moved, every lift or drop in height was real work. Efficiency of movement became paramount. Extra motion costs energy. As we began to move through the armored kata of Shinkage Ryū, I found all of the leg movements were considerably more difficult. Every mistake was exaggerated. I have a tendency to bend my knees inward. When I did that, it created further instability that was very difficult to recover from. In some ways, the armor was like a biofeedback machine. I began to feel incorrect movement that I had not even been aware of previously.

The idea of efficiency of movement became more clear to me; less movement is better with forty extra pounds on your body.

We moved through each of the armored kata twice. The addition of an inch or two of extra width all the way around the hips/waist area changed how I locked in my shoulder to my torso. I had a difficult time finding the place that would give me a connection between body and weapon. The motion of the sword was different. When I executed the cuts in the kata, Sangaku-en, the sword kept catching on the wings that extend 8-10 cm (3-4 in) out from the helmet.

With the naginata, the movements were even more different. Wearing armor, there simply are no twirling, baton-like movements. Much of the kata movement had me dipping the helmet. When we performed Empi-no-tachi, my legs were quivering. I did not make the final drop to the iai-goshi kneeling position for fear I'd never rise again.

The use of the armor pointed out my lack of armor conditioning. I am not 'in shape' for fighting in armor. Or even for training with armor. The conditioning levels of a Japanese fighter of the armor period must have been much higher than anything I have achieved. When I try to imagine the Japanese bushi who wore armor into battle in the heat of the summer and fought for days, I can only say that's he really must have been 'in shape.'

[**Mary Spears** has been training in Shinkage Ryū *heihō* and Owari Kan Ryū *sōjutsu* since 1991. A top level fitness athlete, she has competed in the Lanai-Maui Channel swim for the last four years. She lives, paints, and trains on the Big Island of Hawaii.]

Form and Function

Hunter B. Armstrong

In all combative training, from the popular "martial arts" to combat handgun systems, there is a principle in common with all other areas of human performance endeavor: the ends define the means, or form follows function.

Most of what we now call "martial arts" are derived from systems that originally had functions aimed at some type of real combat. Over the past hundred years, however, there has been relatively little use or demand for use of these systems in actual combat. Their popularization and spread has been based mostly on their utilization in entertainment, sport, and other non-combative ends. Modern karate provides a good example of the changes that typically occur.

Modern karate has evolved over the past hundred years from a complex of Okinawan village/town self-defense systems that were used at one time for actual fighting, primarily as civilian defense forms. In karate's evolution, it was adopted from village/town, civilian fighting art to inclusion in Japan's militarized educational system of the 1920's. There it was melded into the nationalist program of physical education with a combined aim of physical fitness group cohesion, and nationalistic patriotism. With the fall of Japanese nationalism's influence in the educational system after World War II, what remained of karate (now, Japanese rather than Okinawan) were the remnants of its physical education characteristics - competition in kata and limited sparring. American military personnel in post-war Japan were exposed to the system, and introduced it to the U.S. market. With its expansion abroad, it was primarily the overt competition elements that were popularized.

Traditional outdoors karate training in Okinawa.

In its relatively new character as competitive sport, karate's very shape altered to meet the demands of the new function. Consider the change in characteristics in form and function from the a village/town fighting art to the modern sport/entertainment "martial" art:

VILLAGE FIGHTING ART		POP "MARTIAL" ART	
Form	**Function**	**Form**	**Function**
training outdoors on natural ground	preparation for environment of real fighting	training primarily on artificial floor of dojo	competition on same type of surface
variety of training methods: applications, strength conditioning, body hardening, makiwara, etc.	preparation for demands of real fighting	relatively limited training methods: competition techniques	preparation for competition
stance/posture - relatively high	balance and mobility on rough ground against multiple opponents	stances/postures - lower more "dynamic" looking	aesthetic value for competition
restricted sparring only - no limitations in types of techniques (e.g., eye jabs, joint kicks, etc.)	real fighting demands destructive techniques	free sparring - limited techniques	safety in competition
techniques aimed at structural damage	defeating adversary in real fighting	techniques aimed at general target areas	competition victory - points
no difference in techniques between kata and kumite	combative outcome demands that only applicable techniques are practiced	kumite and kata techniques are different	kata competition - demands techniques that "look good;" kumite demands techniques that earn sparring points

Again, then, the function for which any system is evolving will alter the system to suit that form. If, for example, in competition, judges begin giving more points for flashy kicking techniques, the system will alter to include such kicks. This is not a matter of good or bad fighting arts, it is simply a matter of changing functions forcing changes in the form.

Those people who are training in combative systems would ideally have a clear understanding of a system's primary function in order to truly evaluate the usefulness of its forms to suit those functions.

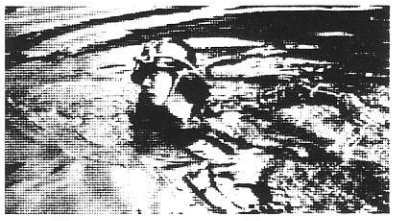
For the hoplological researcher, evaluating a system's form generally allows a more realistic determination of the system's function. All too often the form declares that the system's function is something quite different from what is claimed by its adherents. Variations of this theme can be seen in all of the pop martial arts. A similar process is seen in Western combative sport arts such as boxing, fencing, and now combat handguns competitions.

The confusion and real problems occur when the two ends are confused - when people assume that a system that has evolved for one function will be equally suitable for another. Typical is the belief that a system that has evolved for sport or aesthetic/spiritual purposes can function equally well in real combat... in spite of great and readily apparent differences in the techniques. Combat has intense and demanding characteristics that any combat system must specifically comply with in form if its function is to truly prepare for that end. That form is not going to be as aesthetically pleasing nor as sportingly functional as the forms of systems that have those particular ends. It's a mistake that can lead to injury or worse.

Classical Japanese Swimming Event in Tokyo

Tony Cundy

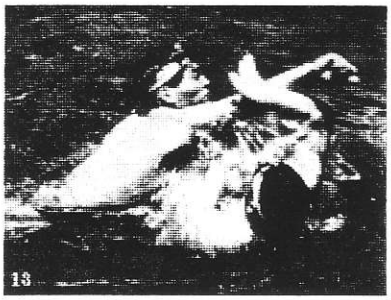
On November 23rd, 1999, approximately 150 people gathered at the Kasumigaoka National Stadium Pool in Tokyo to mark the occasion of The First Tokyo Classical Japanese Swimming Arts Tournament.



Katchu-gozen-oyogi - "swimming in armor."

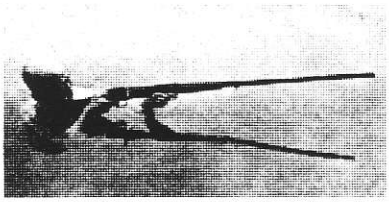
The Japanese classical swimming schools were formulated along with many of their land-based martial counterparts in the early part of the Edo period (1603-1868). Their roots, however, lie in the preceding Warring States period. These are combative swimming systems that were based on experiments in water crossing techniques and water bound combat. Such systems were necessary for the warrior class due to both the natural environment of Japan (containing as it does a great number

of lakes, streams and rivers, as well as bogs and marshes) and the extensive use of water in fortifications and defensive outposts during that time.


Grappling in water.

These experiments produced swimming techniques that allowed warriors to perform effectively in and around water as well as providing them with effective body conditioning exercises. Techniques included methods of moving through water stealthily and with minimum strength, leading horses safely across rivers and streams, shooting arrows and muskets from the water, diving silently into water, floating for long periods with minimal effort, and methods of hand-to-hand combat in armor whilst treading water.

After their initial formulation, the techniques were further modified and improved upon until the Meiji Restoration (1868). The modernization and build up of military strength in Japan resulted in the swimming traditions being released from the confines of their respective fiefs and taught openly in elementary and junior high schools across the country. These classical swimming arts, however, lost favor during the early part of the twentieth century, and only recently have seen a revival of interest. Twelve of the schools are still active today and recognized by the All Japan Swimming Association and the Kobudo Kyōkai.


Tachi-oyogi shageki - "treading shooting."

This November's tournament was divided into two parts. The first was a series of speed trials and the second was a demonstration competition.

The time trials pitted competitors over distances of 25 and 50 meters, using sidestroke techniques taken from the 12 extant classical swimming schools of Japan. Competitors were drawn mainly from the Mukai Ryu and the Suifu Ryu Ota Ha, traditionally the most popular schools in the Tokyo Bay area, although members of other traditions did compete. Competitor's ages ranged from 10 to 73 years and the fastest times clocked were an impressive 19.69 seconds and 34.8 seconds over 25 and 50 meters respectively.

The demonstration competition matched members of two teams (teams were made up of 3 members; there were a total of 48 teams competing) who swam various strokes from the aforementioned schools, including water treading, side, breast, and leaping strokes. The teams swam simultaneously in front of a panel of five judges which decided on the best performance. Judging criteria was based on six key elements: The positioning of the head, correct visual alignment, correct attitude, beauty of form, length of stroke and correct breathing patterns.

It was especially pleasing to see so many young Japanese people engaging in the traditional swimming arts of their country, a rare commodity in their traditional martial counterparts. The event also provided an opportunity to meet with a number of the practitioners, who normally are only drawn together for the national competition held in late August of each year outside the capital, and to learn more about the history and curriculums of the represented schools. On hand to enjoy the event were IHS board member Liam Keeley and researchers Michael Ashworth and myself, Antony Cundy.

****

The Hoplite's Bookshelf

Robert W. Smith's *Martial Musings: A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century*

Via Media Publishing Company, publisher of *Journal of Asian Martial Arts*, has released their first book publication, *Martial Musings – A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century* by Robert W. Smith, author of numerous books on Chinese fighting arts.

Smith has practiced, taught, and written on the Asian martial arts for more than fifty years. From his late teens he trained under eminent Western boxing and wrestling coaches and later immersed himself in judo and finally the Chinese martial arts under celebrated masters.

In *Martial Musings*, Smith offers a unique insight into his experiences during that period. Particularly interesting are his portrayals of leading Chinese and Japanese teachers instructors, profiles of Westerners who studied the arts and brought them back to their respective countries.

At the same time, Martial Musings is in part an autobiographical commentary of Smith's experiences in the martial arts, particularly in judo and taijiquan. While the detailing of Smith's experiences are worth the price of the book alone, it's his reminiscences on those experiences in a literary style rarely seen in our word processed era that puts the true value to this book.

BOOK INFORMATION

Publication date: December 15, 1999
Hardbound • 6" x 9" • Full-color cover • Two-color text
Over 400 pages with over 300 illustrations • Bibliography • Index
ISBN 1-893765-008 • Price: $39.95 USA – $59.95 Canada

CONTACT

Attn: Michael DeMarco
Via Media Publishing Co. • 821 W. 24th St. Erie, PA 16502 USA
Tel: 800-455-9517 • Fax: 877-526-5262 • E-mail: info@goviamedia.com
www.goviamedia.com

Literature of the Anglo-Boer War

Liam Keeley

The 11th of October, 1999, marked the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Anglo-Boer War. (See the IHS web site Links for a complete listing of commemorative events on the Anglo-Boer War Museum page). It marked the first time since the American War of Independence that the British Empire found itself in a colonial conflict with white settlers. British troops found themselves opposed by a well armed, and in many cases tactically superior force instead of poorly armed and equipt foes.

The cast of characters is a fascinating one, with Baden-Powell (founder of the now world-wide Scouts movement) making his reputation at the siege of Mafeking; Winston Churchill took part as a War Correspondent; Mahatma Gandhi served as a stretcher bearer; and the British social reformer, Emily Hobhouse, exposing the terrible conditions in the British concentration camps.

Many of the Boer leaders who first made their mark in the war, such as Jan Smuts and Louis Botha, went on to become well known South African politicians. Similarly, Deneys Reitz, author of the first person account, *Commando*, who joined up at the outbreak of war as a boy of seventeen, was later to become a major influence in South African politics. Both Smuts and Botha served as Prime Ministers of the Union of South Africa (established in 1910).

There are also a host of figures less well known internationally, such as the Black diarist, Sol Plaatjie, who served as an interpreter for the British at the siege of Mafeking, and went on to become a founding member of the African National Congress, the party which recently took power after the first free elections in South Africa.

American Civil War buffs should find much to interest them in this war, with some fascinating parallels and differences.

In the Recommended Reading List put up on the IHS web site, we have tried to provide a balance between general books giving an overall account of the war, such as Kruger's *Goodbye Dolly Gray* and Pakenham's *The Boer War*, personal accounts such as Reitz's *Commando* and Schikkerling's *Commando Courageous*, and some books recently translated from Afrikaans into English for the first time. Examples of the latter are Fransjohan Pretorius' *Life on Commando* and Labuschagne's *Ghostriders of the Anglo-Boer War*, which deals with the role of the agterryers, the black and colored servants who accompanied their masters into battle. Finally we have included books focusing on single topics of interest, such as Gardner's book on the siege of Mafeking, Warwick's on the role of Black People in the war, and one of the earliest teaching texts on small unit tactics, Swinton's classic *The Defense of Duffer's Drift*, which is set with an Anglo-Boer War background.

The first person accounts are those which most likely will interest the hoplologist. Having said that, I would strongly recommend Thomas Pakenham's *The Boer War* for those who are looking for a good overall history of the conflict, as this would give some background and perspective to the first person accounts. Pakenham writes extremely well and is excellent at putting events in context.

As already mentioned, the two best known personal accounts giving the Boer side of the story are generally considered to be those by Deneys Reitz and Roland Schikkerling. This was lately confirmed again by Fransjohan Pretorius, Professor of History at the University of Pretoria, in a recent radio interview. The interview focused on his book, *Life On Commando During the Anglo-Boer War*. Since Pretorius has done a tremendous amount of research on first person accounts, diaries, etc. his opinion carries a certain amount of authority.

Murray C. Jackson's book, *A Soldier's Diary: South Africa, 1899-1901*, has been recommended to me as possibly one of the best accounts from a British perspective, but I have been unable to obtain a copy so far (However, it is available from the shop of the British National Army Museum at shop@national-army-museum.ac.uk). Another fascinating book is Frank Burnham's *Scouting On Two Continents*. If one is interested in exploring the byways rather than highways of history, this is a fascinating account of an Arizonian who after fighting against the Apache, went on to serve as a scout for the British Forces during the Boer War, and was even given a commission as a British officer. (Burnham has an intriguing story about duck hunting, which I wonder if any of our readers can verify: He claims that when hunting for the pot, if you shoot directly into the water under a swimming duck, the shock will stun it. Has anyone heard of this before?)

For a first-person account from the Boer side, Deneys Reitz's *Commando: A Boer Journal of the Boer War* is probably the best place to start. Reitz's father was at one stage President of the Orange Free State, the smaller of the two Boer Republics. At the time war broke out, he was Secretary of State for the South African Republic (Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek or ZAR), which formed the Transvaal Province of the Union of South Africa after the war. Reitz's family background gave him a unique perspective on the war. Not only did he have unique access to the leading Boer politicians and generals due to family connections, but his family had connections in Europe and Great Britain as well. For example, the Reitz family had strong ties with Holland and Scotland, and both Reitz's father and grandfather had been sent to study in Scotland. One of Reitz's earliest memories is of his father reading the works of the Scottish poet Robert Burns to the family in the evenings. When the young Reitz was twelve years old, he accompanied his father to Europe (Holland, Belgium, France, and Germany) and also traveled to England and Scotland.

Reitz was only 17 when war broke out, but was rejected for service as being underage. So when he happened to meet the President of the ZAR, Paul Kruger, in the company of Reitz's father, he took the opportunity to complain. Kruger rumbled, "They say the English are three to our one... can you take care of three of them for me?" Reitz answered cockily, "Mr. President, if I get close enough, I'm good for three with one shot." Kruger, after learning Reitz's age, commented that he himself had started fighting at a younger age, and took him personally to the Commandant General's office, where Reitz was issued a Mauser and a bandolier of ammunition rifle by Commandant General Piet Joubert himself.

The combination of Reitz's boyish enthusiasm, his writing ability, his access to high level figures in the Boer Republics, and his unusual degree of sophistication (being able to speak English, for example), makes for a fascinating read.

Reitz led a charmed life, and saw more action than most men, seeing fighting in all four of the what would become the provinces of South Africa. He took part in so many vital battles and raids that it is hard to single out examples. Among other exploits, he fought at Spioen Kop shortly after the outbreak of the war, and rode with Smuts on his daring raid deep into the Cape Colony. At Spioen Kop the British and Boers fought the whole day at incredibly short range for possession of a rocky hilltop, and then both sides would withdraw during the night. Reitz was one of the few to accompany Louis Botha the next morning to take up the fight, and when they began to climb the hill again, they found the British were no longer there. Take a look at the photograph in Pakenham's book, or the one on page 98 of Barthorp's pictorial history of the war, and you will see why. In a grisly picture taken two days after the battle, the British dead lie heaped on each other in a shallow trench.

Roland Schikkerling, author of *Commando Courageous*, was from a small town in the Western Transvaal. He ended up fighting mostly in the Eastern Transvaal, and there is some fascinating material about how the micro-climates of this area affected the campaign. For example, the changes force the Boers to switch from horses to mules which could withstand the conditions better. Also of great interest is the role of the local black population, and the relationship between the local Afrikaners and the men on commando. For the most part, however, Schikkerling's stories simply serve to confirm Reitz's experiences. If you only have time to read one personal account, I would recommend Reitz's as the best all round account. I shall be drawing on the accounts of both of these men and others in some future articles in which I hope to look at Boer life style and Tactics from a Hoplological viewpoint.

Review of *The Whites of Their Eyes: Close-Quarter Combat* by Roger Ford and Tim Ripley

Steve Kelsey

What an absolutely great read! If you are stuck for a book this Autumn then I can't recommend this book enough. Ford and Ripley have written a thoroughly enthralling and engrossing book based on personal accounts of the major wars of this century. Time and time again, I was both shocked and fascinated by the picture painted in this book. The sheer ferocity and intensity men face on the front line is unreal, and makes quite mind numbing reading.

Ford and Ripley do not in any way reduce the importance of the technical and mechanical side of war, be they by aircraft, tanks or missiles, but they demonstrate time and time again the raw human face of conflict on the battle field, the area that usually is the make or break of any military action.

The general theme of the book is that wars, in all their shapes and forms, really have not changed much. Despite lessons learnt and strategies enhanced, new guns and high tech computers, much of the action this century mirrors battles and sieges of centuries previous.

There are countless small stories in this book, far too many to mention here. I have, however, chosen one example to give a taste of what to expect. It concerns Anders Lassen, who fought in the Second World War for the allies as a member of the Special Forces.

"He was keener on the bow and arrow as a raiding weapon. Reviving the bow was not an idea gained from kids' comics and adventure for boys. Lone archers had raided successfully in the Spanish civil war - as Lassen may have heard from his father or from (Peter) Kemp (a fellow SSRF member) who had served at first in Spain with the Carlist, a royal faction responsible for the bow's reintroduction. Carlist raiders, all in black and armed with short black bows and arrows, infiltrated Republican trenches on night raids and killed sentries silently on challenge."

"Lassen put his case to the War Office: "I have considerable experience in hunting with bow and arrow. I have shot everything in hunting from sparrows to stags, and although I have never attempted to shoot a man yet it is my opinion that the results would turn out just as well as with stags."

The war office sent him a couple of hunting bow. However, in 1942, the bow and arrow was classed as an inhumane weapon!"

This book will provide a fascinating read for anyone interested in combat and modern war history. Definitely a must read.

Women in Combat - Book Notes

Mary Spears

In July of 1917, a regiment of Russian women soldiers called the "Battalion of Death" launched an offensive against German troops outside Petrograd. Their aim was both to defend Mother Russia and to shame male deserters. *Lines of Fire: Women Writers of World War I*, a collection of hundreds of wartime accounts, includes journalist Bessie Beatty's interview with one of the fighting females of the Battalion of Death, who described how when wounded Germans took cover in a hut and refused to surrender, "we had to throw hand-grenades in and destroy them."

Elizabeth D. Leonard's *All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies* provides dashing histories and photographs of some of the hundreds of women who "disguised themselves as men and enlisted as full-fledged soldiers during the Civil War." It also commemorates their Revolutionary forerunner, Deborah Sampson, who fought British troops and American Indians near Tarrytown in 1792, taking "a glancing saber blow to her forehead and a bullet in her leg."

It is interesting to note that in the case of women soldiers, violence is considered worthy of note, whereas with men it is considered commonplace.

Higgonet, Margaret R., ed. 1999. *Lines of Fire: Women Writers of World War I*. NY: Plume. 656 pp.

Leonard, Elizabeth D. 1999. *All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies*. NY: W.W. Norton & Co. 350 pp.

Recent IHS Library Acquisitions

Staff

Chow, Hon Huen, trans.; Rovere, Dennis. 1996. *Chinese Military Police Knife, Baton and Weapon Techniques*. Calgary: Rovere Consultants International, Inc. 228 pp.

Primarily a compendium of techniques presented through line drawings and textual descriptions. Nothing particularly new or useful.

Manickavasagam, M. 1993. *The Art Of Varmam - A Historical Study*. Madras: Dept. of Indian History, University of Madras. 258 pp.

A doctoral dissertation by the author. This thesis provides a comprehensive if dry background on *Varma*, an important element in India's martial culture.

Paladin Press. 1993. *KGB Alpha Team Training Manual: How the Soviets Trained for Personal combat, Assassination, and Subversion*. Boulder: Paladin Press. 314 pp.

This manual includes a preface that provides an interesting background on the history, scope, and philosophy behind Soviet era special forces training.

****

Miscellaneous Martial Melange

- **Walter Todd** (1927-1999) passed away on November 26, 1999. Todd, whose martial arts career spanned over 50 years, began training in budo in 1945 while stationed in Tokyo with the American military. He went on to train in a number of other Japanese fighting arts, including aikido and karate. Walter Todd was 72 years

old when he passed on. He is survived by his wife Eve and two children. For more information contact the Shudokan Martial Arts Association: http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/gwoodliff/SMAA_index.htm

- Congratulations are again due **George Bristol**, Administrative Director of the IHS. He recently received promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps. He is currently stationed in Honolulu., Hawaii.

- IHS member, Hoplologist **Andre du Preez** of Johannesburg, South Africa traveled to Kwazulu, Natal in early November to do research into Zulu stickfighting. Andre currently instructs in karate, *kobujutsu*, Yang style *taiji* and Filipino fighting arts. From 1969 to 1974, Andre was a member of the anti-hijacking squad of the South African Airways Security Section.

- IHS member **Steve Kelsey** has joined the prison service in Great Britain. With his fighting arts training background in Japan, he has already provided some interesting insights regarding prison service training in England.

- In August, **Nick Nibler** and **Hunter Armstrong** attended the Western Regional Conference of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers (ASLET), where they presented three courses of instruction on combative behavior and close combat training. They will also be attending ASLET's international conference in January in Richmond, VA, , where they will present a similar program of instruction.

- The IHS held its annual board meeting this past September. Hosted in Sedona, Arizona by **Hunter Armstrong**, board members attending the meeting were **Lt. Col. George Bristol**, USMC, and **Pat Lineberger**, Ph.D., both from Honolulu, **Liam Keeley** from Japan, and newest board member, **Karunakaran** from Malaysia. Aside from normal business, a number of hours were spent on ICS training.

- IHS board member **Liam Keeley** has been chairing regular meetings of a group of individuals involved in the research and practice of fighting arts in Japan. Attending the latest (December 1999) meeting were **Michael Ashworth**, **Tony Cundy**, **Bart de Maesschalck**, Tim Neely, Derek Steel, Scott Vogeley, **Michael Wert**, **Paul Winning,** and **Andy Dunbar**. The topic agenda for the December meeting provides a good example of the variety of discussions:

  Discussion on extending the ACE (Approach, Close, and Entry) concept by looking at behavior before and after.

  Talk on Gracie Jujutsu by **Bart de Maesschalck**.

  Talk on Okano-ha Shotokan Karate-do by Tim Neely.

- The ICS, the training division of the IHS is currently in the process of producing a manual on combat conditioning. *The ICS Manual on Combat Conditioning* is the working title. The projected publishing date is summer, 2000. The training manual will look at training from a purely functional point of view, and while utilizing information from modern sports science, its aim is at the combat athlete as versus the sport athlete.

****

Contact Information:

tel:	520-204-2867
fax:	520-204-2394
e-mail:	hoplos@aol.com
Web address:	www.hoplology.com
	www.hoplos.com

* * *

INTERNATIONAL HOPLOLOGY SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION

Membership in the IHS, which includes subscriptions to *Hoplos The Journal Of The International Hoplology Society* and *Hop-Lite*, the IHS newsletter (one issue per year of *Hoplos* and at least 3 issues of *Hop-Lite*), are available for US$30 per year in the U.S. and Canada. Overseas membership is US$40. Photocopies of back issues of *Hoplos* and *Hop-Lite* are available at US$7.00 and $5.00 per issue respectively. Individual articles may also be ordered at US$2.50 to cover postage and handling. Please send fees in U.S. funds only.

USA and Canada	Foreign
1 yr $30.00	$40.00
2 yr $50.00	$70.00

Please make checks or money orders payable in U.S. dollars to the **International Hoplology Society**.

****

Mail membership application to:

International Hoplology Society
315 Foothills Dr.
Sedona, AZ 86336
USA

Enroll the person named below in the IHS.

Enclosed is US$ _____ for a ____ year membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____

State: _____

Post: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

IHS/ICS MONOGRAPHS AND MANUALS

(Monograph: $12.50 (plus $2.50 for s&h .)

The DFD Monographs are transcriptions of lectures presented by Donn F. Draeger in the late 1970's and early 80's.

Donn F. Draeger Monograph Series No. 1: "Kiai: The Role of Sound in Japanese Martial Arts & Ways;" "Makimono: Japanese Handscrolls"

Donn F. Draeger Monograph Series No. 2: "Ranking Systems in Japanese Martial Arts: Modern vs Classical;" "Bujutsu and Budo"

Donn F. Draeger Monograph Series No. 3: "Zen and the Japanese Warrior;" "Esoteric Buddhism in Japanese Warriorship"

Donn F. Draeger 1978 UH Lecture Series: "The Martial Arts and Ways of Japan, Part 1" (21 pages)

Donn F. Draeger 1978 UH Lecture Series: "The Martial Arts and Ways of Japan, Part 2" (28 pages)

Donn F. Draeger 1978 UH Lecture Series: "The Martial Arts and Ways of Japan, Part 3" (33 pages)

Donn F. Draeger 1978 UH Lecture Series: "The Martial Arts and Ways of Japan, Part 4" (35 pages)

Richard Hayes - *Paleolithic Adaptive Traits and the Fighting Man* (37 pages)

David Hall, Ph.D. - *The Yagyū Shinkage Ryū* (12 pages)

Hunter B. Armstrong - *Two Faces of Combatives* (17 pages)

MANUALS

Strength & Conditioning for the Combative Athlete by Hunter B. Armstrong (88 pages). Price: $19.50 plus $3.50 for shipping and handling.

ICS Instinctive Combat Shooting - This is the course manual for the ICS course. It is intended as a course aid rather than a stand-alone manual (10 pages). Price: $7.50 plus $2.50 for shipping and handling.