

Historic Weapons Combat seminar in classical Filipino weapons

After many request we this month tried something new – a seminar under the auspices of Historic Weapons Combat going through how different Filipino weapons look and how they where used and in connection with which systems.

As this subject is so big, we could, time permitting, concentrate on three different ranges:

- Kampilan, the Filipino “hand and half” and the “Whip” (Largo Mano),
- Short blades (Kadena de Mano) and
- Short and long blade combinations (Espada and Dagger).

Firstly there would be an explanation of why the weapons look like they do, hereafter all would have a go with the original weapon where possible and a replica if not. We would then train with sticks in the right length and with the correct attitude for safety reasons.

The seminar was a seminar that bridged the differences between the historical and practical side of Weapons Combat Systems™.

This seminar will be followed by one more historical seminar in the fall on historical Filipino systems and there relation to Weapons Combat.



Boys with toys

The Lichtenauer Workshop

This month we also had the first in a series of workshops. This was over the ideas of Master Johannes Lichtenauer on fighting with German Long Sword from 1389 and the German school of sword fighting that followed.

The Lichtenauer part of the seminar was taught by Daniel Smith and Bengt Abrahamsson, where Sifu Lars made comparisons between WingTsun, Weapons Combat and Lichtenauer.

In the first part Dan concentrated on going through and explaining non telegraphic strikes with both Hand & Half and Sword & Buckler. He proved that that with the right technique you are not only faster but it also makes the strike much more effortless.

Bengt, in his part, used most of his time explaining "Bind" and "Winding".

Sifu Lars ended the first day with going through why Lichtenauer and the German fencing school still has validity as Fighting Martial Arts. This was done by comparing principles and concepts from WingTsun and Escrima (Weapons Combat) with the same used in the German school and advocating "if it works in the two first systems in a fight, it must also work in the last" was the conclusion.

Saturday ended with a good Italian dinner, good wine and beer. The evening ended early Sunday morning.

Sunday the instructors spend answering questions and training.

We all hope to make another workshop at the Royal Armouries in Leeds next year.



More boys with toys - again

Seminar in Odense

The seminar was a good opportunity to go through some of the higher programs with the instructors as well as showing similarities between WingTsun and Weapons Combat.

On the seminar in Odense, Erik Olesen and Peter Tønder was graded 8th and 10th student grade.

Never block – you die!

If, for some reason, somebody, who receives this Newsletter should be in doubt – in Weapons Combat **we don't block!**

In these lines, I will go into some of the explanations for why not!

*“When you fight an opponent, don't wait to see his attack and what he is going to you.
All fighters who only wait for the opponents attack and only block is very seldom successful.
They are most often defeated.”*

This is a modified translation of some of the text from Sigmund Ringeck commentaries to Master Johannes Lichtenauers teaching. And this is written in 1440! A long time before anybody thought about WT or Weapons Combat in any form!

In other words, if you start blocking (or even think blocks) you give your opponent all the advantages. He can attack any zone of you body he wants and you are forced to defend all! He can fake and you have to react! He can decide where you go, and you have to follow!

Now to keep this simple (and save the long explanations for my many coming books!);

Why not turn this around, attack first – let all the mentioned problems belong to your opponents. For me that is self evident, just as it is for any WingTsun man.

So in Weapons Combat, we do not use blocks, we attack, first the man, then the limp and last the weapon (but only as an emergency when we have no other option).

Everything shows that in a confrontation in earnest, you do your basics (the longest and most trained techniques), so it is necessary you start by learning to attack and not by blocking.

That is why the first you are being taught in Weapons Combat and Historical Weapons Combat is to attack – *this is the logic of fighting!*

Sifu Lars Lind, Chief instructor Weapons Combat Systems™

There will in the future be small (or large) technical piece in every Newsletter and I would like that some were written by some of you – so if you have something on your mind; start writing (Chris and Bengt get started!).

Question time

Many write me mail or ask me on seminars on the finer different technical points in Weapons Combat System™. I hope you will continue doing so, but some of the questions and answers deserve to be read or/and heard by more of you. So from this Newsletter I will, you permitting quote some of the questions and the answers here under this heading.

In June we have the following arrangements

June 2nd – Malmo – Weapons Combat grading seminar

June 3rd – Malmo - Weapons Combat Instructor and grading seminar

June 8th – June 10th - Helsinki – Weapons Combat on Finnish Summer Camp

June 24th – WTC - Weapons Combat grading seminar

June 30th – July 6th – Scandinavian Summer Camp 2007 in Roskilde
Both Weapons Combat Systems will be taught

All the above with Sifu Lars

Chris Williamson, 2. TG teaches in Malmo Friday **May 15th**

The monthly Lichtenauer training with Bengt Abrahamsson, 1.TG is Sunday **May 11.** in WTC.

I hope many will attend the special classes of these very qualified instructors.

Questions on this letter, seminars or Weapons Combat Systems™ can be put to me personally on telephone 40 30 48 39 or by mail to lars.lind@siemens.com.

*Beer, swords and Dino's rule forever
Sifu Lars, Chief instructor Weapons Combat Systems*