

Shooting to Live by Fairbairn and Sykes

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The above listed book is one which I have talked about during some of my survival training classes. The writers are quite apt in the art of close quarter gun fighting and frankly I am perplexed that few of the trainees know anything about this book or its authors. These two guys were genuinely innovative and represented the foremost firearms trainers around the world. They were so proficient at their skill that eventual an Army manual was created from their information.

When I first entered the military in the late 60's I became obsessed with developing my shooting skills to near perfection. I read every book I could locate on the topic of shooting. Unfortunately, in the 60, and 70s there was no internet and local libraries carried a relatively small number of combat shooting books in their inventory. Even bookstores lacked sufficient selections that one could order. I finally started devouring some of the historical books such as this one, Bill Jordan's No Second Place Winner, Applegate's Kill or Get Killed, and everything both Skeeter Skelton and Elmer Keith ever wrote. Those types of books gave me a good grounding in the subject of combative shooting history. I studied them because there was nothing else to read on the topic. Being in Forward Air Control I would gather with four or five other controllers on the weekend and we would discuss the various books of this nature which we had found. Our goal was to be some of the best at one hand gun shooting after all in our field it could someday save our lives.

It appears that even though we now have all the information ever created by mankind at our fingertips with the introduction of the internet, some of the important historical background in our art isn't being consumed by the younger participants. You can start remedying that by reading "Shooting to Live."