

**Emile Andre**

**100 methods of self-defence in the street**

**with weapons**

**(cane, two-handed baton, knife and dagger, American boxing, revolver, automatic pistol)**

**Fore-word**

After 100 methods of self-defence in the street “without weapons”, here are 100 methods with weapons

In completing a small course in practical personal defence, must we recall it is often that one need must rely only on oneself, this in spite of the vigilance of the brave constables and no less valiant *gendarme*?

Their late arrival is only too rightly compared with the *carabinieri* of a certain famous operetta

So, let us practice SELF-DEFENCE as it is known in English; it is particularly useful to those that live in the outermost parts of large towns, or if one must travel late at night through extremely deserted places

Even outside aggression is possible on the part of wrongdoers, on such occasions it is best to show that one can give it back, and even then with added interest- blow for blow!

One finds quarrelsome folk almost everywhere. Of these it is they who have great physical strength that tend to become bullies

It is less vigorous and, for the greater part, requires less conditioning than boxing or wrestling, as one marshals the balance of forces with the aid of a cane, a simple weapon, which one often has with one in order to apply force or “to give an equaliser”, but it becomes particularly useful if handled well

Firstly, it allows one to hold the adversary at a distance, whether or not he is armed in the same fashion

Finding himself thus threatened he will hesitate from assaulting you

If they ignore it, one can stop them by putting them out of the fight with a “volley” of cane blows, or simply with a few well-chosen blows, - and without risk of killing them as with a bullet from a revolver

It is worth remembering that the revolver, the “*rigolo*” in common slang, must not be used until the last resort, and only against those bounders who threaten you with death or serious injury

For the remainder, one may not have a revolver upon one. Even if one is equipped with such a weapon, one may not have it with one at all times, and, in the case of surprises, one may not be able to get ones finger on the trigger

The cane, on the contrary, is often carried at one's side in order to defend oneself

All the more reason to say it constitutes a truly practical weapon, in the circumstance, of course, if it handles well, neither too heavy, nor too light, and is made from a sturdy wood such as dogwood

It is already enough to practise for a short time, by merely choosing a few good blows and repeating them at one time or another, in order to gain useful experience in handling the cane

Demonstrating this method is simple, which is the principle aim of what I propose

I have devoted a short study to the “two-handed baton”, which is never used “in town” but one finds used in the countryside, especially in certain regions

The handling of the knife, - which is only just become the custom of a special world in large towns,- is the subject of a fairly detailed study

I have seen in a Spanish text the theory of *navaja* which is of interest and curious when combined with the blows of French-boxing. It is such that I seek to realise: to have practical considerations for those who, threatened with the knife, draw a “clasp knife” themselves of greater or lesser length. By our Lady, one must sometimes combat Apaches with their own weapons!

As an extra, complementary, title I have considered firearms. I have summarized the principles of pistol and revolver method, and gathered some considerations on their application in various cases of night attack...or even those in daylight

**Emile ANDRE**

### **Third Part**

#### **Knives and daggers**

##### **Preliminary Notes**

There are different sorts of knives, and, depending upon whether they are broader or longer, are more less suited to the thrust and the cut, or the thrust only

There are big knives, cutlasses, which are used in the manner of small sabres

Even among pocketknives, one finds varying sizes, some longer and some broader in the blade. Those which can easily be used in combat are those naturally fitted with collars or locks to stop the blade closing on the hand

The principle division to distinguish between the different types of these knives is this: Firstly, large knives used both for the cut and thrust; Secondly knives that can only be used for the thrust, such as daggers, otherwise called dagger-knives

The blade of the first type must have both when it comes to combat, a fairly large blade for cutting , and a fairly sharp point

With knives of the second category, those of smaller dimensions, the edge is hardly ever used but for the greater part is used to stop an adversary seizing the weapon and to increase the injury made with the point

When cuts are made with these weapons, they will not, more often, have any penetration, especially against heavy clothing. They can, with exception, be very effective against body parts such as the wrist, the neck, and sometimes the face. But as a general rule, due to the limited length and breadth of these weapons, one must use them for the thrust, in the manner of daggers

We called the weapons of the first type large knives; the second shall be understood to be ordinary knives and daggers

In all sorts of combat with weapons of these two categories, quickness-of-eye and judgement are particularly necessary to avoid the double hit, which commonly results between adversaries with little or no training

Another general rule, common to all situations, is that when one has one type or another of knife is that the knowledge of French boxing remains useful, when combined with the handling of weapons

The *coup-de-pied-bas* and the *chasse-a-la-jambe*, doubled as needed, are able to put an adversary who strikes at the legs out of the fight

The *coup-de-pied* will serve equally well.

The *coup-de-pied-de-point*, directed at the weapon hand, can be employed by an alert and trained boxer

Consider also the usefulness of *coup-de-pied-de-point* to the body-parts of an adversary who throws himself forward holding his weapon hand high. (A little more on the same manner of attack, if one

is a skilled boxer and one's adversary is not much heavier, place an effective *coup-de-pied* to the body.)

It has been mentioned before in *100 methods of self-defence in the street without weapons*, and equally mentioned here is the effectiveness of taking the opportunity to improvise a shield, either a hat or for preference clothing, just as in figure 16

But suppose now that one has armed oneself with a knife in the face of an adversary who has done the same

The speed one acquires in the method of throwing a punch will serve well when it comes time to launch an attack with a weapon

One launches a knife-blow or dagger to the face or the body in the same way as one throws a punch or one throws a sword-point to the forearm

The actions of boxing parades are also useful on this occasion; but we must explain that it is preferable to dodge and duck the blows, and, in all cases, it is generally dangerous to seize the weapon arm

### **Fig.16**

In this way studying boxing, or fencing at epee or sabre is evidently very useful for learning to handle the knife or dagger

They give also the quickness-of-eye, judgement and a sense of distance, which are particularly necessary

Various fencing thrusts and counter-thrusts are evidently applicable in the situation that concerns us

Thus when one has very big knives, like cutlasses, one can make effective blows to the wrist, body or the neck

As one thrusts at the weapon hand of one's adversary and to his fore-arm, since one hasn't a protective guard as one does with the hilt of an epee, one is at greater risk, if one's adversary makes the same attack, of making a double hit

Let us only be concerned with which guard to adopt, employ this word in the sense of attitude and position favourable for making defence, offence and countering

### **Method for holding the knife**

In holding the knife, it is better to not advance the thumb beyond one's sleeve, or on to the blade itself (in the way foreign fighters, sometimes, it is said, do in order to disguise the length of their blade which they then slide forward.)

The hand positions of the weapon, held to facilitate the throwing of the knife as a missile, must be generally abandoned, because, in regard to throwing the knife, only some people can afford to become anywhere near as practiced as those professional showmen who have achieved a

remarkable skill and throw knives between the fingers of one or other of their partners or around their head

The knife (of all types) is always held with the edge on top and the point raised higher than the wrist

Especially in the sort of duels between two men, knife men generally of low reputation, hold the edge up, in order to strike low to high and give also give an even greater efficiency of cut to open up the stomach, aiming there in particular

The point being higher than one's sleeve ensures a guarantee against seizures of the arm from above. As for the other part, when held in a fairly low hand, it is difficult to seize the arm from below, at least when in a guard position

But one can also hold the knife like one holds a sabre, the thumb along the back of the hilt. Moreover those who are accustomed to this manner, can "roll" the knife through their fingers, passing easily from one method to another

Just as one holds a knife or dagger with the point to the fore and to the side, close to the wrist in order to rise following the hand and add impact to the blow, it is also convenient for those men who, on occasion, attack an unarmed adversary. In addition...have prudence around treacherous strikes from behind by such men

### **Guard**

If one generally takes a right guard (if one is right handed) it is a little like the right guard of boxing when it comes to leg position, but one presents the left side more, in order to have the left hand near the same line as the right hand, and fairly close to it. The arms are more extended than a boxing guard and the hands a little lower

Recall that the left hand must, whenever possible, be covered by an improvised shield, any object to hand able to parry blows or entangle the adversary's weapon...and sometimes intended to be thrown at the face, or also to make a strike with

This can be, depending upon circumstance, a briefcase or a piece of clothing wrapped around the arm; or even simply a hat held in the left hand. One folds the clothing in such a fashion that it does not interfere with the movement of the left hand, while also ensuring that one is able to throw it at the adversary's face if the occasion arises. Other objects will serve as projectiles for defence as the need arises

Another guard is sometimes recommended: the left guard, one presents the left hand to the fore covered by a defensive object. But, while admitting one can take this guard on occasion, for variety, in order to disrupt the plans of one's adversary, it is preferable, especially if one has done a fair amount of common fencing in the *salle d'armes* (and if one is right-handed especially so), to hold the right side to the fore, so as to not lose ones practised methods, especially when it comes to attacks and stop-hits

### **Distance, steps, development**

The typical basics of cane, on distance, on stepping forwards and backwards (1), on development

(demi-lunges), are apply equally in knife and dagger fencing

Now we go to the indications on the principle blows and parades

(1) Certain turning movements are used in the Spanish style which have been spoken of previously in the fore-word. One makes the turning movement, a “*jiro*” or “turn”, when the adversary dodges by turning his side one makes a *contra-jiro*, a “counter turn” (sometimes, one expects, one leads with a *contra-jiro* in order to attack the adversary at the same time, making a new *jiro* in a manner contrary to the first. Changes of the hand are sometimes combined, in *navaja*, with these movements.)

These various turnings require lots of practice and are very risky

### **81,82,83**

#### **Blows to the hand, the forearm and the face**

When in comes to attacks, recall the blows to the hand and the forearm of which we have spoken before. In order to make these blows, one makes an instant decision as soon as the adversary considers an attack to one's side and he thinks less to defend the “more advanced” body parts which he will present; if one is not caught unawares, however, it will be more prudent when making attacks to safeguard, at least in part, the hand and the forearm with a defensive object held in the left hand. Carry both hands in a lively fashion to the fore, beside each other

If one does not hold one's hand or arm against the threatened blows one can imply the threat of blows with greater or lesser effect to make the adversary less keen, more circumspect, prevent him coming forward and unable to overcome you

Repeat these blows as needed

Sometimes, one makes these blows to interrupt the step or half-lunge of one's adversary, either during his attack, or during his riposte

Blows to the face are launched like a straight punch or like an epee thrust, as is most useful

These blows often succeed upon the preparations of the adversary, when he circles around you, makes excessive movement and approaches imprudently, then strike

It is obvious that the advantage of size, or longer arms, is to be valued

Blows are to be made either with a fixed foot, or with a half-lunge

### **84, 85**

#### **Blows to the body, in the highline and the lowline**

Recall that proficient knife users have a preference for the low line, where their blows are more dangerous

This is reason to be more wary, and to protect the abdomen by means of parades, protective shields are also a good idea

One can also, for one's defence, make a stop-hit (see later) to the face, especially if one has the

advantage of size

If you use these yourself, one can redouble as needed, having first made a simple threat

Before making parades, remember, even if armed with a knife, one can attack with French-boxing moves which have been previously shown in *100 methods of self-defence in the street without weapons*

These blows when combined with the use of the knife or dagger gives a complete set of tactics to use

**86,87,88,89,90,91**

### **Parades**

The left arm, in well-formed parades, is analogous to the same use in boxing, as much as it can be, whether an empty hand or gripping an object for defence

If one has an empty hand one risks an injury to the hand or arm, even if the adversary only has an ordinary knife or a dagger, in this case seek to divert his weapon arm and, with great resolution, seek to seize it. As a general rule it is difficult to quickly seize someone by the arm when he holds a knife or dagger-knives

One can oneself, in the case of the right hand holding a knife or dagger, make parrying actions in the manner of a sabre, hold ones hand in *tierce*, *quarte* or *seconde* then make cutting blows to the arm of the adversary. If these actions cannot, at least for ordinary knife or dagger, penetrate through clothes to wound the adversary as stop-hits one must seek an advantage by diverting a little to the adversary's arms, as in the former parade. (Sometimes they can be directed at the leg, along with a *coup-de-pied*)

But the most prudent defensive system is to parry with an improvised shield which one holds in the left hand and held to sometimes protect the left side, -or fully breakaway- or to fully withdraw, or “slip” any threatened body-part such as the head, an arm or a leg

**92,93,94**

### **Dodges**

While slipping the leg, one can make a stop-hit to the face with the point, or with the edge, or attack, in the latter case, either at the face, or at the neck

One can slip the head or the top part of the body to the right or the left, or make leaps to the side and return to guard, or, even better, make a riposte to the adversary if he has uncovered himself while striking

### **Observations on ripostes**

After you have parried or dodged, one ripostes directly with a blow depending upon the position of one's adversary as well as one's own position.

One uses the blows shown previously when it comes to these attacks

**95,96,97**

## **Stop-hits**

We have seen previously, among other things, thrusts to the high line against an adversary who carries himself with a low hand. While this is good to do, it is beneficial to gather the legs back and to withdraw the abdomen a little, that way it will be well protected, being further back than the rest of the body, behind the object held in the left hand. If one has the advantage of size, this stop-hit is even more certain. Inversely, upon a blow given to the high line by an adversary who flies upon you, one can lower oneself rapidly, placing one's left hand upon the ground, and launch a thrust at the adversary, into the intestines

But one can hardly attempt this blow if you, in the opposite of the previous case, are attacked by a much larger adversary. What's more you must be well practised and alert

Another stop-hit, recalling a blow used oftentimes in epee, even in France, and which comes from the Italian school by the name *inquatarta*, is done as follows: Upon a stepping attack by the adversary, especially if he threatens the middle and left side of the chest, rapidly pivot one's side upon the right foot a quarter turn or even more and, fully clearing one's body of the adversary's weapon, thrust him in the high line or cut to the neck or face

This blow is not to be done against a very skilled fencer

All the same, the stop-hits are made while passing (carrying the left foot in front of the right foot) to the left of the adversary, as done in oldendays fencing, or the blows can be made while slipping to the side, as in boxing, but these are not simple methods

## **98,99,10**

### **Various tricks**

Here are certain strategies, some tips from those that use them, especially those from Spain, included simply out of curiosity

Recall the practical trick which consists of throwing a defensive object at the adversary's head which one is holding in the left hand, in order to strike sooner

One can also throw a handful of earth at the eyes

In order to evade a knife, launch oneself like a missile, or throw oneself to the side or nearly to the ground

One can seek to disarm the opponent with a beat of the hat held in the left hand, if one reckons the weapon is not held firmly

A more questionable trick: "Let oneself, and even one's knife, fall to the ground, as if by accident, then quickly pick oneself up and half-rising strike a blow to the adversary's stomach"

That is not all. One is shown other more or less certain tricks:

"Divert one's eyes and direct your gaze behind one's adversary who, thinking there is someone behind him, will turn his head: attack quickly"

All is possible if one has a naive adversary. Readers can themselves, as the occasion arises, choose

their own various tricks

## **Fourth Part**

### **Swordstick**

### **Truncheon**

The swordstick allows one, with a very great effect, to make thrusts in the manner discussed in the handling of the knife or dagger

If one's adversary is not armed in the same manner, if he doesn't have, for example, a knife it gives a great superiority which it is not necessary to emphasise. But again one must be wary that the adversary does not seize the sword with a quick movement, or that he doesn't engage with a relatively long knife or dagger, then come closer and reach close range, after having commanded the sword with his weapon

An unarmed adversary is also able to skilfully and quickly launch clothing upon the sword, a mere moment's work, then follow with a leap more or less to one's side, finally to seize the weapon arm and arrive at close range

Given an ordinary cane, the adversary will seek to disarm, by means of grasping the blade or the hand of the man armed with the swordstick

In summary of this, in order to maintain the advantage in the situation, one must again be wary of these various tactics and draw back the weapon arm a little as required

Inversely, if it is the wrongdoer who holds the swordstick in his hand, and it is you who is not armed in a similar fashion, or simply with a knife or dagger, or an ordinary cane, one must seek to use these methods of which we have spoken

But the swordstick is not commonly used by bounders; it is commonly a defensive weapon carried by men susceptible to attack

Even if one is set upon by a wrongdoer of low reputation, one must not seek to give mortal wounds. It is better to endeavour to simply take him out of the fight, then to arrest him afterwards

Of course, if one has an altercation with more than one assailant, one is not always able to select which body-part to aim for and it is sometimes necessary to lash out into the throng, as said elsewhere, as best as one is able

Against an adversary armed with a swordstick in the same way as one is, the aim is to use tested tactics of the duel, with the following important differences.

In effect: 1, adversaries will not be beholden to the rules of the duel, whose application govern the results of an "affair of honour"

There will be no doctor, except by chance

2, The conventions of the duel are not appropriate in such a situation

3, Swordsticks do not have a protective hilt

4, The combat which we suppose between adversaries both armed with swordsticks often occurs at night, more or less in the dark

The absence of the regulatory witnesses and doctors risks aggravating considerably the type of combat that we are considering

There should therefore be particular caution, if only for this reason

The lack of a protective hilt is another reason to redouble one's attention

It is true that one can take in one's left hand an improvised shield, a hat or piece of clothing , as we have mentioned in the handling of the knife or dagger

In addition one can use special pocket hilts of my invention, completely effective either with an ordinary cane, or a swordstick, a knife or a dagger

It is possible to suppose a further situation where a single man, armed with a swordstick, finds himself opposite two or more adversaries armed just as he is or in various fashions

However one is seeking too many complications. People of breeding armed with swordsticks merely, if there is a quarrel between them, exchange their cards and do not engage two-on-one

As for the rest, one can consider the ideas which have been given on other occasions for a combat between one man against two or more adversaries

Recall that in such a case, one must know the "risks" and act decisively, seeking to separate them one at a time and take them out of the fight

### **Truncheon**

This is a dangerous stunning weapon, but it is less impactful than the swordstick, fortunately for those who are threatened with one

A man armed with a truncheon and who is given cause to use it in anger, must first aim at the forearm, exactly because his weapon is not very long

The actions of this weapon are analogous to the wristblows and rising blows (see the explanation given in the handling of the ordinary cane) and are especially effective

In order to protect oneself from the blows of a truncheon use the slips taught in boxing (see *100 methods of self-defence in the street without weapons*) where the withdrawal of the arm and the leg are shown

One can also use an improvised shield such as a hat, which is put in the way of blows. One then seeks to seize the weapon arm, by placing a rapid blow in close range shown in the text which has already been cited

Of course, if one is armed oneself either with an ordinary cane or a knife or dagger, one will use the preceding considerations, targeting first, for preference, the hand and the forearm of the adversary

armed with a truncheon

## **SECOND PART**

### **Twohanded Baton**

#### **Preliminary Thoughts**

The two handed baton, or simply the baton, is in short a stick longer than the ordinary cane, which is held in both hands either because of its length or due to the weight of the weapon

The baton, furthermore, by having great length, has, also due to its size, a sobering effect on an adversary or adversaries

But this weapon is used less frequently yet in the same manner as the cane, and because of this many of the principles are common to the baton and the cane, and so we shall discuss fairly briefly the latter

Grasp the baton by the butt end, and place the right hand to the fore, the left hand next to it near the very end of the baton

The thumb of the right hand is separate from the rest of the fingers and is placed on the baton above the other fingers. However, this thumb position is of less importance than in cane.

As for the left hand, place the thumb with the other fingers

The right hand directs the blows; the left hand is simply its auxiliary and must assist with flexibility

In order to acquire this flexibility it is useful to study the cane with the left hand

In the guard, one presents, in the same way as the cane, the right side (other side if one is left-handed) and holds it with bent arms

The legs are a little more bent and a bit wider in the guard than the cane in order to maintain balance

The same principles as the cane are used for stepping forwards and backwards, lunging or even half-lunging

The same principles are used for developing baton blows as for cane blows, and they use the same two actions corresponding to sabre cuts

### **56 and 57**

#### **Thrusts to the face and body (in the stomach area)**

Tip blows (corresponding to thrusts) are very much rarer in baton than in cane, often only between practised partners, both having a stick in hand

Baton are less manoeuvrable than the cane, and, for the other part, adversaries are more naturally safeguarded against blows to the face in baton than the cane

As for ripostes, include, on this occasion, a thrust to the face after a parade of quarte. The riposte with a thrust to the body, as it is easily countered by a parade in baton, will not arrive with much force, will be much less able to continue the action, which will slow one down later

**58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66**

### **Giving proper blows with the baton**

Baton blows are named: head blow, head-blow to the right, head-blow to the left, *coupees*, flank blows (1), and leg-blows

(In baton, the wrist-blow is not given in earnest and is a technique particular to the cane. It is better to replace it with a *coupee*, such as a blow to the forearm. For the other part, rising blows are fairly ineffectual with the baton, and less able to reach the bodyparts

Rising blows are done to the right and left, the right hand with the nails on top in order to create the blows, which is preferable to the rising blows to the left and right recommended for cane

(1) Flank blows can become kidney blows as the adversary presents more or less of their back

**67,68,69,70,71,72**

### **Some compound attacks**

The same comments as cane are made on the subject of compound attacks

If one has spare time, one can practice some compound attacks, such as these:

Feint to the head on the right then strike the head on the left;

Feint to the flank and then strike the head;

Feint to the stomach then strike to the head;

Feint to the head on the right and then strike the stomach;

Feint to the head then strike to the stomach or the flank

**73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80**

### **Parades**

In baton the parades are: *high prime*, *prime*, *seconde*, *tierce*, *quarte*, sometimes *high quarte* and circling guards in the form of *moulinets* to parry blows to the flank and blows to the leg.

The circling guards, in the form of *moulinets*, are also parade-ripostes, such that the riposte is integrated with the movement of the parade.

For example, upon a blow to the left leg, one must ( upon leaving the guard position) quickly lower the end of the baton behind and to the left, and with it describe a circular movement with a flex of the right wrist, the left hand always near to the right hand, striking the adversary with a blow to the head. When one lowers the baton at the start of the movement the right hand is held with the nails underneath. At the end of the movement it is held in a middle position. Upon a blow to the leg on the right, quickly lower the end of the baton behind and to the right and with it describe a circular movement with both wrists, striking the adversary with a blow to the head. When one lowers the baton, at the start of the movement, the right hand is placed with the nails on top; at the end of the movement, it is held in a middle position.

### **Observations upon ripostes**

The same ripostes, in general, are used in baton as are used in cane, after the previous parades, with the reservation as mentioned before when it comes to sleeve blows and rising blows

In the matter of ripostes to the thrust these are different from the cane where ripostes in *tierce* are the most practical, one will often be in *quarte* after a parade of *quarte* from where one will give a thrust to the side of the head with the baton, as mentioned before.

The observations made before at cane on the matter of doubles, stop-hits, ripostes, compound attacks and leaping are equally applicable here.

As in the cane, compound attacks, counter-ripostes and leaps demand a fairly long training, and are not part of the style that concerns us.