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How to Become a Killer In Ten Simple Lessons

By *Dennis Lee Royle*

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"You want to survive—then be prepared to kill." That is the maxim of one of South Africa's strangest schools. It teaches a dozen variations in the art of killing.

The Combat Survival School, as it is called, advertises regularly in the English-language press. For a fee of \$16.80 students receive a ten-lesson course.

A rambling single-story villa, a few miles from downtown Johannesburg, houses the students and instructors. Neighbors are getting used to the echo of revolver shots and ear-splitting battle cries.

QUALIFICATIONS

The principal is a man well versed in the art of survival. Australian-born Davo Davidson, 60, is a former Mau Mau fighter who says he killed many terrorists during the Kenya uprising. He quit Kenya eight months ago when Mau Mau leader Jomo Kenyatta attained political power. Davidson says he served as a Federal agent in the United States in 1920-23.

"Everyone—men, women and youths—should be able to protect themselves and their families, whether the threat comes from whites or blacks," he said.

"If you possess a pistol, knife, stick or even umbrella, learn to use it to its best advantage. If you are caught with nothing, learn to use your hands which can kill as efficiently as a pistol."

Among recent students are a mother and daughter team who can pump six bullets into

a 3-inch circle representing a man's heart on a man-sized target.

By means of a simplified Chinese form of judo called tode, mother and daughter can floor a 140-pound man with ease, without ruffling their hair.

Students at the school include housewives, clerks, typists and government employees.

A condition of acceptance is that students must sign a form confirming that he or she is "a member of the European community (white); not a member of any anti-South African or pro-Communist group."

ENROLLMENT

The current first course totals 25 students. More are being enrolled.

Davidson's school differs from the commoner weekly "pistol parties" held by thousands of South African men and women throughout the country. At these they often take coffee and sandwiches

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A. P. Wirephoto

Davidson (right), who fought the Mau Mau in Kenya, approved of a mother-and-daughter team's killer technique



A. P. Wirephoto

Teacher Dave Davidson gave two students a lesson in the fast draw.

between spells of shooting practice.

Davidson's students are trained to expect the unexpected from the moment schooling begins. A walk to the toilet, bathroom, changing room or lounge is a test of alertness and quick firing. Man-size targets may appear as students prepare to wash their hands. The man well trained in survival will fire three shots in a few seconds.

Lead bullets are replaced by wax imitations but the roar and kick of the pistol are real and the wax bullets penetrate the thick cardboard targets, allowing students to study the accuracy of their marksmanship.

Many of South Africa's ordinary schools have introduced anti-sabotage training, unarmed combat and pistol shooting for students. Civilian home guard units train in most major cities.

ARMS

It is officially estimated that about half of South Africa's 3 million whites possess guns. Tear gas shells are available to whites over 18 years of age.

Faced with a growing African nationalist movement near its borders and the possible infiltration of subversive elements seeking to overthrow this country's government, many South African whites are becoming increasingly security-minded.