

The Applegate-Paladin Connection

Paladin's new reprint of the Colonel's 1943 *Kill or Get Killed* honors decades of collaboration.

Our Combat Classic reprint of the highly sought 1943 edition of *Kill or Get Killed* represents a shared history between Paladin Press, its publisher Peder Lund and Col. Rex Applegate that stretches back three decades. Lund first met the Colonel in the mid-1970s at the Outstanding American Handgunner of the Year banquet (an award Applegate would later win in 1996). Their talk soon turned to publishing an updated edition of *Kill or Get Killed*, which resulted in the familiar, red-covered edition released by Paladin in 1976.

That was the beginning of a collaboration and friendship that would endure until Colonel Applegate's death on July 14, 1998. There is no way to recount all of the projects that came directly out of the relationship between the two men, but the list of highlights below touches on some of the most significant people, publications and training philosophies in the history of combatives.

- Colonel Applegate served as an important reference for Paladin when the company solidified its arrangement with the family of W.E. Fairbairn to reprint his legendary library – *Defendu, Get Tough, Scientific Self-Defence, All-In Fighting, Hands Off,* and *Shooting to Live* (with E.A. Sykes) – which has become a cornerstone of the Paladin catalog. In fact, Paladin used Applegate's personal copy of *Shooting to Live* to produce its first reprint edition of that title.
- In the early 1980s, Applegate, Lund, and terrorism specialist Mark Monday launched *TVI Journal* (for Terrorism, Violence, Insurgency), a professional publication that tracked developments and trends in insurgencies around the globe. Unlike similar academic periodicals of the time, *TVI* was aimed at real-world operators who were in the field, combating age-old and emerging threats. Twelve issues were eventually published, and it was far ahead of its time as a research and intelligence tool for counter-terrorist professionals.
- In 1981, Paladin published the revised and updated edition of Applegate's groundbreaking 1969 manual, *Riot Control*. The book would serve as the last word on the topic for years, virtually until the Colonel introduced Lund to Charlie Beene, a retired San Francisco police captain who would end up authoring two modern texts on crowd control with Paladin, both of which contain principles and techniques first outlined in *Riot Control*.
- During the development of the project that would eventually become the book *Randall Made Knives* by Robert Gaddis, Colonel Applegate mentioned to Lund that he had never met Bo Randall, with whom he had been corresponding and collaborating since World War II. Lund served as the catalyst for the historic meeting between the two men at the Randall knife shop in Orlando, Florida, on March 26, 1986. To this day, Lund keeps a photograph of himself, Applegate and Randall on the wall of his office in Colorado.



Col. Rex Applegate, Bo Randall, and Paladin publisher Peder Lund at the historic first meeting between Applegate and Randall on March 26, 1986.

- In 1994, Colonel Applegate reignited the debate over sighted shooting vs. point shooting with a provocative article in *Law and Order* magazine, followed by a string of projects with Paladin that clearly document the shooting philosophy and technique he had been championing since his work with Fairbairn and Sykes during World War II: the videos *Point Shooting* and *Shooting for Keeps* and the books *Bullseyes Don't Shoot Back* (with former Paladin video producer Michael Janich) and *The Close-Combat Files of Colonel Rex Applegate* (with Maj. Chuck Melson). These influential releases inspired a number of firearms instructors to continue – or, in some cases, begin – their quest to introduce realistic training methods into the law-enforcement community, including Bruce Siddle of PPCT, Steve Barron and Clyde Beasley of Hocking College, Bill Burroughs of Talon International, Michael Conti with the Massachusetts State Police and Lou Chiodo with the California Highway Patrol, among others.

It wasn't all business. Colonel Applegate was a fixture at the annual party sponsored by Paladin at the *Soldier of Fortune* magazine conventions in Las Vegas, and Lund fondly remembers many nights on the deck along the Umquah River in Oregon, drinking whiskey with the Colonel and enjoying Carole Applegate's superb dinners.

Paladin wasn't the only benefactor of Colonel Applegate's wisdom and experience. As a firm believer in the value of disseminating information to those who should have it, Applegate was a generous correspondent, and as such he served as a bridge between generations, linking men like William Fairbairn, Elmer Keith, Bill Jordan, Charlie Askins, Bo Randall and Roy Jinks with a new crop of students and instructors of practical combat training. Today, we are thankful to have the opportunity to reprint his first book, the 1943 edition of *Kill or Get Killed*, not only as our way of honoring a long and fruitful relationship but to acknowledge once again his enormous contributions to the evolution of close-quarters combat.