

GURPS[®]

Fourth Edition

MARTIAL ARTS[™]

FAIRBAIN CLOSE COMBAT SYSTEMS



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Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the **GURPS Basic Set, Fourth Edition**. Page references that begin with B refer to that book, not this one.

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INTRODUCTION

William Ewart “Dan” Fairbairn was one of the most influential combat instructors of the first half of the 20th century, and the source of several important close combat styles. Trained as a Royal Marine, he joined the international Shanghai Municipal Police (SMP) before WWI. Within a few years, he would become the SMP’s instructor in unarmed combat, riot control, and use of all firearms. Already during the 1920s he was a famous figure within the international law enforcement community. Fairbairn improved handgun-shooting techniques and virtually invented modern riot control and SWAT-type entry tactics. He also developed his own unarmed combat style, Defendu, which was used, not only in Shanghai, but likewise in other British colonies and settlements throughout Asia.

In addition to unarmed combat, Fairbairn excelled in firearms use and was an expert knife fighter. His entire skill set would be of particular use when, at the start of WWII, he returned to Britain and began to train Allied special ops troops and secret agents. During the war he attained legendary status and finally ended up in the USA, training American personnel. After the war, at over 70 years of age, he was still instructing police forces around the world in combat skills and riot control.

GURPS MARTIAL ARTS AND THIS BOOK

This book presents the core teachings of William Fairbairn in **GURPS** terms in one volume. It repeats the details of Fairbairn Close Combat Training (FCCT) from **GURPS Martial Arts**, but provides much additional info on that “Silent Killing” style, including variations and typical technique Combinations. In addition, there is a full write-up of Defendu, the original style on which FCCT was based, and a complete

style template for Fairbairn-Sykes Handgun Shooting, providing optional rules for using guns in close combat, based on those in **GURPS High-Tech**.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

The section on the Fairbairn Close Combat Training is based on that in **GURPS Martial Arts** (2007), written by Peter Dell’Orto and Sean Punch, which was in turn based on that in **GURPS WWII: Hand of Steel** (2002), written by Shawn Fisher. Some of the gun techniques and pieces of equipment first appeared in **GURPS High-Tech** (2007), authored by Shawn Fisher and Hans-Christian Vortisch. The material on Fairbairn and Defendu was expanded from an earlier treatment in the *Pyramid* article “The Shanghai Municipal Police” (2004) by Hans-Christian Vortisch.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hans-Christian “Grey Tiger” Vortisch, M.A., studied languages in Berlin and London, and is currently pursuing a law degree. He began writing for **GURPS** as a freelancer in 2001. He was author or co-author of **GURPS Covert Ops**, **GURPS High-Tech, Fourth Edition**, **GURPS Modern Firepower**, **GURPS Special Ops, Third Edition**, **GURPS WWII: Motor Pool**, and several e23 publications on military topics. He wrote additional material for numerous other **GURPS** books; translated, edited, or contributed to several German *Call of Cthulhu* products; and published many articles in American, British, and German gaming magazines. Hans has been an avid gamer since 1983. His non-gaming interests include science fiction, history, cinema, and punk rock. He lives in Berlin. His martial arts experience is limited to several years of Judo, Tae Kwon Do, and T’ai Chi Chuan.

... suddenly at the top of the stairs appeared a couple of dear old gentlemen (we later discovered one was 56 and the other 58). Both were wearing spectacles and both were dressed in battle dress with just a plain webbing belt. They walked to the top of the stairs, fell, tumbling, tumbling down the stairs and ended up at the bottom in the battle crouch position, with a handgun in one hand and a fighting knife in the other. A shattering experience for all of us.

– R.F. “Henry” Hall, “Memories on His and Her Majesty’s Service”

Fairbairn's Timeline

February 28th, 1885 – William Ewart Fairbairn born in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, England.

1901 – Aged 15, Fairbairn lies about his age and volunteers for the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

1907 – Leaves Marines and joins Shanghai Municipal Police (SMP) as Constable Second Class (Police Rank 0).

1908 – Starts training Jujutsu under Professor Okada.

1909 – Promoted to Constable First Class (PR 0).

1910 – Promoted to Sergeant Third Class (PR 1).

1912 – Promoted to Sergeant Second Class (PR 1). Becomes Assistant Drill Sergeant. Starts studying Pakua Chuan under Tsai Ching Tung.

1913 – Marries Edith Catherine Clarke.

1914 – Son John Edwin Fairbairn born.

1915 – Promoted to Sergeant First Class (PR 1). Writes *SMP Manual of Self-Defence*.

1916 – Starts training in Judo with Inspector Ogushi.

1917 – Promoted to Sergeant Major (PR 2). Becomes Drill Sergeant.

1919 – Seven-month paid Long Leave. Travels to America, spending six weeks attached as a Captain to the New York Police Department, and to England, where he's attached to London's Metropolitan Police. He also completes the British Army's Instructors Revolver Course.

1920 – Returns from Long Leave. Promoted to Sub-Inspector (PR 3).

1921 – Daughter Dorothea Elizabeth Fairbairn born.

1922 – Promoted to Inspector (PR 3). Writes *SMP Instructions and Conditions of Practice for the .45 Colt Automatic Pistol*.

1925 – Six-month paid Long Leave. Writes *SMP Shooting Manual*. Forms Reserve Unit (RU).

1926 – Promoted to Chief Inspector (PR 3). Publishes the *Defendu* manual (p. 8). Receives first-degree black belt from the Kodokan Judo University in Tokyo.

1927 – Develops bulletproof vest and entry shield (p. 20).

1928 – Promoted to Superintendent (PR 4).

1931 – Receives second-degree black belt from the Kodokan. Publishes *Scientific Self-Defense* in the U.S., a reprint of *Defendu*.

1935 – Promoted to Assistant Commissioner (PR 5) in charge of the Sikh Branch; still manages the SMP Training Depot and Armory.

1940 – Leaves Shanghai and the SMP. Joins Special Intelligence Service (SIS) as Captain (Military Rank 4). Becomes Instructor at Special Training Centre near Lochailort, Scotland, instructing the first British Commandos in "Silent Killing."

1942 – Joins Special Operations Executive (SOE). Becomes Instructor at Special Training School (STS) 103 near Oshawa, Canada. Promoted to Major (MR 4). Publishes *All-In Fighting* (sold slightly modified in the U.S. as *Get Tough!*, p. 8), *Shooting to Live* (p. 8), and *Self-Defence for Women and Girls* (sold in the U.S. as *Hands Off!*).

1943 – Seconded to the Office of Strategic Studies (OSS), instructing U.S. personnel at the secret Area B-5 in Maryland.

1944 – Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel (MR 5).

1945 – Returns to England in April. Receives U.S. Legion of Merit medal.

1951 – Instructs Singapore Police Force.

1956 – Instructs Cyprus Police. Continues to develop fighting gear, including the Cobra Fighting Knife. Writes *Cavalcade*, his unpublished memoirs.

June 20th, 1960 – William Ewart Fairbairn dies in Worthing, West Sussex, England.

was awarded the Legion of Merit medal by the USA, but in Britain, he did not receive any (official) recognition for his war service. However, even at over 70 years of age, Fairbairn continued to teach martial arts to police forces.

W.E. Fairbairn – The Man, The Legend

His ability in handling men (and women) as well as weapons made him one of the most popular members of the Schools and Training Staff.

– Kermit Roosevelt (editor), *War Report of the OSS*

Fairbairn was about 5'10", lean-faced and slim, weighing around 150-160 lbs. He was tough, strong, and leathery, with fair hair and blue eyes. In most period photos he displays a confident smirk. By the late 1920s he was nearsighted and usually wore round, horn-rimmed glasses. With his strict looks (and the fact that most people got to know him only as an instructor), he projected the somewhat misleading image of a harmless schoolmaster. When not training, he would smoke Chesterfields incessantly. SMP officers called him "Fairy" behind his back, although this was not meant derisive-

ly. To some of his closer friends, especially Americans, he apparently was "Willie." During WWII, he used "Dan" as *nom de guerre*, most of his students never learning his real name. They often called him "Delicate Dan."

Although friends like Applegate described him as "flamboyant" and less reserved than Sykes, Fairbairn was aloof as an instructor, never talking much with his students and not mingling with them after hours. Fairbairn had earned his skills (and rank) the hard way, and consequently expected no less from his students and subordinates. Fairbairn was portrayed by some as "fiercely loyal to his men," but also as "quick to see slights." Confident in his abilities, he was described as modest in younger years, always eager to learn something new. Later even his students seemed to be able to tell that he thought himself better than others – especially Sykes.

Fairbairn also seemed to lack any interests other than fighting (and occasional hunting and fishing). He never read and seemed uncomfortable in high society. However, at least in later life he took up bowling, even competing at the international level!

Superintendent W.E. Fairbairn (350 points)

This character sheet represents Fairbairn in 1930, aged 45, when he was still active commander of the SMP Reserve Unit and could be encountered in that capacity or as SMP instructor in Shanghai. Note that he has barely started working with the knife, and it does not include features such as Trained by a Master, Pressure Points, or Pressure Secrets, which he might possess in a cinematic campaign.

ST 12 [20]; **DX** 14 [80]; **IQ** 13 [60]; **HT** 11 [10].
Damage 1d-1/1d+2; BL 29 lbs.; HP 12 [0]; Will 13 [0]; Per 13 [0]; FP 11 [0].
Basic Speed 6.25 [0]; Basic Move 6 [0]; Dodge 10*; Parry 13*.

Social Background

TL: 6 [0].

CF: Western [0]; East Asian [1].

Languages: English (Native) [0]; Shanghainese: Spoken (Accented)/Written (None) [2].

Advantages

Combat Reflexes [15]; Fit [5]; Hard to Kill 2 [4]; Legal Enforcement Powers [10]; Police Rank 4 [20]; Reputation (+2 Reaction among other SMP officers, all the time) [5]; Status 2 (Free from Rank and Wealth) [0]; Wealth (Wealthy) [20].

Perks: Armor Familiarity (Judo; Karate); Cross-Trained (Pistol, SMP Armory collection) [1]; Style Familiarity (British Bayonet Fighting; Defendu; F-S Handgun Shooting; Gatka; Kodokan Judo; Pa Kua Chuan; Shinnoshoindo-ryu Jujutsu); Sure-Footed (Naval Training; Uneven); Technique Mastery (Arm Lock; Breakfall). [14]

Disadvantages

Addiction (Tobacco) [-5], Bad Sight (Nearsighted; Mitigator, Glasses, -60%) [-10], Bloodlust (12) [-10], Duty (SMP; 15 or less) [-15], Enemy (Organized Crime in Shanghai; 9 or less) [-20], Overconfidence (6) [-10], Sense of Duty (Subordinates) [-10].

Quirks: No intellectual interests; Proud; Staid; Uncongenial; Ungentlemanly. [-5]

Skills

Acrobatics (H) DX-1 [2]-13; Administration (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Area Knowledge (Shanghai) (E) IQ [1]-13; Armoury (Body Armor) (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Armoury (Small Arms) (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Boating (Unpowered) (A) DX-1 [1]-13; Body Language (A) IQ [2]-13; Broadsword (A) DX [2]-14; Criminology (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Detect Lies (H) Per-2 [1]-11; Driving (Automobile) (A) DX-1 [1]-13; Fast-Draw (Ammo) (E) DX+2 [2]-16*; Fast-Draw (Knife) (E) DX+1 [1]-15*; Fast-Draw (Pistol) (E) DX+2 [2]-16*; First Aid (E) IQ [1]-13; Fishing (E) Per [1]-13; Forced Entry (E) DX [1]-14; Gunner (Machine Gun) (E) DX [1]-14; Guns (Grenade Launcher) (E) DX [1]-14; Guns (Pistol) (E) DX+2 [4]-16; Guns (Rifle) (E) DX+1 [1]-15†; Guns (Shotgun) (E) DX+1 [1]-15†; Guns (SMG) (E) DX+1 [1]-15†; Interrogation (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Intimidation (A) Will-1 [1]-12; Judo (H) DX+4 [20]-18; Jumping (E) DX [1]-14; Karate (H) DX+4 [20]-18; Knife (E) DX [1]-14; Knot-Tying (E) DX [1]-14; Law (Shanghai Police) (H) IQ-1 [2]-12; Leadership (A) IQ [2]-13; NBC Suit (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Observation (A) Per [2]-13; Savoir-Faire (Dojo) (E) IQ [1]-13; Savoir-Faire (Military) (E) IQ [1]-13; Savoir-Faire (Police) (E) IQ [1]-13; Search (A) Per [2]-13; Shield (E) DX [1]-14; Shortsword (A) DX [2]-14; Soldier (A) IQ [2]-13; Spear (A) DX [2]-14; Stealth (A) DX-1 [1]-13; Streetwise (A) IQ-1 [1]-12; Swimming (E) HT+1 [2]-12; Tactics (H) IQ+1 [8]-14; Teaching (A) IQ+2 [8]-15; Throwing (H) DX-2 [1]-12.

Techniques: Acrobatic Stand (A) [6]-13; Arm Lock (Judo) (A) [6]-24; Breakfall (Judo) (A) [4]-22; Choke Hold (Judo) (H) [3]-18; Close-Hip Shooting (Pistol) (A) [3]-16; Disarming (Judo) (H) [3]-20; Fast-Firing (Pistol) (H) [4]-16; Immediate Action (Pistol) (A) [4]-15; Immediate Action (SMG) (A) [2]-12; Neck Snap (H) [5]-12; Quick-Shot (Pistol) (A) [4]-14; Quick-Shot (SMG) (A) [4]-13; Retain Weapon (Pistol) (H) [3]-16; Retain Weapon (Shortsword) (H) [2]-15.

* Includes +1 for Combat Reflexes.

† Defaults from Guns (Pistol).

*Off duty, his conversation was limited to two words: yes and no . . .
All his interest, all his knowledge, all his intelligence – and he was
intelligent – concentrated on one subject and one subject only – fighting.*

*– George Langelaan, **Knights of the Floating Silk***

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