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# KING OF WEAPONS — THE SPEAR

BY Lynn C. Thompson

The spear is one of man's oldest and most enduring weapons. Its history and use span every continent since the dawn of time. Even today, it is common to find people around the world who still rely on the spear to provide food and protection. However, here in the U.S., where the 2nd Amendment guarantees us the right to firearms, we seem to have forgotten about the spear. No longer do we appreciate its advantages or understand its limitations. No longer do we understand how to utilize it for hunting, self defense, or even war.

But now, our comfortable world is changing. Our precious 2nd Amendment is under a vicious and unrelenting attack by those who would deny us our God given right to bear arms. Every day they seem to gain ground and the future of widespread gun ownership in the United States looks grim. That's why I decided it was high time to remind my readers of the spear. The king of weapons that, down through the ages, has never been successfully registered, banned, controlled or repressed and still stands ready to defend your life, property and honor.

## ADVANTAGES OF A SPEAR

**Durable** - Despite its great length and wooden shaft, a spear is a surprisingly durable weapon. I personally have thrown the same 5 spears into a 2 X 4 backstop thousands of times and only broke one shaft! If your shaft does break, it's cheap, quick and easy to replace.

If you're out in the field, an improvised shaft can be easily made out of a hardwood sapling, tree branch, or a piece of cane or bamboo.

**Reach** - Without a doubt, the single greatest advantage the spear enjoys over every other hand held weapon (outside of firearms) is its enormous reach.

When used as a stabbing weapon, a full sized spear (6' to 10' long) can easily out-distance the

mightiest tooth or claw not to mention knives, clubs, swords, axes or even fixed bayonets. And when used as a throwing weapon, the reach of a spear can be accurately extended at individual targets up to 50 feet away and at massed targets 100 feet or more.

**Lethal** - Unless you have actually used a spear or seen one in action, it's hard to imagine just how lethal it can be. A good, sharp spear, measuring 6 feet in length and weighing 2 lbs. or more, can easily be stabbed through the toughest hide to create a wound channel two feet long by three inches wide! What's more, unlike the wound channel of a bullet, the wound channel of a spear can be immediately enlarged to gigantic proportions. All one has to do is pump the shaft up and down or twist it from side to side. Just imagine the swath a 13" blade could cut through a chest cavity as it's rotated back and forth over a full 180° arc!

Have I got your attention yet? If not, here's some more food for thought. This same spear hits twice as hard when thrown. That's right! Penetration of a hand thrown spear through flesh and bone rivals that produced by a 470 Nitro Elephant Rifle. A good spear man can easily hurl his spear completely through a bull elk, moose, grizzly bear or even a cape buffalo.

**Inexpensive** - When compared to the purchase of a firearm, bow and arrow, or even a sword, the purchase of a high quality spear is downright cheap. Many spears can be had from these pages in the \$30 to \$40 range and it's a rare model that you will find on the market for much over \$100. At these low prices, anyone can afford a spear for self protection and they are cheap enough to buy 3 or 4 at a time for throwing!

**Legal** - To the best of my knowledge, there are no laws on the books restricting the sale or possession of spears. In my opinion, any attempt to regulate or forbid them is unconstitutional, as

spears and polearms were widely used by patriots in our fight for independence and are fully protected by our 2nd Amendment. Today, spears can be easily obtained from Cold Steel and other manufacturers, or they can be bought at gun shows and gun shops throughout the country.

**Simple** - Next to a club, the spear has got to be one of the simplest weapons to make or improvise. All you need is a long shaft and a point. A suitable shaft can be fabricated out of a sapling, pole, dowel, broomstick, mop handle, or even a piece of pipe. A point can be whittled on any wooden shaft and fire hardened or it can be made of stone, glass or virtually any metal. All you have to do is use a little imagination and the simplest of hand tools (a knife will do in a pinch) to make an effective spear.

**Silent** - Like the knife, the spear is a totally silent weapon. There is no muzzle flash, explosion or twang of a bow string to give away your position when you're wielding a spear.

**Easy to Learn** - Next to the wooden club, the spear has to be the easiest weapon to learn how to use in the shortest period of time. I don't care if you are male or female, or whether you are 7 or 70, anyone can learn the basics of spear handling in just a few hours and become a formidable opponent with just a few days of training.

## DISADVANTAGES OF A SPEAR

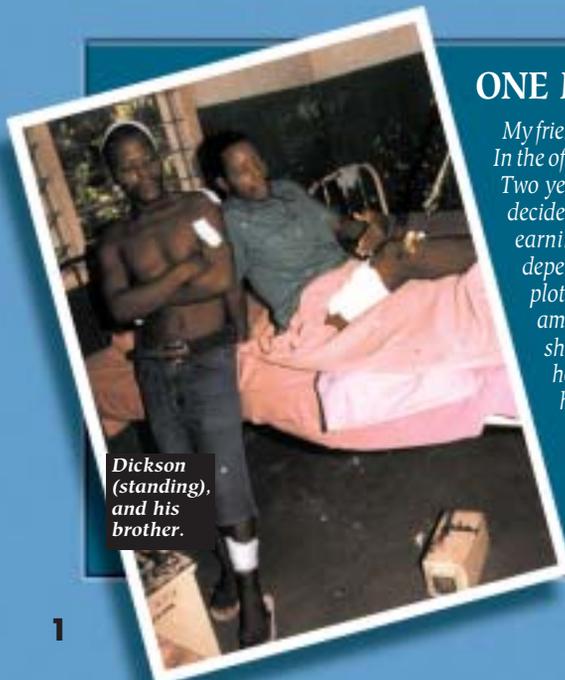
**Thrown Away** - While spears are very effective and useful weapons, there are some unpleasant side effects when you actually throw them. For example, once a spear is thrown, it has to be abandoned until it can be safely retrieved. In this interval you had better be carrying other weapons to continue the fight or be prepared to run away. And while you're running, think about this—your opponent is free to pick up the spear you just hurled at him and return the favor.

**Difficult to conceal and transport** - Outside of a Zulu Assegai, spears are notoriously awkward to conceal or transport. How do you hide something that's 6' to 10' long on your person? You sure can't hide it under your trench coat or parka. And how do you transport it? There's not much room in a car for a long spear. For the most part, you will have to haul it around in plain view, which is bound to raise a few eyebrows in a big city. It's even worse when you try and pack a bunch of spears in the field. Sure, just about anyone can manage one or two, but carrying three or four is just about out of the question.

**Ineffective at close range** - As I will mention later, spears are at a real disadvantage when fighting at extreme close range. You see, once an enemy shoots in past your point, your spear is almost useless. All you can do is retreat as fast as you can and try to regain the space you need to fight effectively or shorten your spear by "choking up" on it.

## ONE MAN'S VICTORY

*My friend Dickson is a driver and game scout in Tanzania. In the off season he farms sugar cane and runs a little store. Two years ago after the hunting season a gang of thugs decided to break into his shop and steal his season's earnings. Dickson knew his family's welfare was dependant on this money and when he heard about the plot he decided to defend himself by setting up an ambush. Dickson hid behind a wall and when the shotgun-wielding bandits broke down his front door he sprang out and stabbed the leader through the heart with his trusty spear. Unfortunately, the rest of the gang fell on Dickson and his brother (who ran to his aid), and they were severely injured in the ensuing melee. However, they both recovered and are alive to tell the tale and some firearm-wielding thugs are not!*



Dickson (standing), and his brother.

## HOW TO THROW A SPEAR

When throwing a spear at close to medium range (point blank to 40 ft.), grasp the spear at its balance point as shown, (Fig. 1) being careful not to fully close your fist around the shaft (see insets, left). Next, face your target with your feet, shoulder distance apart, keeping your right shoulder (holding the spear) in direct line with the target. Now bring up your spear so both the shaft and the head form a straight line and are pointing directly at the target (Fig. 2). Make sure that your right hand is holding the spear in close to the right side of your head, with your thumb almost touching your cheek, and that the shaft is over the point of your shoulder.

Once you are correctly lined up, quickly calculate the amount of hold-over necessary to compensate for the spear's notorious rainbow

trajectory. If you are throwing at very close range or with a light spear or javelin, little or no hold-over may be necessary. However, if you are using a heavy spear or are throwing from 10 or even 15 yards, considerable elevation may be required to put your spear on target.

Now it's time to actually throw your spear. Focus your gaze on the appropriate spot on your target and take one step forward with your left foot while simultaneously drawing back your spear arm until it reaches the "cocked" position (approximately 8" to 10") (Fig. 3). Next, push off on your right foot and rotate your body forward, making sure to add the full strength of your back, shoulder and arm to the throw (Fig. 4 and 5).

To insure accuracy, try to extend your throwing arm as far as possible before releasing your spear and sending it on its way (Fig. 6). Keep in mind that you must keep your spear head and shaft in a straight line throughout the throwing motion. Don't let your wrist or arm twist to the right or left or your spear will quickly drift off course.

To practice throwing your spear, you will need a suitable open space and a smooth dirt,

sand or grass surface. Practicing on these soft surfaces will extend the life of your spears while hard surfaces like asphalt or concrete will greatly shorten them.

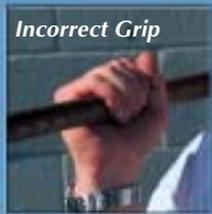
For safety, you will also need a good back stop to catch your misses and shorten the time it takes to retrieve your spears. I have found that a wall of old wood pallets, plywood sheets, or hay bales will serve admirably for this purpose.

Targets can be made or improvised from a host of materials and are only limited by your imagination. I have at one time or another used hay bales, cardboard boxes, wooden blocks set on a stump, coffee cans, paper plates, and dirt clods.

Once you have your range "squared away," you're ready to go to work. I suggest you begin to throw at 10 feet at a large target. When you can keep 8 out of 10 throws inside a paper plate move back 3 feet and start all over again until your throwing accurately at 50 feet or more.

Don't make the mistake of pushing yourself too hard and over training. All you will do is burn your arm out or tear your rotator cuff, which is a real bummer. Instead, throw a light spear 30 to 40 times with each arm every third day. If you want to throw a heavy spear weighing 3 or even 4 lbs. you'll need to cut your throwing in half.

*Continued on next page.*



**Incorrect Grip**



**Correct Grip**



**Fig 1. Balance Point.**



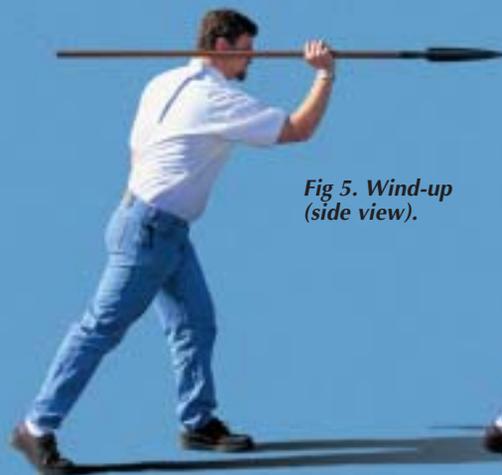
**Fig 2. Prepare to throw (side view).**



**Fig 3. Prepare to throw (top view).**



**Fig 4. Wind-up (top view).**



**Fig 5. Wind-up (side view).**



**Fig 6. Throw (side view).**

## HOW TO FIGHT WITH A SPEAR

As I have mentioned previously, learning how to fight effectively with a spear is quick and simple compared to learning how to wield a knife, tomahawk, or sword. All it takes to become a formidable spearman is learning the following basic moves and developing your eye-hand coordination so you can accurately direct the point. Again, if you have any questions, most answers can be found in sparring it out. Try to train and spar with opponents armed with realistic weapons like simulated rifles tipped with bayonets, baseball bats, swords, machetes, axes and yes, even other spears. Use your imagination and combine hard and soft foam, insulation material, tennis balls, PVC pipe, rattan, and tape. If you put your mind to it, I'm sure you'll be surprised at the realistic looking weapons you can create to practice against. And, as a final word before we begin, don't neglect your safety. Go ahead and put on padded body armor, hockey gloves, elbow and knee pads, cervical collar and a three weapons rated fencing mask or escrima helmet. Don't forget that your eyes are irreplaceable and that a single thrust from even a heavily padded spear can put out your lights forever!

**On Guard** - Just like when fighting with a tomahawk, there are two basic stances you can adopt when armed with a spear. One choice is the right, or strong side forward stance. In my opinion, the long suit of this stance is that it puts the stronger arm closer to the spear head where it can better direct the cutting edges and add extra power to hacking or slashing attacks. However, after dispatching numerous large animals with a spear, I am convinced one is far better off utilizing the point of the spear, not its edges! Therefore we will concentrate on the right, or strong side back stance.

Here the right arm grasps the spear near the butt where its greater strength can aid effective thrusting or stabbing attacks.

To assume my preferred "on guard" position, stand with your feet shoulder distance apart in the center of a big, imaginary clock. Next, take one step forward with your left foot and turn both feet until your toes are pointing at one o'clock (twelve o'clock would have been directly in front of you). Bend both knees slightly and raise the heel of your right foot several inches off the floor. This is important, as it will help your back leg to act as a spring and improve your footwork. Now grasp your spear near the butt with your right hand, and about 2 feet to 2 1/2 feet up the shaft with your left hand. Check and make sure your right hand is holding the butt of the spear near your hip and that your left is pointing the tip of your spear at your opponent's chin. You are now "on guard" (Fig. 7)!

### OFFENSE

The more you fight with a spear the more you'll appreciate that the name of the game is offense. All of your senses must be constantly attuned to taking advantage of any opportunity to thrust. Learn to be hungry and pay attention to the following basic attacks.

**Two handed thrust** - From the "on guard" position, transfer 70% of your weight on to your front foot by bending your knee and leaning toward your opponent. Concentrate on putting all of your weight and strength into your spear as you use both hands in concert to drive its point into his body. To quickly retract your spear, transfer your weight back to your rear foot while pulling back on the spear shaft with both hands.

To get more reach with a two handed thrust, start from the "on guard" position but this time push off with your right foot and take a step forward with your left. As your foot hits the ground, simultaneously thrust your spear forward with both hands (Fig. 8).

**Slip Thrust** - Assume the "on guard" position and point your spear head at the desired target with your left hand. Bend your left knee a little bit more and lean toward your enemy (to help get some momentum going)

## HUNTING WITH A SPEAR

Far before the invention of gun powder, man developed four major methods of hunting with a spear. Now with a revival of spear hunting, especially in our southern states (spear hunting deer is legal in some states), I thought it was time to briefly explore these time proven methods of hunting with the king of weapons, the spear.

**Stalking** - To see your quarry before he detects you and escapes is the first requirement of this hunting method. After that, you have to get the wind in your face so he can't smell you and creep up on him as quiet as a mouse. Try to end your stalk behind a tree, bush, log or stump that will conceal you until you actually make your throw. And remember, while a spear may be silent, it's slow. Even the weakest bow shoots an arrow faster than your spear will fly so get in close and make a clean, humane kill.

**Ambush** - There are two parts to setting a successful ambush with a spear. The first is determining where your prey drinks or what paths or trails he uses on his way to food or shelter. The second is to find an ideal ambush site that works with the limited range of your spear. Look for natural cover or build a good blind. Wear camouflage clothes and hide your scent. Don't forget to look around for over hanging trees, ledges and banks that can put you above your prey and out of his natural line of sight.

as you use your right arm to drive your spear forward until it impales your enemy. To pull this off you will have to loosen your grip with your left hand enough to allow the spear shaft to slip smoothly through the encircling fingers (Fig. 9). When done quickly, all your opponent will see is a flash of the point before it hits him.



Fig 7. On Guard.



Fig 9. Slip Thrust.



Fig 8. Two Handed Thrust.



Fig 10. One Handed Thrust.

**Drives** - In Africa, drives are a favored method of hunting with a spear. Many times the men and boys of a whole village will turn out to drive or beat a likely looking spot of game rich country. What they try to do is drive game through land with natural or man made barriers and funnel them into a net or fence line where they can be trapped and speared.

**Hunting with dogs** - One highly productive method of spear hunting that I guarantee you'll find exciting is teaming up with a well trained pack of dogs. You see, a dog pack radically increases your chances of success. They can see, smell, and hear the quarry far before you can. And once they are on the scent trail, their highly developed noses allow them to follow it over even the roughest terrain. Four strong legs and incredible stamina are also on their side, allowing them to actually chase down the prey until it turns at "bay" or "trees". All the spear man has to do is follow the racket as fast as he can and get to the pack before anyone gets hurt or killed.

A word of warning, some commonly hunted prey animals like bear, wild boar and sanbar deer can be very dangerous, especially if they break out of the encircling hounds just as you make your move. You must also be aware that the dogs, like you, will be very excited and in constant motion. Be very sure you have a clear, unobstructed target before you thrust, as nothing will make you more unpopular if you wound or kill one or more very expensive dogs.

**One armed thrust** - To execute a one armed thrust, turn your hips suddenly forward while you transfer most of your weight on to your front foot. Drive your right shoulder all the way forward and extend your right arm as far as possible toward the target. Obviously your right hand will be holding the butt of the spear throughout the stroke. The left hand however, will let go of the spear shaft as the right arm drives forward and assumes a waiting position near the left pectoral muscle (Fig. 10).

Now comes the difficult part—recovery. Since the weight of your spear is concentrated at the

spear head, it will naturally drop when you attempt to recover from this thrust. To counter this annoying and dangerous lurch of your spear shaft, push down on the butt as you yank your right arm back. This move will force your spear head to pop back up and will place the shaft in a position where it can be grabbed by the waiting left hand and brought back "on guard".

**Slashing** - While I prefer to avoid slashing in favor of stabbing, there are times when a slashing attack is the most appropriate for that moment in time. A quick example of this is when using your spear shaft to block a cut at your head. The goal here is to stop the cut, and beat it down and to the side. This will leave your spear on top of your opponent's weapon (smothering it) and in perfect position to immediately slash up into his exposed face.

To execute a slashing attack, extend your spear until the head is over the desired target then use your forward arm to rake the point up, down, or sideways, as appropriate (Fig. 11). For power, turn your body weight into the slash or drop your butt straight down and let your weight sink into it. Finally, try to make sure your tip is pulled entirely through the target as this will create the longest, deepest wound.

**Beat Attack** - From the "on guard" position, push off on your rear foot and take a step forward with your left to get some momentum into your attack. As soon as your left foot hits the ground, extend your spear and beat or knock his weapon to the side (Fig. 12). Use the portion of your spear shaft just below the head for maximum leverage. Watch for the point of his weapon to move past the center line of his body. When you see this happen, immediately stab forward with your point. For this attack to be successful, you must be HUNGRY! In other words, you have to be cocked with your finger on a hair trigger. As soon as you see his point move off line, you go off with a bang and stab into the opening.

**Throwing a spear** - For a virtually certain victory against an un-armored opponent, close the distance to no more than 20 feet and hurl your spear directly at the center of his body. At this range, all you have to be concerned about is missing him by going to the right or left. If your spear hits high, you take him in the chest, neck,

or head. If your spear goes low, you have the groin and both legs. It's the windage you have to worry about. To minimize the possibility of your spear going wide to one side or the other, make sure you are correctly lined up on your opponent with your spear shaft pointed at his center line. Concentrate on the spot you want to hit and when you throw, keep your arm in close to your head. It may sound a little weird, but I have also had good luck throwing at close range (out to 7 yards) by holding my spear above my head before my wind up and release. This posture seems to keep your arm in closer to your head and the side of your body when you throw, which in turn minimizes the possibility of the spear going wide to the right or left.

## DEFENSE

The enormous reach of your spear usually precludes the necessity of defensive action. Remember, you are holding a weapon 6-10 feet long. Anytime someone menaces you with a hand-held weapon, stab them. If someone winds up to hit you with a baseball bat, machete, sword, club or whatever, your reaction shouldn't be to evade, block, etc. Instead, you should attack. Stab them! I know from sparring that there will be times you just can't get off a stab first and will need defensive skills. And since this is an article, not a book, I won't be able to share everything I know on this subject. However, I am able to offer the following basics, which should suffice to get you started.

**Footwork** - As I mentioned in my Tomahawk article, footwork is a huge subject when fighting with any hand-held weapon and there just isn't enough space to deal with it in depth here. However, I am able to offer the following hints which I feel will be of help. As always, the more you spar, the better your footwork will get.

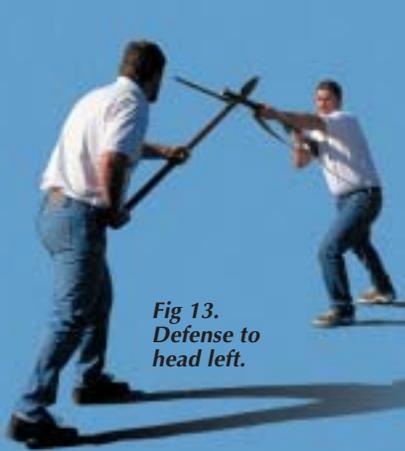
**Stay In Your On Guard Stance** - When facing your opponent always stay in the "on guard" stance with your spear shaft lined up straight with the center of his body and the tip pointed at his chin. Make sure your body is standing slightly off center to him. This will put him to the inside (right) of your spear shaft where he's the easiest to deal with. If he tries to move to flank you, move with him and maintain the

*Continued on next page.*



Fig 11. Slashing Attack.

Fig 12.  
Beat  
Attack.

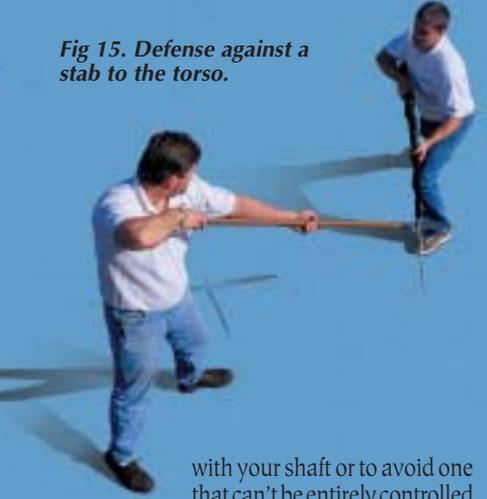


**Fig 13.**  
*Defense to head left.*

**Fig 14.**  
*Defense to head right.*



**Fig 15.** *Defense against a stab to the torso.*



correct alignment as described above. You see, if your opponent tries to slip past your point and dart in on your right flank, you have three options: You can stab him, shove him off with the shaft, or butt stroke him. However, if he is allowed to take your left flank you will have to retreat just to bring your point to bear and will be unable to use either the shaft or butt to strike with.

**Concentrate On Vertical Movement** - Keep the fight directly in front of you, advancing and retreating in a straight line with your opponent. This type of "vertical" movement is ideal for the spearman because it doesn't matter to you whether your opponent is moving forward or backward. All you have to do is keep your tip lined up with him and stab him anytime he comes within reach.

**Avoid Initiating Lateral Movement** - In other words, don't voluntarily move from side to side, or unnecessarily circle your opponent. You see, when you step laterally to your opponent you are automatically bringing your point "off line" and the danger you present to him is greatly diminished. If you are forced to move laterally to maintain the correct alignment, avoid stepping off at a 90° to him. Instead, experiment with moving forward or back at a 45° angle as this will decrease the time your tip is "off line" and make it easier for your body to assume the "on guard" position once you have stopped moving.

**Grabbing** - One of the biggest threats to a spearman is an opponent who takes his flank and swoops in to grab his shaft. His goal is to momentarily control your spear while continuing to move forward to extreme close range where

you will be at a huge disadvantage. To stymie a grabbing attack, take a step backward while yanking on the shaft of your spear with both hands as hard as you can. This should jerk your spear free and allow you to immediately stab your assailant. However, if this tactic proves unsuccessful, use the greater strength and leverage of two hands to ram your spear forward into him or smash the shaft or butt into his face.

**Blocking** - Most attacks can be simply and easily blocked by a spear due to its great length and the tremendous leverage one gains by holding it with both hands instead of just one. However, before we proceed there are three things you must always be aware of when blocking with your spear. One, no matter how thick and tough your spear shaft is, it will always be vulnerable to repeated blows from an axe or sword. Don't let your opponent cut the tip off your spear. If he attacks the shaft, give with the blow and circle your point underneath his weapon and stab him. Two, a crafty opponent who finds his attack blocked by your spear shaft will often attempt to slide or scrape the razor sharp edge of his weapon down it in an attempt to slice off your fingers! Three, keep in mind that it may be necessary to combine good footwork with your blocking efforts. Sometimes you will have to take a step forward or back with your lead leg to get the correct angle to oppose an incoming weapon. At other times you may have to abandon straight-line vertical movement and take a 45° step "off line" to position your shaft to meet an oncoming attack. Be aware that blocking is never static. Don't stand there like a stump rooted in the ground. Be ready to move if necessary to "pick up" at attack

with your shaft or to avoid one that can't be entirely controlled by your blocking effort.

**Thrusts at your neck and head** - When you see your opponent's weapon stab forward, extend your spear and use the first half of the shaft (nearest the tip) to push his weapon up and to the side. The goal is to redirect it and create an opening for your counter attack. Remember to be hungry! As soon as you feel your shaft make contact, push up and out (Fig. 13 and 14)!

**Thrust At Your Torso** - To block a thrust at your torso, take a step back with your right foot and drop the first half of your spear over his incoming weapon and violently press it down and to the side (Fig. 15). A variation of this block is to slip the first half of your spear underneath his weapon and lift it up and to the side. Remember, no matter what method you use, it may be necessary to use good body mechanics to get the correct angle to block and control his weapon!

**Cuts at the left side of the head** - Attacks on your left are usually forehanded and more powerful. To deal with this type of blow, take a 45° step to your right going either slightly forward or back as appropriate (not 90° laterally) and extend your spear shaft into the path of the incoming weapon. As soon as you feel contact on your shaft, push it out and away from you and either stab him or come back "on guard" (Fig 16 and 17). Don't be careless or lazy in recovering your shaft after blocking. Remember, your left side is the most vulnerable if your opponent is successful in grabbing your shaft with his free hand.

**Cuts at the right side of your head** - Attacks on your right are usually back handed and less



**Fig 19.**  
*Cut at right side of head (part B).*

**Fig 20.**  
*Cut at right side of torso (part A).*



**Fig 21.**  
*Cut at right side of torso (part B).*



**Fig 16. Cut at left side of head (part A).**



**Fig 17. Cut at left side of head (part B).**



**Fig 18. Cut at right side of head (part A).**



powerful and easier to deal with. All you have to do to block an attack from the right is to push your spear shaft forward into the path of his weapon (Fig 18 and 19). Again, make sure you retract your spear or attack after blocking so he can't grab your spear shaft.

### STRATEGY

**Cuts at the right and left side of your torso -** From the "on guard" position cuts at your torso can be dealt with by observing the path of your opponent's weapon and dropping the front half of your spear shaft over it, smashing it violently to the ground. Don't forget you may have to use footwork to make adjustments when blocking in this manner. You can seldom stand still and defend (Fig. 20, 21, 22, and 23)!

**Attacks to the legs -** In my experience, the vast majority of low attacks to the leg and foot will be directed at the front leg, not the rear. To defend against these attacks, retract the front leg causing your opponent's blow to miss or fall short and immediately counter with a thrust to any open target (Fig. 24).

**Final advice on defense -** When defending, keep in mind that if your spear point is high when you're attacked, you will generally push forward into the path of your opponent's weapon and push it away or drop on it with the intent to smash it into the ground. If your point happens to be low when attacked, you will generally lift your spear shaft up into the path of his weapon and push it aside. I want to stress you must be anxious to feel your spear shaft contact his weapon. Push it away hard and redirect it. Make the shaft of your spear stick to his weapon by constant forward pressure; this will help you control it and prevent it from slipping off your shaft and injuring you.

**Have another weapon -** Always wear a back up when fighting with a spear. As I have said before, the only time you are really vulnerable is when an opponent takes your left flank, grabs your spear and closes. If this happens to you, I guarantee you'll be glad you're packing a short sword, Bowie, kukri or dagger. Just be ready to quickly draw it and launch a stabbing attack with your right hand to drive him off.

**You're the King -** Don't forget when fighting with a spear that you are the king! In all likelihood, your weapon will be much longer than your opponent's. Be aggressive! As soon as you can bring your opponent into range, attack and keep attacking.

**Hide the length of your spear -** There's no reason your opponent has to know the exact length of your spear and at what range you can reach him. To confuse him, choke up on the end of your shaft a foot or two and when your opponent thinks he's at a safe distance take up the "hidden foot" and stab him.

**Attack in Combination -** Don't just make a single stab then recover and try again. Stab in combination. Pump the point of your spear at your opponent two or three times in a row in quick succession.

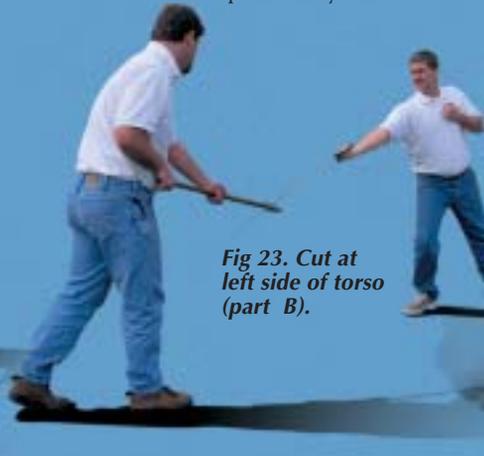
**Draw Him Out -** Attack your opponent with a continuous series of stabs directed all over his body. Your goal is to draw him out into a committed parry. Watch for it and as soon as he's committed to his defense, disengage and stab any target that's open.

**Stab The Hands -** The hands and forearms of just about any un-armored opponent are particularly vulnerable.

**Fig 22. Cut at left side of torso (part A).**



**Fig 23. Cut at left side of torso (part B).**



**Fig 24. Defense against stab at leg.**

People tend to think you want to stab them in the torso, not the hands. Remember, no one can take a stab into the hand or forearm from a 2,3, or even 4 pound spear and continue to fight effectively with that hand. So practice stabbing drills to develop your eye-hand coordination and pick off his weapon hand!

**Stab The Face -** From the "on guard" position, stab your opponent right between the eyes. A thrust to this spot in the face is particularly difficult for the eyes to pick up and register. If your opponent sees anything at all, it will be just a flash of light glancing off your spearhead before it smacks him dead center. Always remember, when in doubt, slash and stab the face!

### AGAINST THE GUN

Sure, I admit taking on a gunman with a spear is a daunting task fraught with danger. However, if you can avoid a "high noon" style duel, it's not as hopeless as you might think. The key to increasing the possibility of success is to pick the ground you intend to fight from and set up an ambush. Look for a hallway, room, loft, attic, closet, tunnel, ditch or even a street corner where you can conceal yourself and still reach your adversary with your spear. This means you will have to launch your sneak attack from no more than 20 feet if throwing, or 10 feet if stabbing (depending on the length of your spear). Now all you have to do is stay hidden, silent, and motionless until your enemy comes into range and then let him have it. Remember, a spear, like any pointed, edged, weapon incapacitates by massive blood loss and the subsequent lack of oxygen to the brain. Once you start your attack, don't stop until you are sure your adversary is no longer a threat.

