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COMBAT

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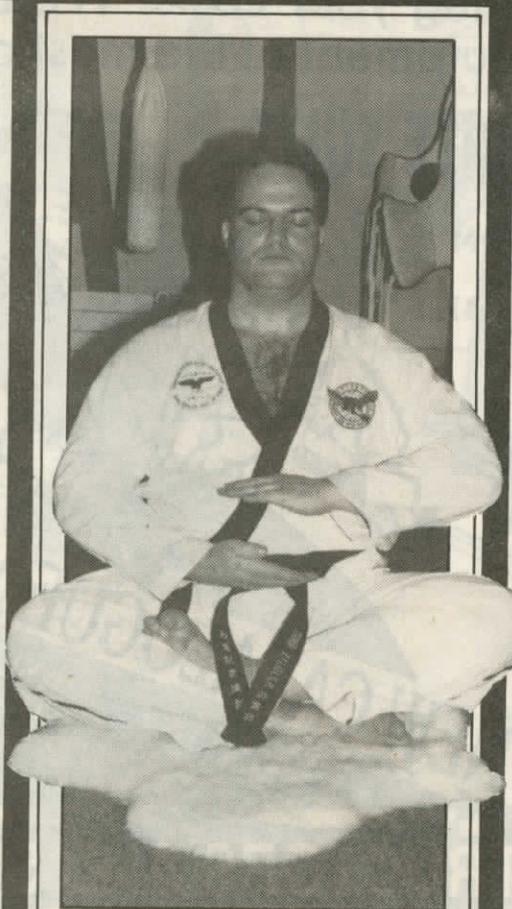
JURG ZIEGLER

A FOREIGN AFFAIR

Jurg Ziegler is a Swiss martial art teacher of Wing Chun kuen and Hapkido. He began training in karate at 12 years of age, having been impressed by a Bruce Lee film. But there were no Wing Chun teachers in Switzerland at that time, so he came to London twice a month to train with Austin Goh. Three years later he opened his first school, and a year further on, he opened his own martial art academy in Zurich.

Whilst in London, Ziegler met other Chinese teachers and expanded his area of knowledge. Further contact with one of these - Sunny Tan - caused him to be introduced to Hapkido and Taekwondo, and an intensive summer course resulted in him getting his first dan in both Taekwondo and Hapkido. Only three months later, he successfully gained his second dan during a trip to Malaysia. Two years later, he gained his third dan in Flying Eagle Hapkido.

From Singapore he travelled to San Francisco where he attended a gruelling series of marathon private lessons under the founder of Sin Moo Hapkido, Ji Han Jae. This brought him a fourth dan award in the system and shortly afterwards, he also received a fourth dan from the Flying Eagle school. Somehow he also found time to continue his study of Shaolin Kung Fu, with the result that he received his 7th dan (sic) master degree.



European Headmaster Jurg Ziegler (6th Dan Sin Moo Hapkido). Meditation - a very important part in Sin Moo Hapkido.

Only a year later, he arranged a ten day visit for his students to the dojang of Mr Ji where he received the rank of 6th dan for his work in promoting the system.

More recently, Mr Ziegler has visited China, where he became one of only two non-Chinese students of a teacher named Yang Chee Soon.

COMBAT.: How many hours a weeks do you usually devote to the martial arts?

JURG ZIEGLER.: About 50 to 80 hours.

COMBAT.: And yet you still manage to hold down a regular job?

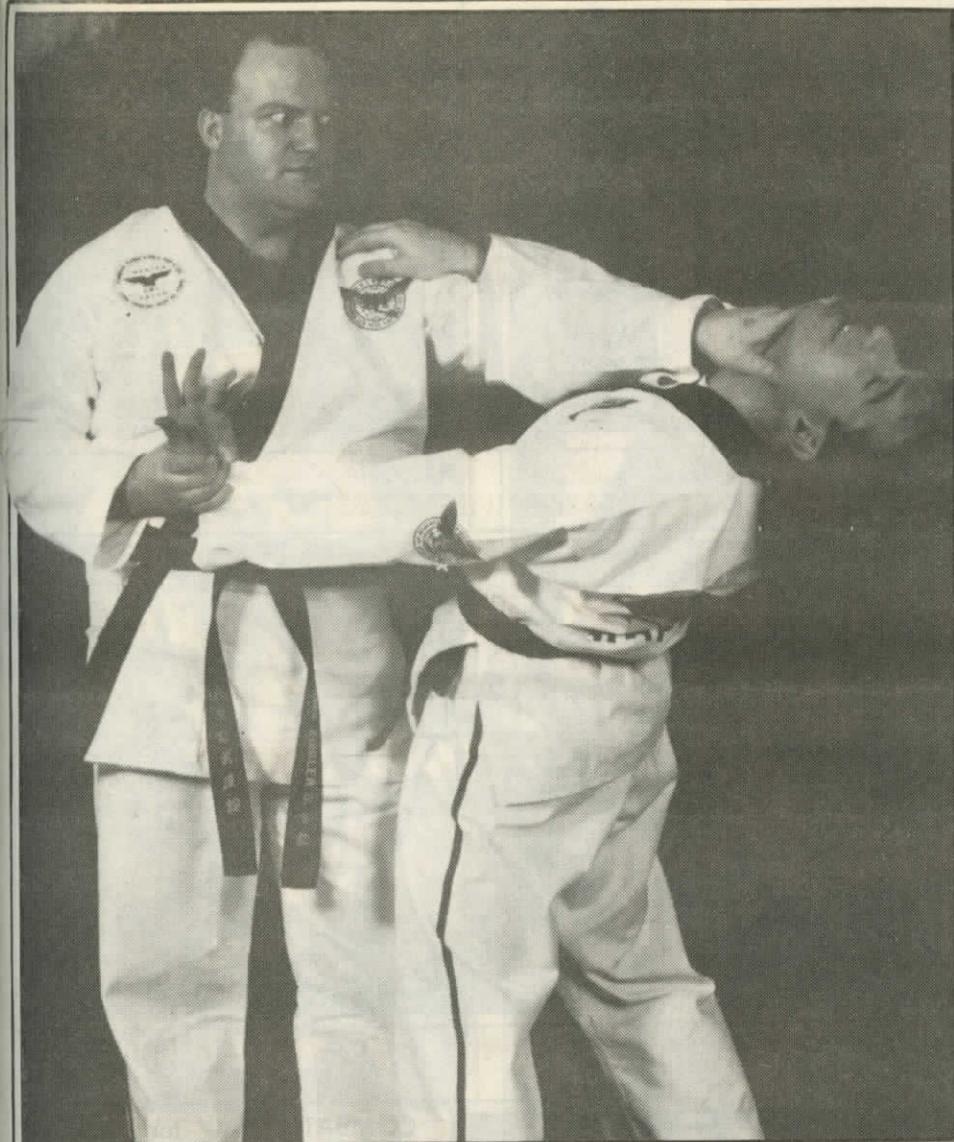
J.Z.: Yes. Four days a week I work as a systems planner for Swissair. I'm at my school from about 4.30 p.m. and leave there about 11.30 p.m. On weekends, I'm usually at my school the whole day.

COMBAT.: What are your martial art qualifications?

J.Z.: I hold a 7th dan in Shaolin Kung fu/Qi gong, a master's qualification in Pay Yeh Tong Peh Chien, Wing chun, Taekwondo, a 6th dan in Sin Moo Hapkido and a 4th dan in Flying Eagle Hapkido.

COMBAT.: Do you prefer one above the others?

J.Z.: No, I practice equally in all the styles.



COMBAT.: But how is it possible to learn more than one art and master it to perfection?

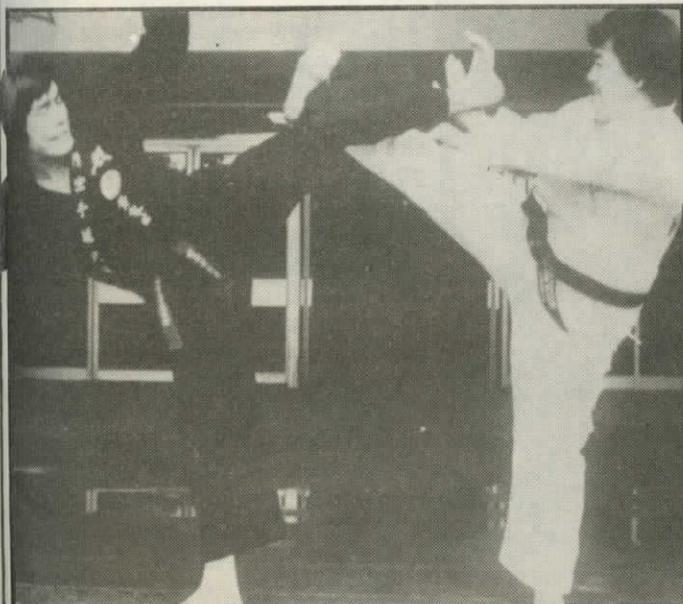
J.Z.: Is it possible to learn more than one language and master it to perfection? Some people have a hard time learning just one language. Others are able to master several.

COMBAT.: If you had to use your martial arts in an emergency, which would you choose?

J.Z.: I would act on instinct according to the situation. Stopping to think about which technique or style to use could only result in defeat. It's not important how you react, but that you react! The greatest success, though, is to win without fighting.

COMBAT.: Let me put it another way. A martial artist who only knows one style doesn't have to choose between several. Are you really saying that a master of more than one art wouldn't get caught up in a conflict about which to use?

J.Z.: In any situation, it is not the martial art or the style that reacts, it is the martial artist. Every style has its own specialities, principles and rules, and once you have studied them for long enough, you will be able to use them knowingly. The character of the martial artist reflects in the way s/he interprets, uses and applies that style and its techniques.



Master Sunny Tan (7th Dan) sparring with filmstar Carter Way in Singapore.



European Headmaster Jurg Ziegler (6th Dan Sin Moo Hapkido), jumping 360° spin kick.



A1



A2



A3



A4



A5

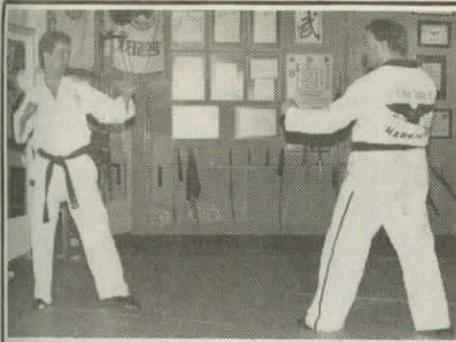


Instructors from Europe with European Headmaster Jurg Ziegler (6th Dan) went to San Francisco (USA), to train with Grandmaster Ji Han Jae (10th Dan Founder of Hapkido).

COMBAT.: How long do you think it takes for someone to learn a martial art?

J.Z.: How long does it take for you to learn and apply a foreign language both properly and instinctively? Each person has different abilities and skills, and so it will take a different time for each. For some it could be a matter of a few years; for others it could take a lifetime. It really depends on the goals you have, and how much time and effort you are willing to devote in order to reach those goals. For example, you might only want to learn how to defend yourself, in which case, only 8 or so techniques need be learned. But if you want to achieve the main aims of a martial art, then you'll have to study until there is nothing left to learn - however long that takes.

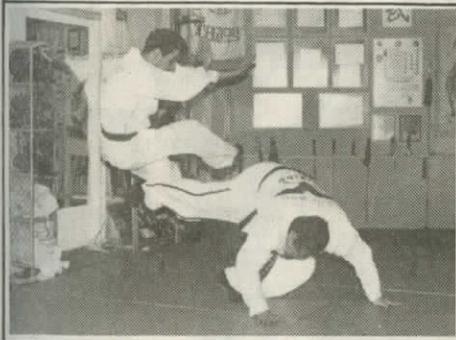
COMBAT.: What are the most important principles in martial art?



B1



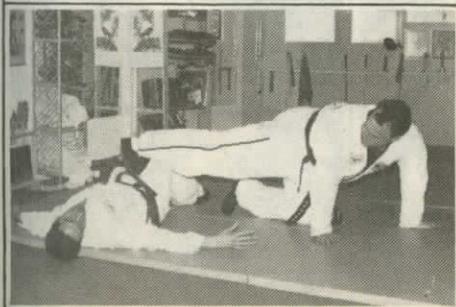
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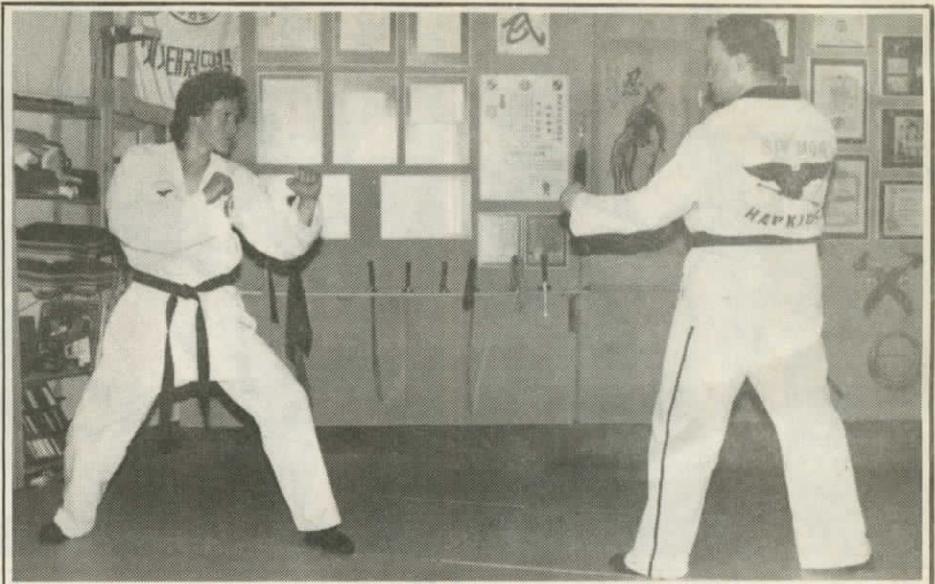
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C1



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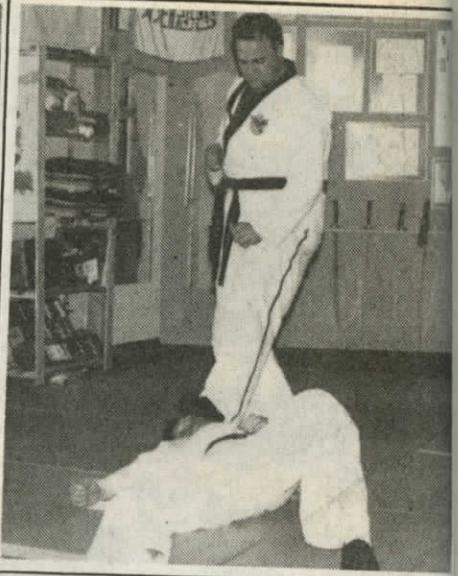
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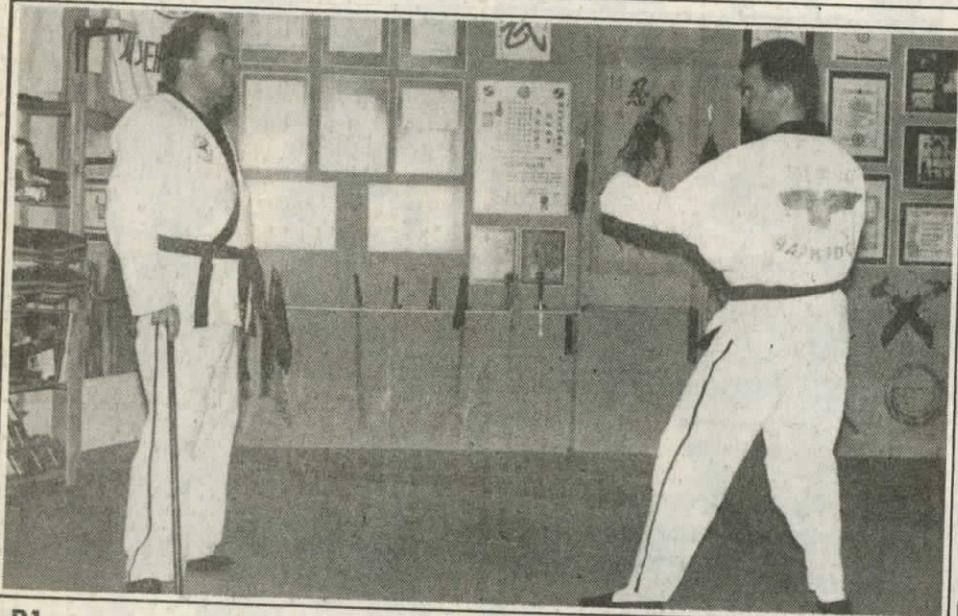
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C5



C6



D1



D2



D3



D4



D5



D6



E1



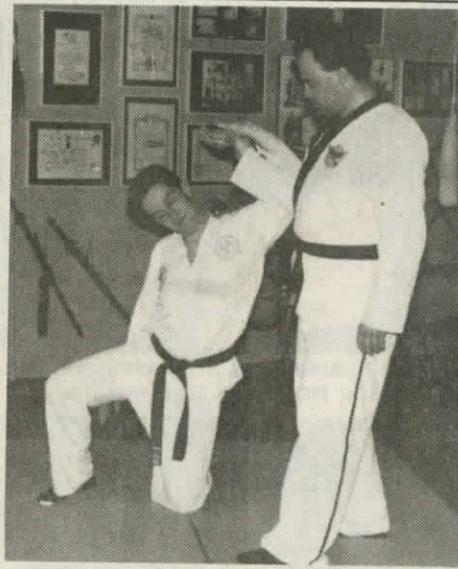
E2



E3



E4



E5



E6



E7



E8



Grandmaster Ji Han Jae (10th Dan, Founder of Hapkido) with his student European Headmaster Jurg Ziegler (6th Dan Sin Moo Hapkido) in front of the World HQ of Sin Moo Hapkido in San Francisco July 1991.

J.Z.: To maintain the primary goals of practice which are:

- to maintain one's health,
- to protect oneself and family,
- to achieve harmony with oneself and the environment.

COMBAT.: Do you think there is much difference between the martial arts?

J.Z.: In principle, education in all martial arts is almost the same, and contains:

- education in skill,
- how to maximise speed,
- how to maximise power,
- how to maximise reflexes,
- how to use tactics,
- how to combine these physical principles with internal training such as breathing techniques and meditation.

COMBAT.: Do you see much of a difference between martial arts and combat sports?

J.Z.: Combat sports are mainly involved with competition - medals, championships etc but martial art is much more than this. Martial art



Grandmaster Ji, Han Jae (10th Dan, Founder of Hapkido) throwing Bruce Lee in 'Game Of Death'.



Master Sunny Tan with his student, Master Jurg Ziegler, Switzerland 1988.

focuses upon health and its improvement. Techniques are merely ways to improve will power, strength, character, balance, understanding, self control and much more.

COMBAT.: How would you recognise a good martial arts teacher?

J.Z.: From his students. If they are respectful, decent, understanding, modest, disciplined and well trained, then their teacher must be good.

COMBAT.: Do you think that Orientals will always be superior to Europeans when it comes practising the martial arts?

J.Z.: I used to think so, but I changed my mind once I began to teach martial art to Orientals. The more you put into it, the more you get out. Besides that, nationality is irrelevant. What counts is willpower, endurance, patience, ambition, and teachers who are prepared to show you all the martial art.

COMBAT.: How would you decide the most suitable style for a student to take up?

J.Z.: A student should choose whichever style he likes best because if he does, he will put the most effort he can into it.

COMBAT.: And what if he can't make his mind up?

J.Z.: He should simply look for a style that suits him, and if he can't find one, then my advice is to stick with one style and pursue that for at least two years.

COMBAT.: Which martial art do you think best suits a woman?

J.Z.: The one that suits a particular women best is ideal for her, though in general terms, wing chun kung fu is quite suitable. It's claimed that the style was devised by a Buddhist nun - Ng Mui - about 300 years ago in the Shaolin Temple.

COMBAT.: What are your plans for the future?

J.Z.: I want to spread the martial arts I represent across Europe and also, I want to improve my knowledge of them even further.

COMBAT.: And how will you do that?

J.Z.: By means of seminars on one hand, and by means of books and instructional videos on the other.