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This compact and thorough guide contains descriptions, technical specifications and illustrations of fighting knives developed and used in countries around the world, including France, Belgium, Germany Britain, the US, Australia, China and Central America. Accompanied by fascinating, detailed historical background, it explores the development of these wide-ranging and adaptable weapons including: the earliest effective fixed-blade copper combat knives, bronze daggers and short swords used in ancient warfare; the rondel, baselard, and quillion steel daggers of middle ages; the bayonets and trench knives of WWI; clandestine edged weapons developed for the SOE and OSS during WWII and beyond; and the various combat knives used by Contra rebels in the Central American jungle.

About the AuthorLeroy Thompson served in Vietnam and has spent many years teaching and training military and civilian forces on weapon-handling and armament instruction. He is also a noted author in the Greenhill Military Manual series and his works include Combat Shotguns, The Hostage Rescue Manual and The Bodyguard Manual.