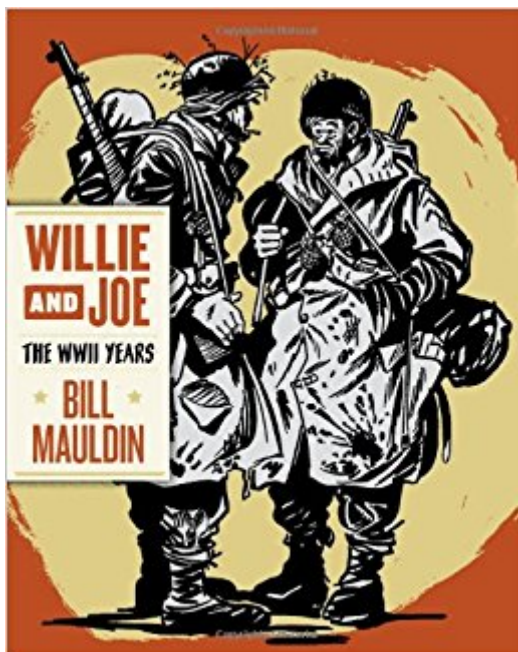


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Willie & Joe: The WWII Years



Synopsis

The definitive collection of the complete WWII cartoons of the greatest cartoonist of the Greatest Generation, now in paperback. During WW II, the closest most Americans ever came to combat was through the cartoons of Bill Mauldin, the most beloved enlisted man in the U.S. Army. This new paperback edition of the 2008 two-volume, deluxe hardcover set brings together Mauldin's complete works from 1940 through the end of the war under one cover. This collection of over 600 cartoons, most never before reprinted, is more than the record of a great artist: it is an essential chronicle of America's citizen-soldiers from peace through war to victory. Bill Mauldin knew war because he was in it. He had created his characters, Willie and Joe, at age 18, before Pearl Harbor, while training with the 45th Infantry Division and cartooning part-time for the camp newspaper. His brilliant send-ups of officers were pure infantry, and the men loved it. Mauldin's cartoons and captions recreated on paper the fully realized world of the American combat soldier. Willie & Joe is edited by Todd DePastino, Mauldin's official biographer. Willie & Joe contains an introduction and running commentary by DePastino, providing context for the drawings, pertinent biographical details of Mauldin's life, and occasional background on specific cartoons (such as the ones that made Patton howl). 704 pages of black-and-white cartoons

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bill Mauldin was my first artist hero, and Willie & Joe: The WWII Years reminds me

why. - Steven Heller, The New York Times Book Review - "These gritty, existential cartoons - everything Mauldin published during the war that still exists is compiled here - are the real deal and then some. - Laurel Maury, NPR - "Mauldin's characters were bluntly honest: War was dirty, absurd, bitter hardwork. - Todd Leopold, CNN - "Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines. - Bob Greene, CNN.com - "[An] amazing and beautiful collection. - Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune - "There's a sad wisdom on virtually every page here. - Jeff Salamon, The Austin American-Statesman - "First and foremost, Willie & Joe are funny. It's an absorbing glimpse into the day to day life of soldiers while it was happening and the end not known. It's easy to identify with: employees in any capacity gripe about their bosses. But the more specific Mauldin is, the more biting and fascinating his work is. - Michael Giltz, The Huffington Post - "This compilation of his cartoons helps bring Mauldin's talent and his life at the front lines both to historians and a new generation. - Samuel M. Baker, ARMY Magazine - "Many World War II veterans would surely appreciate seeing these strips again, and anyone who studies that conflict ought to be fascinated by Mauldin's unglamorous take on the drudgery, fear and absurdity of Army life. - David Allen, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin - "Cartoonist Bill Mauldin was a genius at bringing the experiences of World War II home to the moms and dads, kids, wives or girlfriends of the GIs on the front lines in a very human way. ... To my knowledge, none of our wars since has produced a chronicler anywhere near the greatness of Mauldin. - Wesley G. Hughes, San Bernadino County Sun - "The cartoonist's humanistic brush paints a sober picture of war that a newscamera can never achieve. These GIs resonate with real pathos; each cartoon, however jocular, emanates weariness and resignation. - James Sturm, Print Magazine - "Willie & Joe is an extraordinarily compiled and presented tribute to Bill Mauldin, the two-time Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist who chronicled life in the U.S. Army from 1940 to 1945. The set is bound in army green canvas and typeset in the font of an old manual typewriter, the kind an army clerk might have used during the Second World War. The collection is a sensory delight, pleasing to touch and beautiful to see. ... For the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, for the man who was once America's most celebrated enlisted man, Willie & Joe is a fitting, and wonderful, tribute. - David Mitchell, BiblioBuffet - "[A] terrific two-volume collection of the legendary Bill Mauldin's 'GI Joe' cartoons from 'the last good war'... Fantagraphics gives us a comprehensive collection of the cartoons that fellow enlisted man Mauldin created during the war,

both for civilians and fellow soldiers alike... [T]his compendium is both a great time capsule, and a fitting tribute to an American original. – Mark London Williams, The SF Site: Nexus Graphica – “Mauldin was arguably the greatest war correspondent of his day. – Steven Grant, Comic Book Resources – “This collection of all of Mauldin’s World War II work stands out – a worthy platform for a series of brilliant strips drawn with a lively hand. – Rob Clough, High-Low

Born in 1921, Bill Mauldin squeezed several lifetimes into his eighty-one years. In addition to cartooning, he acted in Hollywood movies, ran for Congress, piloted airplanes, wrote several books and hundreds of articles, and won two Pulitzer Prizes, the first for his wartime cartoons. He died in 2003. Todd DePastino is the author of *Citizen Hobo: How a Century of Homelessness Shaped America* and *Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front*, and the editor of the cartoon collections *Willie & Joe: The WWII Years* and *Willie & Joe: Back Home*. He teaches history and writes and lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I missed WWII, but I was in the Army during Viet Nam. Bill Mauldin’s work could have been drawn about the people that I served with. It has such a timeless quality. We spent nights washing fatigues because an officer was offended that we got dirty crawling through mud day after day after day. I still share Mauldin’s opinion of officers. The introduction to the drawings is priceless history. The US Army described without propaganda. Don’t misunderstand. The enlisted men of the US Army were never treated with more respect. Ernie Pyle was a fan and so am I. We share our high regard of Bill Mauldin’s work with literally thousands of rank and file grunts. I am amused that Willie was supposed to be Bill Mauldin but Mauldin drove around with the press. He had his own jeep and permission to go anywhere. Still he ran into George S. Patton. Sparks flew until Eisenhower personally told Patton to back off. I have no idea if any of this applies to the people who served recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each generation has its own story to tell. Maybe someday we will find out if they had their own version of Mauldin.

Bill Mauldin was one America’s great commentators. Using both prose and drawings as media of expression, Mauldin presents in this work the views, trials, pleasures, and--and most importantly--the point of view of the footsoldier, the dogfaces (later the grunts in Vietnam). Like many common infantrymen, Mauldin does share in the "glory" of generals and politicians. You may not always agree with his works or ideas, but the cartoons are funny as well as poignant. This book

contains all his World War II cartoons published in both military and civilian press although many drawings can be found in books like UP FRONT. It's a large book, making the cartoons large and easy to see. Quality reproductions are mixed, for many original Mauldin drawings are lost and the book prints copies of newspaper prints and some from books. The paper of the book is sturdy but is not the best for artistic reproductions. Despite all this, this definitive work, with a short but good introduction, is a great buy. Having all the drawings in a single book is a great deal.

I was surprised when this book arrived! I expected a selection of Bill Mauldin's cartoons, but in its almost 700 pages, the editor tried to print each and every known work of his. The book begins with a good concise bio of Mauldin's printed like a WWII official document, very helpful to understand his work. His cartoons form a unique view of the daily life of the lowly grunt, the sons of families impoverished due to the Depression, who often joined the service because they thought it would be less rough than the jobs they could find as civilians, only to find themselves thrown in the maelstrom of the biggest war ever. I have the honor of having made friends with some members of that Greatest Generation, and their stories sound very familiar to the situations shown in Mauldin's cartoons.

My dad was a paratrooper in WWII as was an uncle. Another was a Seabee. I read the Stars and Stripes while stationed overseas. Bill Mauldin was a genius. I still have a vivid visual of the grizzled ole dogface about to shoot his dead Jeep. He had a career after the war as a political cartoonist and did a memorable take on the desegregation on the little Rock schools. I had many of these in an old paperback but it was disintegrating.

My favorite uncle, now deceased, was in WWII in Germany and never talked about it as he was a Medic. Gives me an idea of the comradery of the troops then. We will NEVER see cartoons from Korea or any of the other fracas we have been involved in. They are just too severe.

This ended up being a gift for a WWII vet who is a Battle of the Bulge survivor, now living in a nursing home in Powell, WY. I haven't been back to see how he liked it. However, there were cartoons in the book, that he remembered and told me about before I ordered the book and found when I had the chance to read it. I am sure he was very pleased to get it.

Massive and heavy, I wasn't able to read this one in bed. Well, maybe, some, if I read something

else until I finished nibbling peanuts. It took two hands. Also includes Mauldin's pre-war work, what they could find of it. One disappointment: many of the best cartoons I had seen many years earlier in mass-market paperbacks -- too few that were both new to me and good. Final thought: anyone who angered General Patton cannot be bad.

As described. Thank You

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