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"BILL MAULDIN: A LIFE UP FRONT" AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, IL – A long series of officers had tried and failed to quell the rogue cartoonist. His infantrymen were covered in mud, unshaven, and resentful toward officers' privileges – a far cry from the wholesome image of the American fighting boy promoted by the War Department. Worst of all, his cartoons had become wildly popular among frontline soldiers. At last, General Patton himself summoned the 23 year old cartoonist to his office. It was time for "the Battle of Mauldin."

On Thursday, May 8, 2008, author Todd DePastino will appear at the Pritzker Military Library Spring Member/Guest Luncheon to discuss his new biography, *Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front*, in an interview with John Callaway. The interview, at 12:30 p.m., is free and open to the public; \$55 per person includes the reception (11:30 a.m.), lunch (12:00 p.m.), and a signed copy of the book. The interview will be webcast live and recorded for later broadcast on WYCC Channel 20.

Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front has received strong reviews in *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, and several other newspapers across the country. It is the first full-length biography of one of the most important voices in American war reporting. Mauldin's cartoons appeared in European editions of *Stars and Stripes* from 1943-45, and were syndicated back home. In an era of wholesale press censorship, his depictions of infantry life were revolutionary, with a remarkable eye for artistic detail and an unflinchingly satirical outlook toward black markets, military bureaucracy, and self-inflated officers. Although the showdown with Patton threatened to spell the end of his career, a subsequent order direct from General Eisenhower banned officers from interfering with "Mauldin's cartoons" and other "controversial materials" in the army newspaper.

Bill Mauldin won a Pulitzer Prize in 1945 for "distinguished service as a cartoonist", and another in 1959 for a cartoon about Boris Pasternak and Soviet repression of art. His post-war career included more than twenty-eight years at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which published his acclaimed drawing of the Lincoln Memorial weeping after the assassination of President Kennedy. He also covered the Vietnam War, and was a founding member of the groundbreaking *Chicago Journalism Review*, an early media watchdog whose ranks included Mike Royko and Studs Terkel.

Todd DePastino is the author of *Citizen Hobo: How a Century of Homelessness Shaped America* and editor of the new Mauldin collection *Willie & Joe: The WWII Years*, from Fantagraphics Press, which will also be available for sale at the event. He teaches at Waynesburg College.

Reservations are required for the luncheon. There is a limited amount of free seating for the interview, which does not require attendance at the luncheon, but reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

For more information, please visit www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 27,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 190 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *Front & Center with John Callaway*. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the Internet, and recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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