

## **World War II through the eyes of Bill Maudlin's 'Willie' and 'Joe'**

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AHEC Presents: The Life and times of Bill Maudlin, presented by author Dr. Todd DePastino

Thursday, May 1, 7:15 p.m. at the Army Heritage & Education Center

The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania will present a fresh look at the classic "Willie and Joe" World War II cartoons drawn by the era's most famous cartoonist, Bill Maudlin. At 7:15 PM on Thursday, May 1, 2014, Dr. Todd DePastino of Waynesburg University will present a lecture on the life and times of the cartoonist at USAHEC's Visitor and Education Center. The Brooks E. Kleber Memorial Lecture will be based on Dr. DePastino's latest work, *Bill Maudlin: A Life Upfront*, and will feature a presentation of Maudlin's most famous, and somewhat obscure, cartoons.

Dr. Todd DePastino examines the life of World War II serviceman Bill Maudlin, known throughout the military and civilian worlds as the creator of cartoons depicting the everyday struggles of G.I.s. In many ways, the enlisted cartoonist was a rogue, standing up to the Army system and even the beloved and aggressive General Patton. Despite his hard look at the Army, General Eisenhower recognized the pressure valve his art provided and issued a directive stating Maudlin's cartoons were not to be interfered with. Among the 22 year old's greatest creations were the characters Willie and Joe, instantly recognizable as the personifications of the average American on the frontlines during World War II. Called "A deeply felt, vivacious, and wonderfully illustrated biography," Dr. DePastino lifts the veil on the troubled life of a man who struggled to deal with almost overnight fame and the guilt that came with gaining something positive from such a destructive and devastating war.

Dr. Todd DePastino holds a Ph.D. in American History from Yale University and teaches at Waynesburg University. The winner of the 2008 Lucas-Hathaway Award for Teaching Excellence, Dr. DePastino also authored several books, including *Commissioned in Battle: A Combat Infantryman in the Pacific*, *Citizen Hobo: How a Century of Homelessness Shaped America*, and *The Road* by Jack London. Dr. DePastino wrote his dissertation on the history of homelessness and turned it into a book, winning the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship award for his efforts. *Bill Maudlin: A Life Upfront*

is an Eisner Award finalist and took the Sperber Prize for the best biography of a major media figure.

All USAHEC lectures are open to the public and FREE to attend. Doors to the Visitor and Education Center will open at 6:30 PM, and the lecture will begin at 7:15 PM. Parking is free, and the Museum Store will be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org) or call 717-245-3972.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 29 April 2014