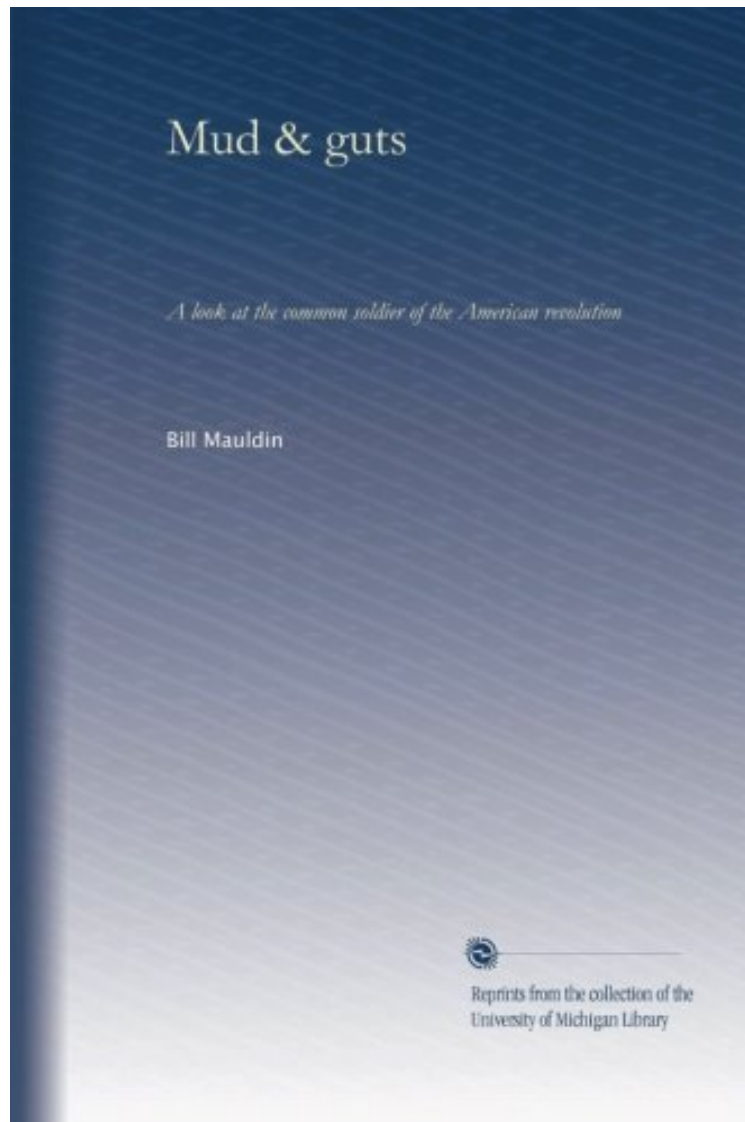


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Mud guts: a look at the common soldier of the American revolution

Bill Mauldin

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Bill Mauldin : Mud guts: a look at the common soldier of the American revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mud guts: a look at the common soldier of the American revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Mud and Guts," a Gem of a Read!By William BahrHaving read Bill Mauldin's "Up Front" and subsequently visiting his grave in Arlington Cemetery, I decided to read "Mud and Guts," his take on the Revolutionary War. Knowing that the book takes aim at my hero George Washington for not fully

sharing the miseries of his men (for the most part he slept in a house at Valley Forge and likely never found his plate empty), I nevertheless found this short book fun and informative, even after having read hundreds of other books on the Revolutionary War. I even picked up a few interesting statistics to add to my on-line musket compendium, "Charleville Musket Firing and Cleaning." After all Mauldin's self-criticisms and humorous apologies for his common soldier perspective, it's hard for me to find fault with anything he says against my hero or anyone/thing else! Quite enjoyable!!

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Delightful diversion!
By J. Mathews
Bill Mauldin is most known for his World War II "Willie and Joe" cartoons and his editorial cartoons. In this volume, he takes a look at a different war -- the American Revolution -- and offers a tasty and insightful slice of history. Even those with little enthusiasm for history will find this a readable, laugh-out-loud look at events that continue to shape the American psyche.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An interesting perspective on Revolutionary War soldiers
By Daniel Jolley
Mud Guts is an unusual little book about the common Revolutionary War soldier. Bill Mauldin admits he is no historian; he is, rather, a political cartoonist who offered up his wares to *The Stars and Stripes* during World War II and served as a correspondent during several later armed conflicts. This book grew out of a request from the National Park Service for a book about the experience of the common soldier during the American Revolution - in honor of the 200th anniversary of American independence. The book was not finished until 1978, but it certainly does make for an interesting look at the subject matter.

The book is basically split down the middle, half text and half political cartoons. Personally, I didn't find any of the cartoons particularly engaging. The text, on the other hand, did touch on some interesting things. There's just not much focus to any of it, though, as the book is too short to cover anything in detail. For the most part, it all comes down to a string of anecdotes (such as a description of cootie races at Valley Forge) - but Mauldin does succeed to some degree in conveying the hard reality of life for all of the anonymous men who secured this country's independence. He talks about the horrible conditions, the lack of food and drink, the ferocity of hand-to-hand combat, and the medical woes for anyone unlucky enough to take a hit on the battlefield - if the wound didn't get you, the almost unavoidable infection would. Mauldin has some interesting things to tell us, but the brevity of the book constrains him to basically just jump around from one story to another without marshalling any strong sense of cohesiveness. Of course, my opinion reflects the fact that I look at this subject through an historian's eyes, and Mauldin freely admits he's no historian. The book is definitely worth reading for anyone interested in sneaking a few revealing glances at the reality of life as a common soldier of the American Revolution.

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