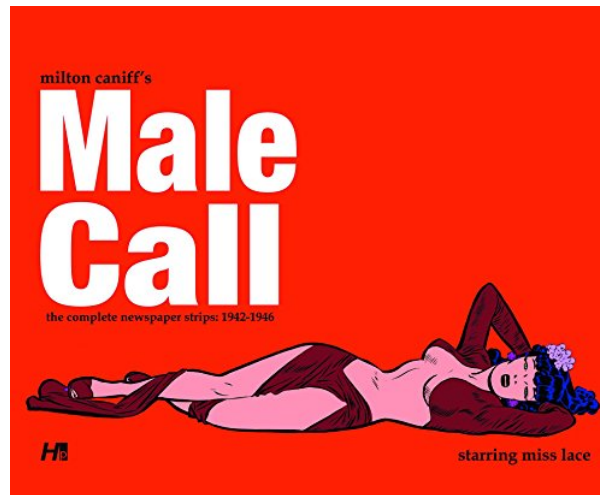
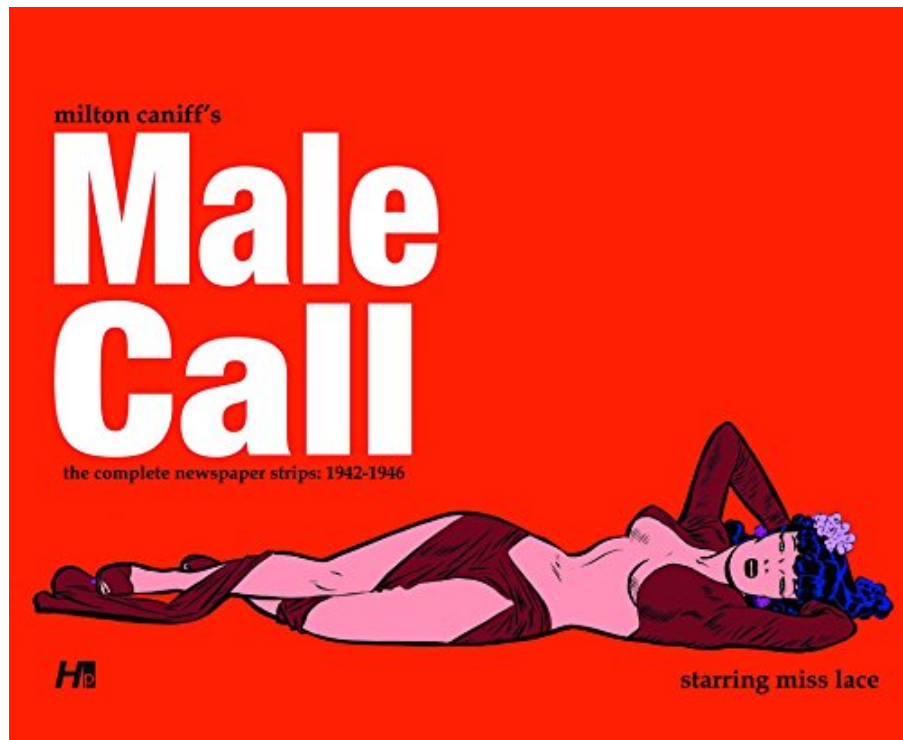


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# MILTON CANIFF'S MALE CALL BY MILTON CANIFF PDF

- Miss Lace is back and she's with Hermes Press! Milton Caniff's famous good girl, created just for servicemen during WW II, known to G.I. Joes everywhere as "Lace," is available to all her fans in a deluxe hardcover art book reprinting the entire run of the strip. Move over Rita Hayworth — sultry, sassy Miss Lace and her daily adventures are given the royal treatment with a host of extras including a detailed intro by noted Caniff historian R.C. Harvey, complete with unused art, documentary materials, advertising art, and more.

- Sales Rank: #881433 in Books
- Published on: 2011-09-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.30" h x .80" w x 9.40" l, 2.30 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 156 pages

## Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Good Girl Art contributes to morale during the Good War

By Christopher Barat

Don't look back, IDW Publishing... in the realm of comic-strip reprintery, someone is in fact gaining on you (or, at the very least, maintaining a steady pace somewhere astern). Hermes Press has been publishing comic-strip reprint books and other pop culture treatises for some time now. While most of the stuff that Hermes has published has not been of particular interest to me, that state of affairs is quickly changing. Hermes plans to release the interminably delayed Walt Kelly biography sometime later this year, and a SMOKEY STOVER reprint collection was advertised in the latest PREVIEWS. Pride of "money-on-the-counter" place, however, goes to Miss Lace of Milton Caniff's MALE CALL. (I hope that came out sounding right.)

MALE CALL was 4-F cartoonist Caniff's morale- (and etc.-) boosting contribution to the war effort. These strips, printed in camp newspapers, originally starred the character Burma from TERRY AND THE PIRATES, but Caniff was forced to create a new starring siren after publishers of the real TERRY objected to the availability of an "alternative version" of the strip. Encounters with the sexy brunette Miss Lace (whose source of funds, "real" job, and so forth were a perpetual mystery) were the ultimate antidote to the loneliness and frustration experienced by Caniff's everyman GIs. A number of Caniff's gags have curled up and died of old age in the ensuing years, of course, but the panels are still great fun to look at, not least because Caniff had an unusual ability to draw both realistically and humorously at the same time. Miss Lace even quit the stage on occasion to make way for ruminations about adjustments to the postwar world or a

series of "blackout-gag" drawings illustrating, say, new developments in ladies' homefront millinery. (I wonder whether Caniff, a well-known movie buff, was influenced in these latter strips by the "one-gag-on-a-theme-after-another" cartoons of "Tex" Avery.)

Despite my enjoyment of MEANWHILE..., R.C. Harvey's biography of Caniff, I have previously had relatively little exposure to Caniff's actual work -- in particular, his way with words. I can see now why such respected critics as Coulton Waugh occasionally jabbed Milt for the heavy doses of "smart-aleck" in his dialogue. The fact that MISS LACE is chock-full of WWII-era military jargon only serves to emphasize Caniff's tendency to "overjazz" his dialogue here. Remember those later seasons of M\*A\*S\*H, when characters refused to say a simple "Good Morning" when they could substitute something like "Salutations, Sleepy Sawbones!" instead? I felt like I got several full doses of that here. I'm not saying the dialogue is bad, mind you; the style simply takes some getting used to. It is also easy to see why the wisecracking approach that sustained Caniff so well during the 1930s and 1940s turned off so many people during the Vietnam era, when Caniff's STEVE CANYON began hemorrhaging readership.

Harvey's introduction cribs quite liberally from MEANWHILE..., but there are a number of choice goodies in the back of the volume: several "rejected" MALE CALL strips, plus a number of drawings of Miss Lace that Caniff did in the postwar years. (These later illos amply illustrate the literal "loosening" of censorial standards; in some of them, Miss L. comes perilously close to wearing bondage gear.) Hermes' production values do not reach the standards of IDW, at least not yet, but the content is quite definitely the thing in this case.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Another Facet of Milton Caniff's Remarkable Career

By Terry Sunday

If you're interested in classic American newspaper comics, you probably already know of the late Milton Caniff. Justifiably called "The Rembrandt of the Comics," Mr. Caniff resides atop the list of genre artists for writing and drawing his long-running syndicated strips "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon." Some of the Master's art is less well-known. "Male Call," a World War II strip that Mr. Caniff drew specifically for American servicemen, has been out-of-print for more than 60 years. But you can now own the entire run of this landmark feature, collected and handsomely printed between the covers of "Male Call: The Complete Newspaper Strips, 1942-1946."

Kicking off this slim but oversized volume is a well-illustrated 32-page introduction, "WW II, Milton Caniff and Miss Lace," which details the birth of "Male Call" and shows how it became a major morale-booster for far-flung U.S. military personnel serving around the world. Next is an eight-page collection, at two strips per page, of the short-lived military-only version of "Terry and the Pirates," featuring blonde bombshell Burma from the original "Terry" series. Mr. Caniff drew this strip for 14 weeks in late 1942/early 1943, until an ownership dispute with the "Miami Herald" put the kibosh on it. The next 80 pages contain all the "Male Call" strips (two per page) published from January 24, 1943, through March 3, 1946. The new character Miss Lace, sexy, demure and innocent (or is she?), was hugely appealing to the soldiers who read the strips. For compatibility with the equipment that printed camp newspapers in far-off theatres of the War, these strips lack Mr. Caniff's distinctive, groundbreaking chiaroscuro effects, but they still show the Master's artistic touch. There's no continuing storyline--each three- or four-panel strip stands alone, with a clever visual or dialogue joke guaranteed to make the most jaded G.I. laugh. I didn't "get" a couple of the gags, probably because I didn't understand the slang or the old cultural references, but most of them retain their humor even today. Five pages of unpublished strip sketches and 14 pages of "extras" (mostly full-page, single-panel drawings) round out the 144-page volume.

"Male Call" is far more than simply a collection of the comic strips that represent Mr. Caniff's selfless contribution to improving troop morale during the dark days of World War II (he never accepted a penny for his work on the strip). It is also an interesting historical snapshot of a far simpler time, when "right" and "wrong" were uncomplicated concepts, when you could recognize enemy soldiers by their uniforms and when these small vignettes of slightly risqué humor could cheer up homesick soldiers on the front lines. Those days are gone forever, and the likelihood of an artist like Mr. Caniff or a feature like "Male Call" ever appearing in the future is vanishingly small. For those reasons alone, this volume is well worth buying.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Christmas present

By J. A. Hart

My Dad loved this book. But then again he knew he wanted it. If you are into WW2 comics, then this might be for you.

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