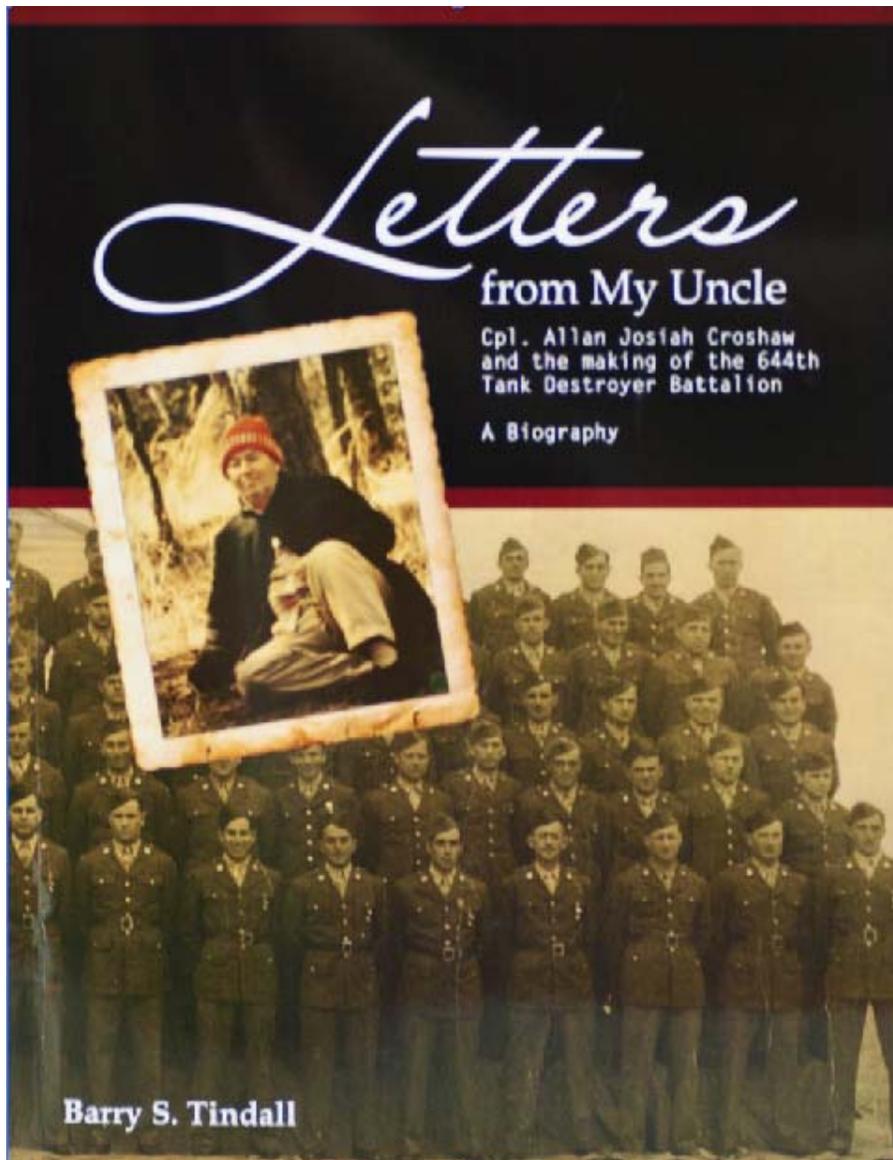


Now Available!

**Letters from My Uncle, Cpl. Allan Josiah Croshaw and the Making of the 644th
Tank Destroyer Battalion, A Biography.**

By Barry Sanford Tindall



Here's a compelling human story of the creation and development of a WW II combat battalion based on a new way of thinking to defeat the Nazi war machine - the Tank Destroyer Corps. Beyond the doctrine, this new book chronicles the making of

Company B, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion and the officers and men that through exemplary leadership, hard work and strong camaraderie made it a formidable fighting force when it met the enemy.

Allan Croshaw was born and raised in Monroe Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. He was a 29-year-old truck driver and a highly skilled trapper, hunter and fisherman when he was drafted and then inducted on January 30, 1941. He was soon assigned to Company B, 157th Field Artillery attached to the 44th Infantry Division at Fort Dix, N.J.

Some have observed that he was predisposed to be a good soldier! They were right! Over the ensuing months and years, Allan's skills with equipment and weapons became widely known as he and his fellow soldiers steadily became what 8th Infantry Division Commander Major General Bryant Moore near the end of the war in Europe called "the most effective self-propelled-tank destroyer battalion in the U.S. Army."

The book goes beyond the training of a single soldier; it will remind veterans of what it was like to be a part of something much larger than themselves, and inform their children and grandchildren about those actions that made their service great.

Based on over 80 letters, V-Mails and postcards and extensive archival research and interviews this book tells the story of the battalion through the eyes of a soldier who was with the battalion from the beginning, landed with it on Utah Beach on July 11-13 and went into combat on the 15th.

Each movement of the 644th TDB is chronicled - the Carolina maneuvers; the sub-zero night convoy from Ft. Dix to Camp Claiborne, La.; advanced training at Fort Lewis, Washington; commando training at Camp Hood, Texas, and in December, 1943 to lower Manhattan to board the RMS *Aquitania*.

Seriously wounded on July 18, Allan's combat days were over, but not his contact with friends still in the fight. Their letters add first-hand perspectives of continuing combat, including the loss of four close friends near the end of combat.

The book also tells the story of the remarkable work of Army field hospitals; medical care once safely back in England; and the remarkable coordination between Army rail transportation and the medical corps that saw the men safely aboard hospital ships and on their way home for continuing medical care. Allan was to endure five surgeries and spend nearly a year at Deshon General Hospital near Butler, Pa. before returning to his beloved "Jersey."

Letters... also tells the story of Allan's "flying cousin," 1stLt. Malcolm B. Roszel who flew with the 325th Bomb Squadron, 92nd Bombardment Group from RAF Station Horham in Suffolk. Lt. Roszel flew 35 combat missions over enemy-occupied Europe.

By the end of the war, members of the 644th TDB had earned 19 Silver Stars; 96 officers and men had been awarded the Bronze Star; and 264 Purple Hearts had been awarded (44 posthumously).

Letters highlights the leadership of Lt. Col. Ephraim Foster Graham, Jr., wartime commander of the 644th TDB. His July 11, 1945 letter is a moving tribute to the officers and men who gave the battalion its soul from 1942 to the end. Graham remained with the Army and retired as a Brigadier General and Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood.

Despite his combat injuries life did not end for Allan Croshaw. His role in building the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and other public works and military infrastructure is defined; a collection of humorous anecdotes tell of his life afield and relationships with strangers and long-time friends.

Allan died in December, 1982 at his home near Hightstown, NJ.

The author was born in 1939 and raised in the village of Edinburg, West Windsor Township, N.J. He served in the U.S. Air Force where he was an aircraft crash rescue crewman from 1957 to 1961 at Eglin AFB, Florida and RAF Station Woodbridge, Suffolk County, England. He is a graduate of Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences (now known as the College of the Adirondacks), North Carolina State University and The George Washington University. He retired in 2005 as Director of Public Policy for the National Recreation and Park Association. He resides in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Letters from My Uncle contains 162 pages of text and 54 pages of color and vintage photographs. Price is \$25, including postage in the U.S. Available from the author:

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