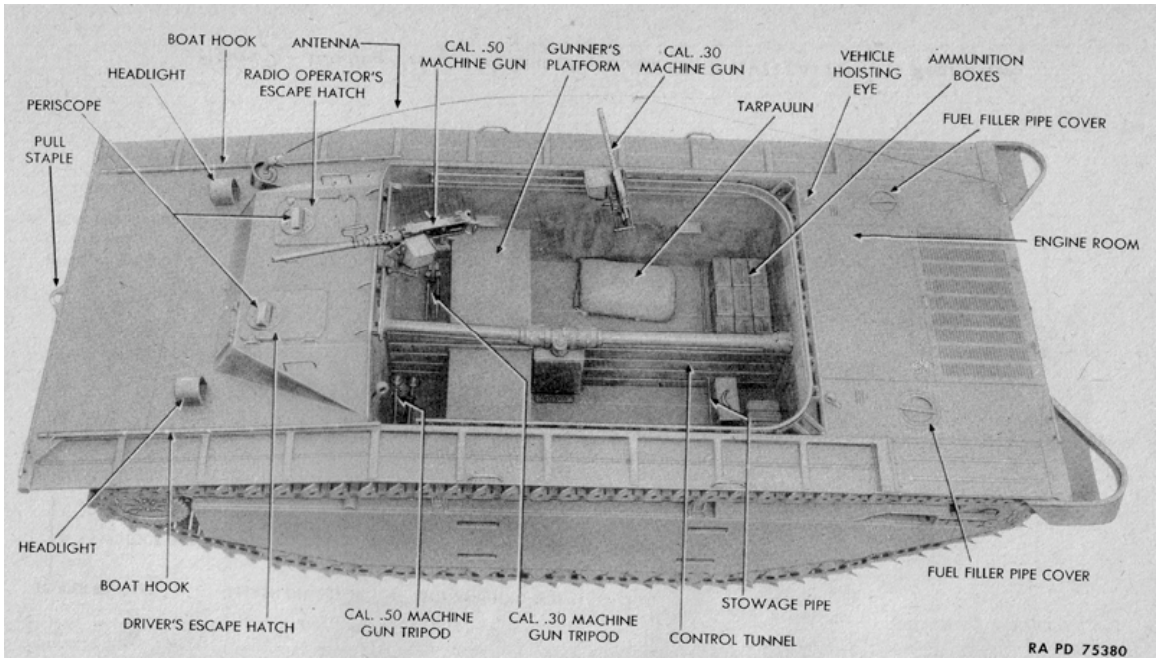
Weapons of Tank Battalions Illustrations

Chapter 4: Amphibious Tanks

NH97749: LVT(1)s, these belonging to the Marine Corps, head for the beach at Guadalcanal in August 1942. The amtracs only carried cargo during this, their first appearance. (U.S. Navy photo)

SC-174198: The LVT(1) Alligator did not serve in battle with the Army, but even official sources sometimes referred to later models by that name. The side pontoons on the LVT(1) were taller and covered more of the suspension system than on models used by Army battalions. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

708th_3: An LVT(2) and three-man crew. (NARA, 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion records)



TM 9-775_2: The LVT(A)(2), top view. The tube down the center of the passenger compartment is the drive (propeller) shaft running from the rear-mounted engine to the final drive forward. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)

111-ADC-2460_1: An LVT(4) under way during the landings on Angaur in the Pelau Islands on 17 September 1944. The tracks provided the motive force in the water. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

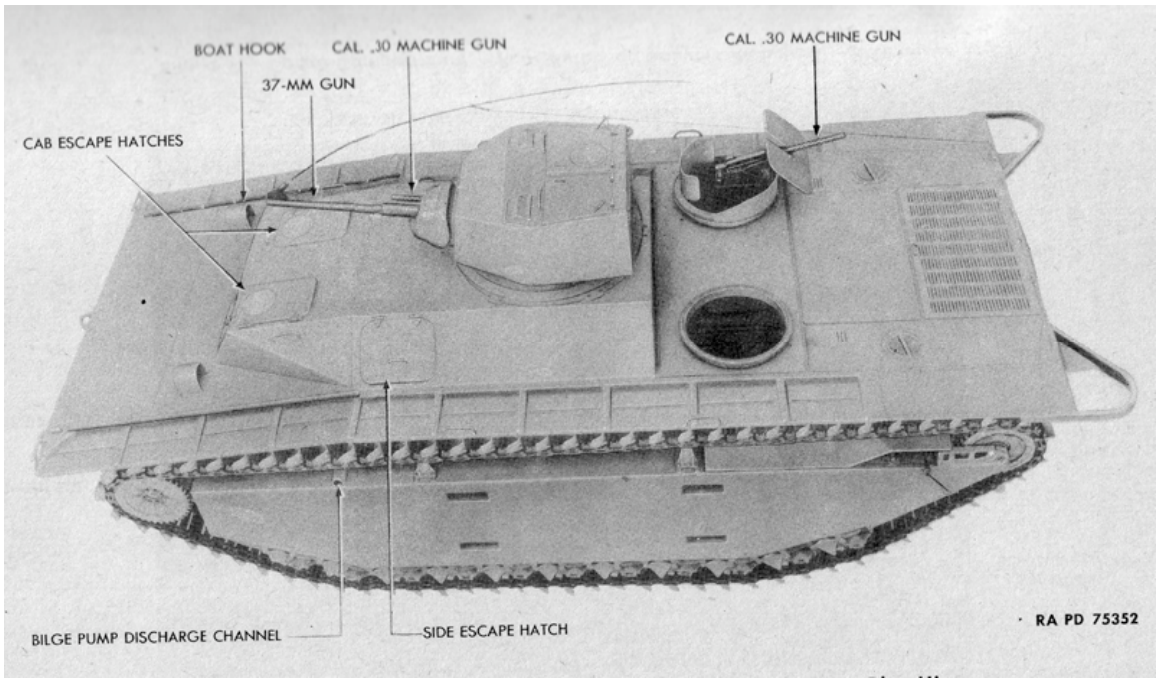
SC-200060-S: LVT(4)s approach Manila on 7 February 1945. Roads tended to damage the fragile tracks. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

SC-202156: A view of the LVT(4)'s ramp, troop/cargo space, and machine gun positions. Note the scoops on the track blocks that enabled movement in water and the damage to the right track, possibly caused by hard surfaces on shore. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

SC-203351-A: A Water Buffalo, probably manned by a crew from the 747th Tank Battalion, supports the assault crossing of the Rhine by the 30th Infantry Division on 24 March 1945. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

SC-206509: LVT(A)(4) (near left) and LVT(A)(1) (near right) amtanks, almost certainly from the 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion, head for the beach on Okinawa. Extra .30-caliber machine guns mounted at the side hatches of the LVT(A)(4)s are just visible. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

708th_2: An LVT(A)(1) amtank and crew. Note the M5 tank turret and, behind that, the right-side scarf mount (facing to rear) for a .30-caliber machine gun. (NARA, 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion records)



TM 9-775_1: LVT(A)(1), top view. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)

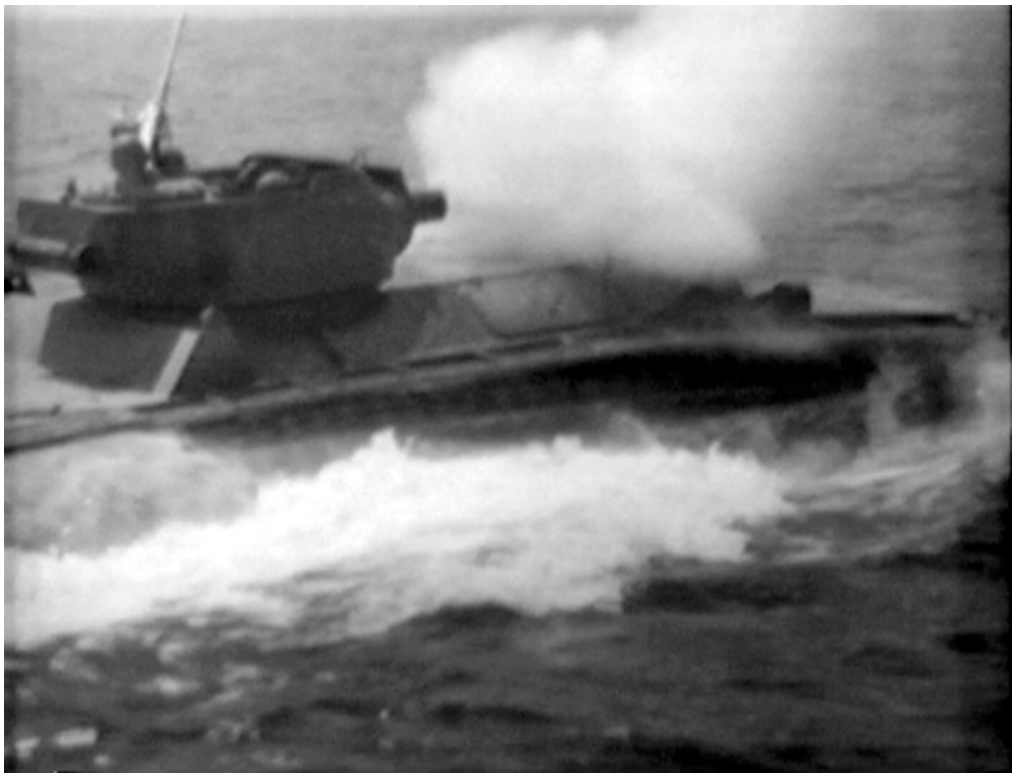
SC-204887: LVT(A)(1)s on Okinawa work with the 96th Infantry Division on 1 April 1945. The right scarf gunner's helmet on the nearest amtank is just visible above the lip of his armored shield. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

708th_1: An LVT(A)(4) and crew. This vehicle does not have the .50-caliber turret antiaircraft machine gun mounted—the only weapon initially available for use against attacking infantry. (NARA, 708th Amphibian Tank Battalion records)

SC-205185: An LVT(A)(4) on Hokaji Shima, Ryukyu Islands, on 26 March 1945 reveals its open-topped turret, nearly identical to the one on the M8 assault gun. The amtank has a bow machine gun and sandbags for extra protection, and the main gun is elevated to fire indirectly. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

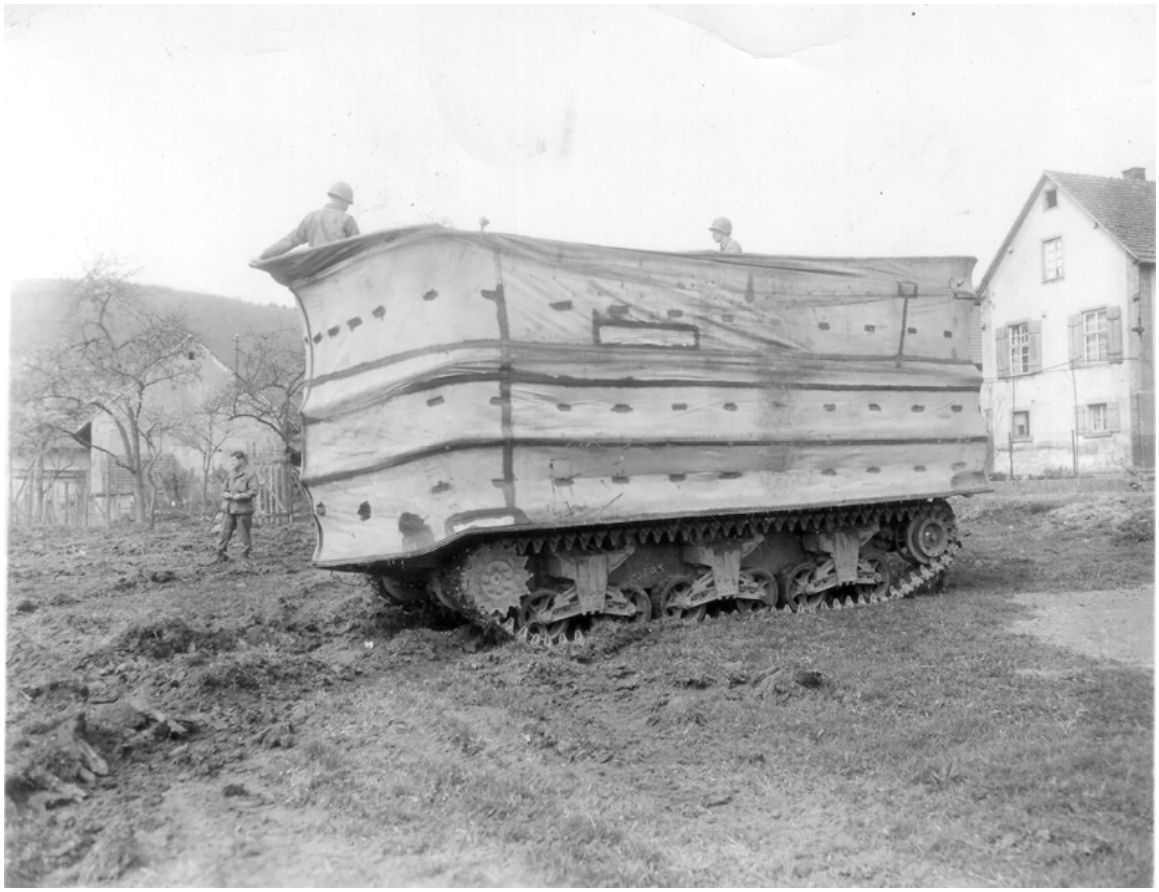
111-CB-40_7: An LVT(A)(4) amtank nears Manila, over 100 miles from the landing beaches on Luzon. This vehicle also has a hull machine gun. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

SC-200500-S: An LVT(A)(4) exits an LST in deep water to join the rest of the first wave off Luzon on 9 January 1945. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

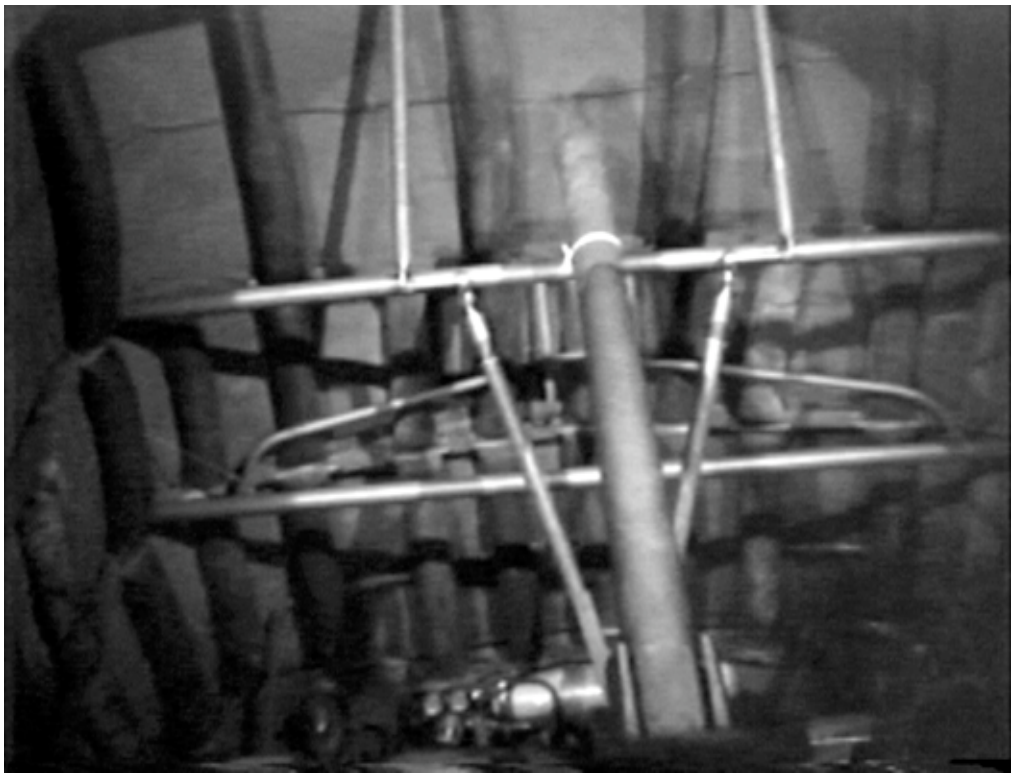


80-MN-4381_2: The LVT(A)(4) could lay down fairly accurate fire while afloat as long as the sea was relatively calm. This amtank has the .50-caliber machine gun mounted. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

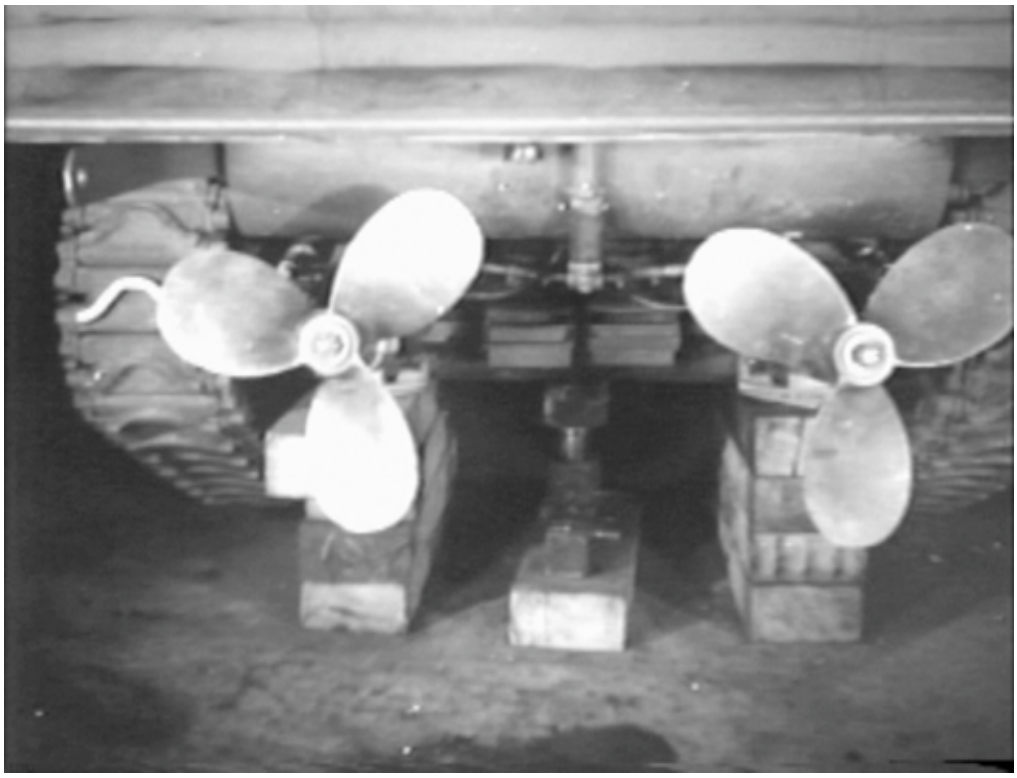
111-ADC-867_1: The DD Sherman with screens lowered. The hoses visible on the frontal armor supplied compressed air to inflatable tubes that raised the screen. One of the struts that locked the screen in place is visible in a folded position on the turret below the commander's hatch, and another is to the right of the bow gunner's position. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



SC-243899: A DD Sherman with screens raised. The commander could steer in the water using a long handle that controlled the orientation of the propellers, as could the driver in response to commands—as he could see nothing! (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-867_2: This is the view of the gun barrel and the bow struts, inflatable tubes, and screen in the raised position from atop the turret. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-867_3: The propellers could be raised and lowered from inside the tank and pivoted from side to side to steer the vehicle. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

111-ADC-867_4: A DD tank that has launched from an LST in calm waters off England. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

111-ADC-867_5: The DD in calm water under minimal power looks safe enough. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

111-ADC-867_6: Under power, the screen provided no more than 3 feet of freeboard, which left the DD vulnerable to swamping by even modest waves. (NARA, Signal Corps film)

SC-246270: A DD Sherman of the 756th Tank Battalion crosses the landing beach during Operation Dragoon on 15 August 1944. The crew has already collapsed the skirt that converted the vehicle into an armored boat. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)