Battle of Guadalcanal

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Outline

- References
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References

• *AMTRACS in action* by J. Mesko, Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc, Texas
  • [http://www.friesian.com/history/guadal.htm](http://www.friesian.com/history/guadal.htm)
  • [http://www.gnt.net/~jrube/index2.html](http://www.gnt.net/~jrube/index2.html)
  • [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/aaav.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ground/aaav.htm)
Strategic Situation
Present

The Solomon Islands from West to East - Images taken by Brian Taylor

Raised coral foothills, westwards and inland of Honiara, June 1973
Invasion Planning
Beaching
Landing Craft

LANDING CRAFT, PERSONNEL, RAMP (LCP (R))

Right: LCP   Length: 36’   Beam: 10’8”
Max. draft: 2’6”   Flat bottom
Propeller in tunnel. One 225-hp diesel or gas engine
Speed: 13 knots. Two machine guns in ring mounts
LCP(R) above, is similar in size but has hinged ramp bow

U.S. LANDING CRAFT

LANDING CRAFT, VEHICLES (LCV)

Length: 36’4”
Can carry a light vehicle or several tons of cargo or (LCVP) thirty-five or forty men
Same power as LCP above
Landing Craft

LANDING CRAFT, MECHANIZED (LCM)

LANDING VEHICLE, TRacked (LVT) “Alligator”

Unarmored Amphibian Tractor
Powered with 200-hp engine
Armed with one .50-cal.,
one .30-cal. MG
Carried cargo or personnel
Amphibious Assault Vehicle

Eventually, 1,225 LVT-1s were manufactured, with production ceasing in 1943. Early models, such as the one in the roll-out ceremony, had widely spaced windows but later production variants such as this had the windows more closely together. (Hunnicutt)
Amphibious Assault Vehicle

While the LVT-1 was designed basically as a supply vehicle, it could carry a variety of armament such as .30 caliber and .50 caliber machine guns. No armor was fitted to the LVT-1, but later some were armored in the field when enemy opposition was expected during amphibious assaults. The LVT-1 could be fitted with up to four .30 caliber machine guns. (FMC)
Amphibious Assault Vehicle

The grousers allowed the LVT to move through the water at speeds of between six and seven miles per hour in relatively calm water. The vehicle could go through various types of swampy conditions which would bog down conventional wheeled or tracked vehicles. (National Archives)
Amphibious Assault Vehicle

This late production AMTRAC emerges from the water loaded with Marines during vehicle testing in Florida, revealing the curved grousers which propelled the LVT-1 through the water. The grousers (or cleats) were attached diagonally directly to the tracks. (National Archives)
Ships off-shore
Airfield Capture
Future of Amphibious Assault Vehicles

AAA HIGH WATER SPEED MOE

- 25mm Bushmaster Cannon
- 7.62mm Coax Machine Gun
- Bow Plane
- Driver’s Hatch
- 2600 hp Diesel Engine
- Chine Flap
- Top Troop Hatches
- 23” Dia. Waterjets
- Transom Flap
- Ramp Door & Rear Troop Door
- Retractable Hydropneumatic Suspension (7 units per side)
Summary

• Operation “Shoestring” successful despite time crunch due to tremendous efforts of Marines and Sailors.
• AAV’s usefulness became apparent and Marines began upgrading and integrating it into amphibious assaults.
• Logistics support required steep learning curve for future operations.
• Navy and Marines debating future of Amphibious Assaults.
Questions?