## **LVT(A)-4**

## The Vehicle Bow Driver's seat The Wreck Radio operator's seat Drive shaft **Engine** pictures and leave only bubbles. compartment **Collapsed howitzer** .30 caliber Added shield for turret machine gun mount .50 caliber machine gun Bow Added boilerplate Stern This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions

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or recommendations expressed in this material are the authors' and do not

necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Interior.

LVTs (Landing Vehicle Tracked) were amphibious tractors originally intended to act as cargo carriers for ship-to-shore operations during WWII. However, they rapidly evolved into assault troop carriers and fire-support vehicles. These craft were capable of traveling through the water and crossing shallow and sometimes exposed fringing reefs. Seven LVT models were produced and used in the Pacific, including the LVT(A)-4 that fought in Saipan. This type eventually became known as the "Marianas Model" due to modifications made to the vessel by its crew.

This LVT is included on the WWII Maritime Heritage Trail - Battle of Saipan. It is located in Tanapag Lagoon in approximately 3.5m (10ft) of water. It is mostly intact, and several modifications made by its crew are visible. These include added boiler-plate to strengthen the bow, an added shield to protect the .50 caliber machine gunner, and a .30 caliber machine gun in the radio operator's position at the forward end of the crew compartment. To read more about how this vessel may have ended up in Tanapag Lagoon, check out the poster! To access the site follow your GPS to: 15 14' 24.58"N, 145 44' 10.78"E. If you visit this wreck, please be mindful that it is a fragile heritage site protected by Commonwealth Law against damage or molestation. Remember, take only

position

Stern

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