



# Louisiana Turns the Tide

**In the 1940s a small shipbuilding company owned by Andrew Higgins in New Orleans, Louisiana, designed and built a small landing craft that changed the course of World War II.**

Officially called the LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicles, Personnel), the “**Higgins boat**” had been used to navigate shallow Gulf swamps. Higgins’ design modifications turned his sturdy wooden workboat into a quick, mobile carrier that could ferry troops and equipment from large ships right up to the shore.



The shallow draft and carrying capacity of the LCVP gave Allied planners great flexibility for landing soldier, jeeps—even tanks—in combat zones. LCVPs were used in every major American amphibious operation of World War II, from D-Day in France to North Africa, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. The Gulf States produced more than 23,000 LCVPs for the war effort, but only a handful of these wooden workhorses survive today.

*“Andrew Higgins is the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach. The whole strategy of the war would have been different.”*

*President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1964*

