# OKINAWA – THE LAST BATTLE WORLD WAR II REAL PHOTO POSTCARDS



Where Genuine Photographs are made by the Millions ! The GROGAN PHOTO COMPANY DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

### GROGAN PHOTO COMPANY DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

BY DONN E. CUSON COPYRIGHT © 2002 -2015

**REVISED 9 DEC 2015** 

The Grogan Photo Company of Danville, Illinois produced a series of real photo postcards of the Okinawa Campaign, the last great battle of World War II. This paper is intended to provide some basic information on the postcards and act as a checklist for the collecting and cataloging of information about the postcards.

Grogan Photo Company was listed in the Danville, Illinois City Directory from 1938 to 1961. The address was 1107 Bahls St. (corner of Maple)

Elmer H. Grogan and his brother Raymond E. Grogan started the Danville plant in 1938, having previously started another photo company in Chicago in 1930.

During WWII the company's primary work was production of training photos for the Navy and other government branches, at the rate of 80,000 to 100,000 per day. Shortly after the war they started to produce the Okinawa Campaign postcards which they shipped to Okinawa for sale to the soldiers who were in the actual battles and those who arrived in the early years after the war. Grogan also produced similar postcards for the Philippines and New Guinea.

Grogan produced a set of photographs in a mailable envelope probably before they started to make the postcards. These photographs were only identified as Official U.S. Marine Corps Photos. One mailable envelope marked as Series 1 has been found and one of the photographs in the set of 10 is almost identical to Postcard 4-5 Operating Room in Cave. See Appendix for examples.

The Okinawa Campaign postcards were produced in two types of numbered series.

The <u>dash number series</u> cards were in groups of 12, except for the last two series.

1-1 to 1-12 2-1 to 2-12 3-1 to 3-12 4-1 to 4-12 5-1 to 5-12 6-1 to 6-9 7-1 to 7-9

These sets are known to have been sold in mailable envelopes marked "Mfg. In U.S.A. Grogan Photo Co. Danville, Ill." **See Appendix for example.** Used versions of these cards are rare since they were sold as sets and most of the service men mailed the packs home or brought the packs home with them.

The <u>3 digit serial number</u> cards started at approximately 170 and ended at approximately 211. These were probably produced after the Dash Number Series and were more of a sight seeing nature with no battle action shots. The checklist for the 3 digit serial number postcards have some numbers with no information as no examples of these postcards have been found.

The Okinawa Campaign cards were produced using at least 8 different back printings which are illustrated on the following pages. The use of different back types varied from card to card and not all cards were printed using all the different back types, and, in fact, some of the back types were used on very few cards and are rare.

Actual production start dates are unknown but estimated to have started in 1946 or 1947 based on postal usage dates.

Earliest known postal usage from Okinawa is 12 April 1947 which is a written date on a "Free" mail postcard. The earliest postmarked card is 15 April 1947 on a "Free" mail postcard. The latest post office cancel used date found is 29 Sept. 1958. See Appendix for examples.

It is assumed at this point that the postcards were only available for sale on Okinawa.

Cards that were mailed from a Ryukyu post office with Ryukyu stamps and postmark are very rare. See Appendix for examples.



Type I Grogan Photo Company, Danville, Ill.

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

1-1	2-1	5-1	7-1	171	192
1-2	2-2	5-2	7-2	172	196
1-3	2-3	5-3	7-3	174	197
1-4	2-4	5-4	7-4	175	198
1-5	2-5	5-5	7-5	177	199
1-6	2-6	5-6	7-6	178	200
1-7	2-7	5-7	7-7	179	201
1-8	2-8	5-8	7-8	180	202
1-9	2-9	5-9	7-9	181	203
1-10	2-10	5-10		184	
1-11	2-11	5-11	170	187	206
1-12	2-12	5-12		188	207
			1000		208
			and the second second		209

### PLACE STAMP HERE Danville, III.

GROGANPHOTO-

## Post Card

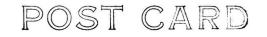
#### Type II Groganphoto Danville, Ill. (Groganized)

ILL. (MADE IN U.S.A.)

"GROGANIZED" DANVILLE.

OSNUINE PHOTOGRAPH

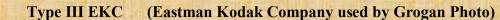
Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards





CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS



Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

1-4	2-1	3-1	4-1	5-1	6-1	7-1
	2-2	3-2	4-2	5-8	6-2	7-2
	1.2.1	3-3	4-3		6-3	7-4
		3-4	4-4		6-4	
		3-5	4-5		6-5	196
		3-6	4-6		6-6	
		3-7	4-7		6-7	
		3-8	4-8		6-8	a second
		3-9	4-9		6-9	
		3-10	4-10			
		3-11	4-11	14-1-1		
		3-12	4-12			



#### Type IV EKC with Grogan Photo Co. Danville, Illinois divider

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

## POST CARD

Illinois	MESSAGE	ADDRESS	
Danville,			
Photo Co.			
Grogan Ph			

Type Va Unknown manufacturer with Grogan Photo Co. Danville, Illinois vertical on left

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

170	
182	
184	
187	
188	l
195	
200	J
202	
203	
204	
207	
208	ų
209	
211	



Type Vb Unknown manufacturer with Grogan Photo Co. Danville, Illinois vertical on right

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards



Type VI Unknown manufacturer with divided back POST CARD

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

5-9 7-9

### Type VII Blank Back

Known on the following WWII Okinawa Campaign Real Photo Postcards

#### DASH SERIAL NUMBER SERIES CHECKLIST

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type Va Vb	Type VI	The last of the second s
1-1	X	. Jpe	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	.,,,	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	1 APRIL 1945 L DAY LANDING 6TH MARINE DIV
1-2	X				10-1-1-10		THE GENERAL AND THE PRIVATE
1-3	x						OBSERVING ARTILLERY FIRE ON OUTSKIRTS OF NAHA
			Y				
1-4	X		X				TAKING OF SUGARLOAF HILL - VICINITY OF NAHA
1-5	X		Cash Party	internation of the		2012	
1-6	X	1.1					CHOW LINE
1-7	X		IIII STATE				
1-8	X					Sec. 1	CIVILIANS AID IN FEEDING SICK AND WOUNDED
1-9	x						WATCHFUL WAITING
1-10	x	11					TANKS IN ACTION OUTSKIRTS OF NAHA
1-11	x			1213		2.11	MOTOBU PENINSULA - ON ROAD TO NAGO
1-12	x		15.20	SWITTY			FARMING IN OKINAWA
MI <520 1975			1.630 1446		CHELD THINK S	80 I M	
2-1	x		x	enter all a			L DAY 1 APRIL 1945 ON OKINAWA
2-2	x	ILLI	x	The all	Marine II	12000	MARINES MOVING THRU RICE PADDYS
2-3	x						MUD VICINITY OF NAHA
2-4	x						JAP PILLBOX NAHA
2-5	x	- Indiana		11- T	The state of the s	P. C.	CAM JAP LANDING CRAFT MOTOBU
2-6	x	20171	1021		2 Halte	1	CHURCH SERVICES AT NAGO
2-7	x		A. A.L	COLUMN ST	- 10 m. 2	344	TOMBS OF OKINAWA
2-8	x				1 1111		NAHA CAPITAL OF OKINAWA
2-9	x	I DE TRE			THE REAL	STE	GOOD LUCK GIVE EM HELL
2-10	x						RICE PADDIES IN NORTH OKINAWA
2-11	x			調査の営	1.1		ATTACH OF MOTOBU MOUNTAINS
2-12	x						OKINAWAN CHILD SLEEPING WITH MARINES
3-1			x			261	L DAY
3-2			X		Station of the	2011-2	PIONEERS
3-3			x			の言葉	QUESTIONING A JAP PRISONER
3-4	The second		x	- Sherry	June II	The second	GENERAL SHEPHERD
3-5			x				RUINS OF NAGO
3-6			x				YONTAN AIRFIELD
3-7			x				NATIVE HAVING HORSE TROUBLE
3-8			x				CLEANING RIFLE
3-9	PENOTRY	Eq.1	x	END FOY			BOMBARDMENT OF NAHA
3-10			x		THE TWO	80 H T	OKINAWA JAP PERSONNEL TRENCH
3-11			X	all the set			MARINES ATTACKING MOTOBU MT
3-12	IT DE TR		X	Tancard .	allow di	TE OR	FLAMETHROWERS OUTSKIRTS OF NAHA
and the second second						Ser Lo	

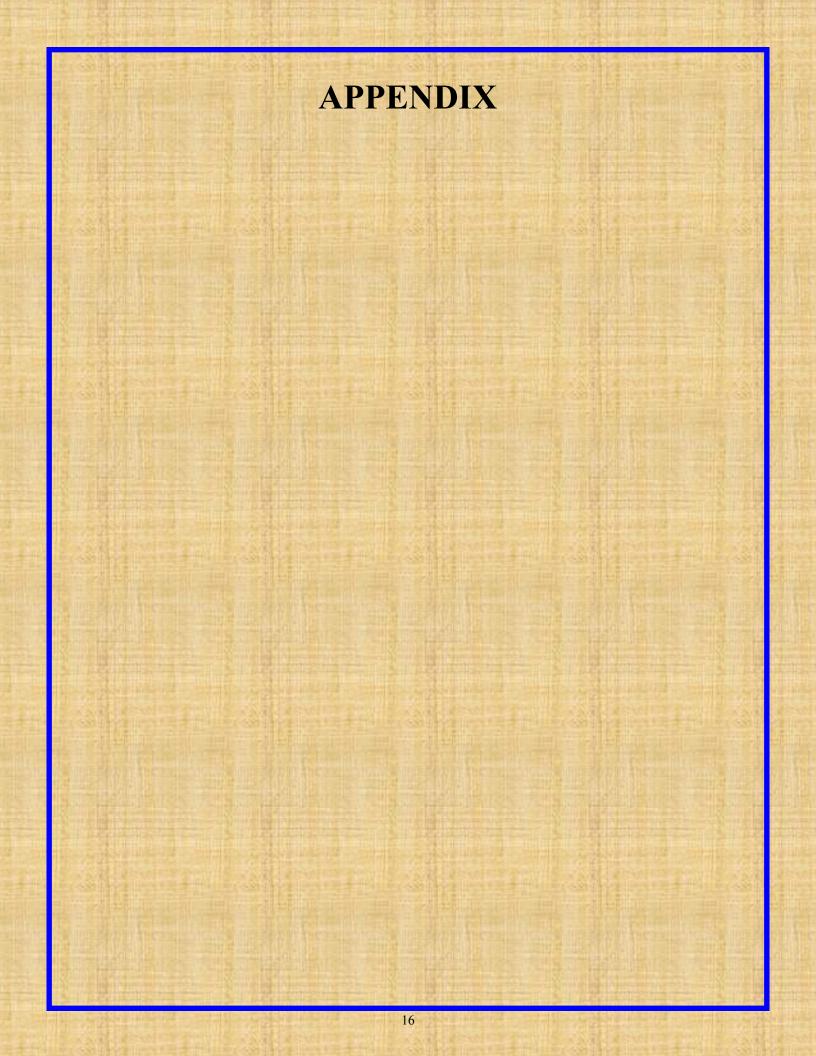
#### DASH SERIAL NUMBER SERIES CHECKLIST

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type Va Vb	Type VI	
4-1			x	310 F	Stan 1		LANDING 6TH MARINE 1 APRIL 45
4-2			x	HAR R	Den H	19	OKINAWAN BEAUTY
4-3			x	THE P		1	MAJOR GENERAL SHEPHERD
4-4			x				YONTAN AIRFIELD - L DAY
4-5	IT THEY		x	The second	The second	un ser	OPERATING ROOM IN CAVE
4-6			x				FLAMETHROWERS IN ACTION - NAHA
4-7			x		1		MARINES MOVING
4-8			x	1			SUGAR LOAF HILL VICINITY NAHA
4-9			x			の町	TYPICAL OKINAWAN SCENERY
4-10			x				SUGAR REFINERY
4-11			x		31	the second	BRIDGE DEMOLISHED BY JAPANESE
4-12	n nez		x	i nei	The second	IN REAL	BE KIND TO ANIMALS
5-1	x		x				WADING ASHORE L DAY
5-2	x	II IIIIII			1 In Int		L DAY
5-3	х			SOLD.	200	3.11	DUMMY JAP PLANE YONTAN AIRFIELD
5-4	х		1.000			(<80.14	ARTILLERY IN ACTION
5-5	x			and the second			HE ISNT SO BRAVE NOW
5-6	x	1.11	出版社				TWO MARINES AND AN
5-7	x		园 甘油				ROCKETS IN ACTION JAP AIR ATTACH
5-8	x		x		24		EVEN MARINES MUST REST
5-9	x					x	VIEW OF YONTAN AIRFIELD
5-10	x		1.5.84	SALES	Sec. State	No.	WAITING FOR TROUBLE VICINITY OF NAHA
5-11	x						THE JAPS WERE WELL ENTRENCHED IN CAVES
5-12	х		ALC: THE	Sec. 1	A Parts	EQ IN	MAIL FROM HOME

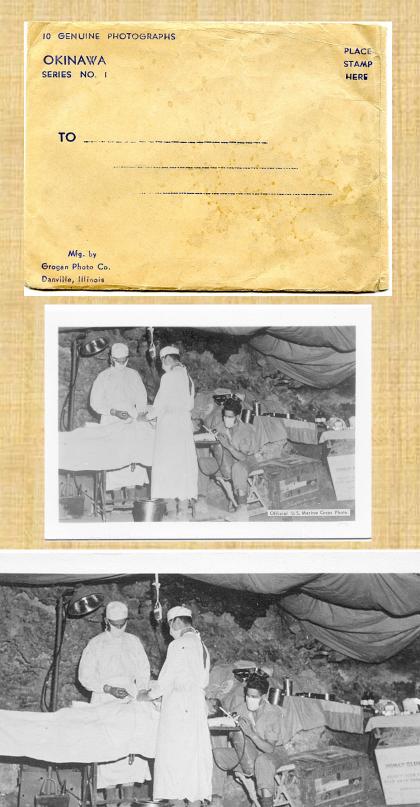
#### DASH SERIAL NUMBER SERIES CHECKLIST

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type Va Vb	Type VI	
6-1			x				DEDICATION 6TH MARINE CEMETERY
6-2			x				TAPS-6TH MARINE DIV CEMETERY
6-3	attor in		x	VIEY			CAPTURED GUN OROKU
6-4			x				NAHA AIRFIELD
6-5			x	- Luni			FLAMETHROWERS
6-6		in the second	x		All spall		SOUTHERN TIP OF OKINAWA
6-7			x		位 1		NAHA
6-8		24	x				SENAGA SHIMA
6-9			x				SUGAR LOAF HILL
	SPACE AND		124	WINY			
7-1	x		x				6th MARINE DIVISION CEMETERY ON OKINAWA
7-2	x		x		I THE		ENTRANCE 6TH MARINE CEMETERY
7-3	x		题你		and the second		OUTSKIRTS OF NAHA
7-4	x		x		10-134		RADIO TOWERS EAST OF NAHA
7-5	x						ADMIRAL OTA'S CP
7-6	x	1 Hill					ADVANCE ON OROKU PENINSULA
7-7	x			NI FY	in the second	1	BRIDGE BETWEEN NAHA AND OROKU PENINSULA
7-8	x			n di	( Internet		YONTAN AIRFIELD
7-9	x		ma Leon			X	JAP GUN FOUND OVERLOOKING NAHA AIRFIELD

	2		Т	HREE DIO	GIT SERIAL	NUMBER	SERIES	
	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type Va Vb	Type VI	Type VII	
170	x	Charles and	ALL DATE	the lat	а	South the	-Heling and	ISHIKAWA RESETTLEMENT CAMP
171	X	La la participa					a for the second se	DEFENDED TOMBS, NAHA OKINAWA
172	x	111	in tea		- Keinn			INTERIOR OF TOMB
173			D.P. In	11.	THE MA			I DELICITISTIC ST
174	x	x	- to play				A solution	ISLAND CEMETERY ISA
175	x	x	N. K.	X	Sall San Sal	R L C STOL	A Standard	POLICE GYMNASIUM
176						-		
177	x	x		- Conner		and set.		NAHA HARBOR AND BAY
178	x	x	<b>出去</b> 私		Marga With		- Healthang	RUINS OF SHINTO SHRINE
179	x	x		14 A 14 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			the set of	STEPS TO SHINTO SHRINE
180	x	x	-				and a	ENTRANCE TO SHINTO SHRINE
181	x	x			Triffer and the			SHRINE RUINS NAHA PARK
182		x	10 H 11		a, b		ALL NO	NAHA PARK AND SHRINE
183		- 11 a 3	(Selfitz	Les et al	The second			Cost 142 Internet Milling
184	x	x	まで 正		a			TYPHOON WAKE
185								Street Street Street Street Street
186		21.234			C. COMPARED IN			
187	x	X			a			SAWTOOTH RIDGE
188	x	x			а		122	CHOCOLATE DROP HILL
189							1. And the	
190	THE OFFICE	Sec. 1	- K. 9 1	COLCY'S		A Prese	- Valentin	and growing some in
191		3 - M 10 114	1.000 1445	at the				CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER
192	x	all and the				il lession due		OBASCOM HQ OKINAWA
193	II Inchi	STORE STORE	田田道の方	The set	Harris Hills		The second	HERE WARDEN COMPANY
194							in the	
195					а			INTERIOR NATIVE HUT OKINAWA
196	x	x	x	1.1				OKINAWAN KIDS
197	x	x	2. 2.4	the state		dia the second		DESERTED VILLAGE
198	x	Tayle -	2.44	Stol Barry			-	OBASCOM CHAPEL
199	x					-		OBASCOM CHAPEL, OKINAWA
200	x	x	States	- Chang	а	THE R. L.	x	BOYS HIGH SCHOOL
201	x	x	出来们			1	The literation	SHURI CHRISTIAN CHURCH
202	x	1			а			OKINAWA MEMORIAL CHURCH
203	x	x			a		angla di	MEMORIAL CHURCH
204		2 Surfage			a			RUINS OF SHURI OKINAWA
205		Sec.	01611	-			ALC: NO	
206	x	x	(《新教会)	Les north	#1 W. 38			BAILEY BRIDGES
207	x		王三王		a	T BERLINS		IE SHIMA CEMETERY RYUKYUS
208	x	x	anne Sales		а	A STATE AND	ALL DE LE	AERIAL VIEW IE SHIMA
209	x	x			а			ERNIE PYLE MEMORIAL IE SHIMA
210			-					A COMPANY AND A DESCRIPTION OF
211	x		A COLUMN AND		а		1.24.17	SNIPERS HILL IE SHIMA

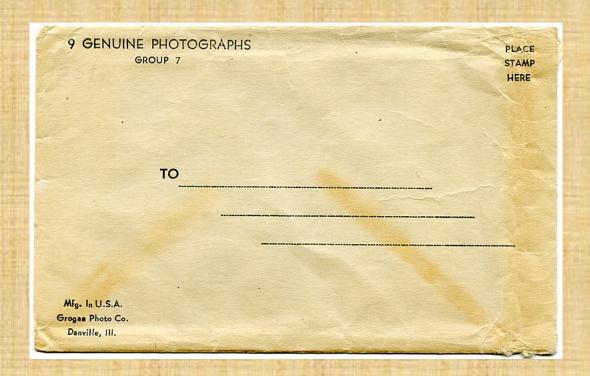


#### EARLY GROGAN MARINE CORPS PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENVELOPE SOLD BY GROGAN ONE OF THE PHOTOS WAS USED TO MAKE THE GROGAN POSTCARD 4-5 OPERATING ROOM IN CAVE



#### OPERATING ROOM IN CAVE

#### GROGAN POSTCARD MAILING ENVELOPE THE DASH NUMBER POSTCARDS WERE SOLD IN SETS IN THESE ENVELOPES



#### GROGAN POSTCARD #174 WITH RYUKYU POSTAGE AND POSTMARK FIRST DAY OF ISSUE OF SCOTT #29 GUSHIKAWA POST OFFICE CANCEL



#### EARLIEST KNOWN POSTMARK 15 APRIL 1947 (AS OF THIS REVISION)

EARLIEST WRITTEN POSTCARD DATE IS 12 APRIL 1947 ON A NON-POSTMARKED "FREE" MAIL CARD

PFC Robert Fuller 13351348 81047 SU DET. Ryko M, ExchANGE 17Po 331-90 Osst MASTER 121 SAN FRANSCISCO, CALIF. Hi Mas Holmes, How's the meather there? Swell I ket live marchenjay Miss Mary L. Holmes Buckey High School Grundy, Virginia now. Non't leale one carel mis place until they been array for autife Wist now that 3 fan taken mare intere 9 1 re a con Rob.



#### LATEST KNOWN POSTMARK 29 SEPT 1958 (AS OF THIS REVISION)

Dear EJBS And how are the Pearl Riverites

Sept. 26, 1958

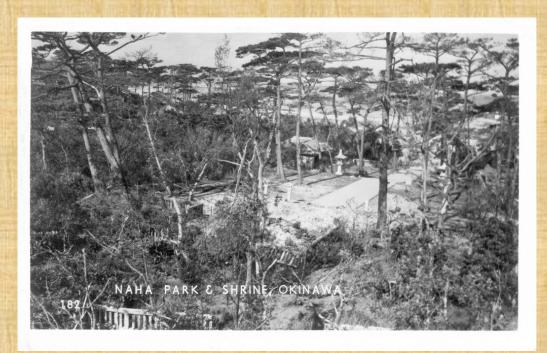
today? Fine, we hope, + net too lonesome Thanks for your last card, Droks H sure is good to know that HRUSTOCOPT has been heiping you. We, too, heard from your ded from B London. It sounded as if he hard Bare time there . I ve mailed a letter to him in Amsterdam; hope it gets there on time Typhoon Ida missed us completely, +

14 phoon tota missed us completery, 4 it's a good thing she did for her winds were up to 280 MPH. Woosh! She versed 0 off to the north Wed. Night so never came closer than 500 miles of us & never even put us into Condition 3. The Tokyo area may not be so lucky, though; Ida's due to slam in there tomorrow. to stam in there tomorrow

Locks like I'm there tomorrow. Locks like I'm Hospital Treasurer. The daughter of the present treasurer is being evaluated to the USA next week, so he naturally is being reassigned. She has some grare disease which can t be treated here Some ne had to get his job and I was sene ne had to get his job and I was selected . Nuts We're having dandy weather here now. Euros this is the best season of the year.

VIA AIR MAIL MRS. E. J. BACKUS

Dick + Fred 166 HUNT AVE. PEARL RIVER. NEW YORK 11.5A



#### AFTER THE WAR OKINAWAN'S WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SEND INTERNATIONAL MAIL UNTIL 15 MAY 1947

#### THIS GROGAN POSTCARD IS THE ONLY KNOWN RYUKYU ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL MAIL FIRST DAY OF USE

THE CANCEL IS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE OKINAWA CIVIL ADMINISTRATION



Davinn Staynet: First day of the Mar 19 resumption International mails between the Republiques Jelando and all Countries of the Ricon ANNEX, Son Francisco, Salif. woonld. fim burn U. S. A.

#### GROGAN #208 AERIAL VIEW IE SHIMA WITH RYUKYU ISLANDS IE SHIMA COMMEMORATIVE CANCEL 18 APRIL 1952 DEDICATION OF THE ERNIE PYLE MONUMENT





#### **EXAMPLES OF GROGAN OKINAWA POSTCARDS THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY AS GROGAN BATTLE OF OKINAWA POSTCARDS WITHOUT HAVING** THE CHECKLIST INFORMATION

AERIAL VIEW, IE SHIMA









"GOOD LUCK - GIVE EM HELL"

2-9

3-4

MAJOR GENERAL LEMUEL SHEPHERD, JR.

