



THE BURNING ISSUES



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Volume 10 Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.

March 2002

From Your New Publisher

As I put together my first issue of *The Burning Issues*, I know that I have some tough shoes to fill. Over the years, our previous publisher, Wayne Milward, has done an excellent job providing news, information and articles of interest to the membership. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for his years of service, and we hope he will continue to participate as a contributor.

Huzzahs to Wayne!

There is much news to disseminate in this first issue of the year – much change and growth for the BVMA – so if you have submitted an article and don't see it here, it is because there just was not enough room this time! Please continue to submit articles and tidbits of interest for future issues.

Help Wanted!

Crown & Congressional Editors wanted (one of each) for *The Burning Issues*. In the past, the Chair & Vice Chair have carried out this duty, however it was felt that they have enough responsibility. The Crown & Congressional Editor would each be responsible for gathering articles of interest to the Military membership and ensuring that items are submitted to the publisher for each issue.



Commemorating the 225th Anniversary of 1777

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Bits & Pieces . . .

"If the enemy pursue your rear, take a circle till you come to your own tracks, and there form an ambush to receive them, and give them the first fire."

- from Journals of Robt. Rogers, 1764

The Changing of the Guard: New Executive Officers Elected

At the February 23, 2002 annual Board meeting, the following new Officers were elected:

Chairman

Paul Supley

Vice Chairman

John Osinski

Executive Secretary

Wade Wells

Recording Secretary

Dean Barnes

Treasurer

Mike Kowalski

Our thanks go to former Officers Terry Glasier, Noel Levee, Ben Carlos, and Kevin Rudolph for all their hard work over the past years, and for helping to bring the BVMA through a tough transition period!

New Member Units

The following new units (all Crown) were voted in:

- 16th (Queen's) Light Dragoons
- 64th Stannus' Coy.
- 74th Foot Highland Regt.
- Hesse-Hannau Jaegers
- Royal Irish Artillery
- Company of Select Marksmen
- Onaquaga War Party



... And Other Meeting News

Dues

The suggestion has been made to make dues mandatory for all adult members, but that has not been passed at this time. However, the BVMA is strongly encouraging all adults (over 16) from member units to pay dues and help support your organization. Dues are \$5.00, and should be paid through your unit. Mike Kowalski has roster sheets (available on the web site soon) that should be filled out and sent in with your dues. Checks should be made payable to the BVMA, and sent to Mike – Unit Commanders, please contact him for more information.

Events

The 2002 Event Schedule is a busy one this year with many 225th events in our neighborhood. The BVMA has voted to sponsor four events this year: Old Stone Fort Opening Day & 18th Century Symposium, the Mabee Farm Encampment, the 225th Battle of the Flockey in Schoharie, and the 225th Burning of Kingston. A **sponsored** event means that the BVMA is helping to coordinate, organize and run the event, as well as ensuring turnout from the membership. Please think of how you can help the event coordinators with these events – it is a lot

of work, and we all have something to contribute!

The membership has also voted to support the following events: Johnson Hall Market Fair, Fort Ticonderoga (Brown's Raid), and the 2nd Battle of Saratoga (225th). A BVMA **supported** event means that we have promised our support by means of membership turnout.

Please see the Schedule later in this issue for more information.

Safety Guidelines

The BVMA Safety Guidelines have been passed, and incorporate the best of the BAR, BB, & CL safety guidelines. They will be printed and passed out to the membership soon, hopefully by the Johnson Hall Market Fair in June, and will also be available on the website.

Our Online Community

BVMA List

The BVMA now has it's own forum for discussions about BVMA issues - the BVMA List!

To subscribe, go to: "http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BVMA/join" or contact our list moderator, Dean Barnes at TheTavernkeeper@hotmail.com

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BVMA Web Site

For those of you who don't know it, our website is at www.bvma.org. Check there for updates about events, directions, and other information. If you have ideas about what you'd like to see up there, please send them to me at webmaster@bvma.org.

Message from the Chairman, ex-Officio

Terry Glasier

Publishers Note: The following is an excerpt from a letter that Terry had intended to go into the newsletter last year.

... In my first address to the BVMA as Chair I pointed out that my Chairmanship would not be as your leader. It would be as your administrator. I consider it an accomplishment of my tenure that rule by the membership has become a reality in practice and now by rule. A fine example of this is our last Annual meeting of the membership. During my address I reported that our looking into insuring the whole organization had been tabled because the delegates felt it would be best to incorporate first. This led to Laura Sawyer Sr. rising and telling us we had dawdled long enough. She moved that we incorporate, it was seconded and passed unanimously by the membership. *[The BVMA is now incorporated –Pub.]*

The BVMA is a healthy growing family and as such expect more family conflict in the future. It is really unavoidable. However, having said that, I have never seen reenactors more cooperative than now. We will have disagreements in the upcoming season but the spirit of camaraderie between Congress and Crown when not in actual combat has never been stronger in the BVMA than the present. The existing spirit of cooperation and friendliness within the BVMA continues to be among our great-

(Continued from page 2)

est strengths. This also continues to attract new units to us.

In closing, it is time to have patched your clothes, tuned your lock, and make sure your powder is dry. Looking forward to being with you all on the battlefield and around the camp fire during the upcoming campaign.

Your most humble servant
Terry Glasier



**Old Stone Fort Opening Day
18th Century School
and Symposium**

May 4, 2002

Be sure to watch for more information about this event! Due to the positive response from the membership, the BVMA will once again be sponsoring Old Stone Fort Opening Day. This time we will be having an 18th Century School & Symposium, featuring lectures and round-table discussions on topics both military and non-military, including clothing, accoutrements, agriculture, cooking, tactics and merchants and sutlers. There should be something of interest to everyone, so come out and support this event!

2002 Schedule

April 6	BVMA War Games, Charlestown St. Forest (<i>tentative</i>)
April 7	Herkimer Home Sugaring Off
April 20-21	225th Anniversary of the State Constitution, Kingston, NY
May 4	Old Stone Fort Opening Day/18th C. School (BVMA Sponsored)
May 18-19	Mabee Farm Encampment - Rotterdam Junction, NY (BVMA Sponsored)
May 19	Battle of Saratoga Parade, Mechanicville, NY
June 8-9	Johnson Hall Market Fair (BVMA Supported)
June 15-16	Ethan Allen Days, Sunderland, VT (LHA)
July 5	The Evacuation of Ticonderoga by the Continental Army
July 5-7	The Battle of Hubbardton, 225 th - Hubbardton, VT (LHA)
July 13-14	Fort Anne (LHA)
July 26-28	Mount Independence (LHA)
July 26-28	Fort Stanwix Summer Troop Encampment
Aug. 2-6	Ft. Stanwix - 225th Commemorative Events
Aug. 9-11	225th Battle of the Flockey - Schoharie, NY (BVMA Sponsored)
Aug. 17	Herkimer Home - 225th Anniversary of General Herkimer's Death
Aug. 17-18	Battle of Bennington, Bennington, VT (LHA)
Aug. 23-25	Battle of Newtown, Elmira, NY
Sept. 7-8	Fort Ticonderoga - Brown's Raid (BVMA Supported)
Sept. 27-29	First Battle of Saratoga, 225th (SNHP/LHA)
Oct. 11-13	Second Battle of Saratoga, 225th (BVMA Supported)
Oct. 18-20	The Burning of Kinston, 225th (BVMA Sponsored)
Oct. 20	Schuyler Mansion
Nov. 9-10	Fort Stanwix Fall Troop Encampment
Nov. 24	Johnson Hall Christmas

18th Century Field Music: The Retreat

The Retreat, under normal circumstances, signals the end of the soldier's working day. It's origins date back to the days of medieval walled cities, when drummers mounted the walls and beat a signal to warn the inhabitants that the gates would be closing for the evening. As late as 1759, the Prussian Regulations still contained instructions for the "Ceremony of Opening and Shutting the Gates". Bland and other military treatises of the day expanded the function of the retreat beating to signal retreat on the battlefield as well. This practice was followed by many American regiments early in the Revolution. In his Regulations, Steuben did away with it's battlefield use and stated that "The Retreat is beat at sunset, for calling the roll, warning the men for duty, and reading the orders of the day".

The Retreat generally takes place between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening depending on the time of year. It begins with The Drummer's Call 15 minutes beforehand and then proceeds to the Three Taps and Three Rolls, followed by The Retreat beating itself by the assembled Field Music. IN between the beating of Drummer's Call and Retreat, the troops should be assembling on their respective company and regimental parades, as they did for Troop. In some cases, the Retreat would be accompanied by the firing of an evening gun as well. The function of the Retreat is similar in many respects to the Troop in the

morning. The roll is taken and any further orders or information that the troops need to know is given out. If the troops fired their weapons during the day, they are inspected again to insure that they are clean and in working order (they would not be expected to be "spit-shined" at this time, just in usable condition).

In most cases, the Retreat is also the time when punishment would be given out. After other business was finished, the guilty party(s) would be brought out, perhaps to the tune of The Rogues March, and receive punishment. This normally consisted of a number of lashes on the bare back with the "cat o'nine tails" given out by the drummer(s). If "drumming out" was part of the punishment, this would occur after the lashes. The guilty party(s) would be paraded in front of the troops, marched to the edge of the camp and "dismissed".

Once all the business of the Retreat has been carried out, the Drum-Major would be given the signal to end the Retreat. This would be done by the repeating of the Three Taps and Rolls, with the Retreat played once through by the Drum-Major. The troops and Field Music are dismissed in the same manner as for the Troop. At this time the men would normally be free to cook their meals and pursue their own affairs until the beating of the Taptoo later in the evening.

1. Camus, Military Music of the American Revolution p. 93. 2 Ibid. 3. Salsig, Parole: Quebec: Countersign: Ticonderoga, Second New Jersey. 4. Regulations. 5. Camus p.94.



Speak Out

There are many avenues today from which we can obtain information about the 18th century and specifically the Rev War Period which many of us are most interested in. Online resources are many and we have access to them either at home, at work or at the public library. Local historical sites which hold records from the 1700's often avail their information to serious public to peruse. The county clerk's office is public domain for old maps and other records.

Online resources include specific sites which have primary documents scanned or transcribed for use by anyone. Listservers send e-mail discussions about any topic relating to your interests. There are lists for 18th century women, F&I interests, Native reenactors, colonial food lists, and many others specifically catering to particular interests.

Historical sites such as Johnson Hall and Old Stone Fort have fairly through libraries and much information, both military and domestic can be had from these resources. Historical societies from local towns which have been in existence since the 1700's often have land, organizational, dwelling, diary, and military records in storage or available.

When we know that information is available for research, what do we do with that? There are many kinds of people who reenact... people addicted to research (and fill their spare time with bookish tasks), people who wish they could do research about their particular interest (but have no time or have difficulty accessing resources), and then people who have little interest in research (happy to listen to others or maintain status quo).

Wherever you fall on the research continuum there are facts being uncovered every day in research about the 18th century. The more we pay attention to this information, the better reenactors we will be... more accurately portraying to ourselves and to the public the lives of our 18th century compatriots.

— Wayne Milward

BVMA Member Units
2002

Crown Forces**8th Foot Light Coy.**

Eric Bloomquist
Lewiston, NY
716-285-8013
<http://members.tripod.com/~Gargano/Eighth.html>

21st Foot RNBF

Paul Supley
Ballston Lake, NY
518-399-7611
pasg21@aol.com
<http://www.21stfoot.cjb.net/>

64th Foot Stannus' Coy.

Joe Blanchard
Fairport, NY
716-377-9249

74th Highland Regt.

William Siebert
Dixmont, ME
207-234-2253
wseibert@aol.com
<http://users.erols.com/seventyfourth/74th1.htm>

84th Foot RHE 10th Coy. 1st Bn.

Erwin Splittgerber
Amsterdam, NY
518-843-0102
splitt@klink.net

16th Light Dragoons

Don Beale
<http://generalsguard.homestead.com/Generalsguard.html>

Company of Select Marksmen

Christian Cameron
416-603-1743
cgc.sjw@sympatico.ca
http://www.iprimus.ca/%7Elougheed/CSM_ID/index.html

Royal Irish Artillery

Ray Chavarie
Windsor, ME
207-445-4224
maltaray@tivot.net
<http://www.ziplink.net/~edkreutz/>

Hesse-Hannau Jaegers

Drew E. Smith
Yardville, NJ
609-298-5925

Congressional Forces**Congress' Own 1st Canadian Regt.**

Noel Levee
Johnstown, NY
518-762-7419
levee@superior.net
<http://www.bvma.org/members/1stCanadian.html>

2nd New York Regt.

Karl L. Crannell
Ticonderoga, NY
518-585-7880
karl@fort-ticonderoga.org

6th Conn. Regt. Light Coy.

Richard Swartwout
Andover, CT
860-742-9843
captain6th@qwestonline.com
<http://www.6thconnecticut.org>

Col. Ichabod Alden's Regt, Sixth Mass.

Terry Glasier
Granville, NY
518-642-3457
<http://www.aldens6thmass.com/>

2nd Continental Lt. Dragoons

Salvatore Tarantino
Farmington, CT
860-675-8461
sh2ldhq@erols.com

2nd Continental Artillery

John Faulhaber
Fort Edward, NY
518-747-7934

2nd Continental Artillery Savage's Detachment

Dave Morgan
Rome, NY
315-338-6114
dmorgan4@twcny.rr.com
<http://www.geocities.com/savagesdetachment/>

1st Ulster County Militia

Ben Carlos
Saugerties, NY
845-246-6305
hudvcapt@ulster.net
<http://www.firstulstercountymilitia.homestead.com/home.html>

BVMA Member Units (Cont'd)

Crown Forces (cont'd)

Drewesmith@aol.com
<http://www.hannau-jager.com>

Kings Royal Regiment of New York "Johnson's Greens"

Gavin Watt
 King City, Ontario, Canada
 416-833-6435
 gk.watt@sympatico.ca
<http://www.globalserve.net/~lougheed/yorkweb/>

Queens Rangers Company of Horse

Gary Corrado
 Oneonta, NY
 (607) 432-0222
 grranger@yahoo.com
<http://www.bvma.org/queens.html>

Butler's Rangers Ten Broeck's Coy.

Chris Miazga
 Poland, NY
 315-826-5258
 kuyahoorakil@aol.com

Claus' Rangers

Jason Bush
 Johnstown, NY
 518-762-0330
 arthur@superior.net
<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/VolunteerSt/clausrangers/>

Brant's Loyal Volunteers

Bob Smith
 716-343-7620
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/7255/brants.html>

Doxstaders Coy. of Loyalists

Richard Schultes
 Cherry Valley, NY
 607-264-3994
 richard.schultes@bassett.org

Onaquaga War Party

Armstrong, Will
 Sloansville, NY
 518-868-6962
 warmslyo@gw.neric.org

Congressional Forces (cont'd)**2nd Regiment Albany County Militia**

John Osinski
 Middleburgh, NY
 518-827-5429
 josinski@midtel.net
http://www.starry-nite.com/2nd_albany.html

3rd Tryon County Militia

Col. James F. Morrison
 Gloversville, NY
 tryonco@superior.net
<http://www.geocities.com/tryoncountymilitia/index.htm>

4th Tryon County Militia

Jim Stevens
 Manlius, NY
 stevensj@twcny.rr.com
<http://www.bvma.org/tryon4>

13th Albany County Militia

Kevin Rudolph
 Glenville, NY
 518-381-8937
 militia13thalbany@juno.com
<http://www.bvma.org/members/13thAlbany.html>

Whitcomb's Rangers

James Casco
 Middletown Spring, VT
 802-235-2457
 caspar@vermontel.com
<http://www.mafseminars.com/whitcomb's.htm>

Publishers Note: This Unit Listing contains the information that was available to me as of March 20. An updated listing will be available soon. - KG

The 225th in the Valleys

In May the British began to implement a strategic plan to seal off the northern and New England colonies. The plan consists of three major parts: (1) General John Burgoyne was to move up Lake Champlain, then follow the upper Hudson to Albany. (2) Colonel Barry St. Leger, with a smaller force was to go up the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario to Fort Oswego and there cut across New York to seize Fort Stanwix on the upper Mohawk, and to march down the Mohawk valley to Albany. (3) Sir William Howe was to ascend the Hudson with a fleet and army, capture the fortresses on that river, take possession of the villages and meet the other two armies at Albany.

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May 6

General Burgoyne landed at Quebec to command British forces in Canada.

May 23 - Colonel Meigs captured ninety prisoners, a gunship, and military stores at Sag Harbor, L.I.

June 1 - Burgoyne invaded northern New York.

June 16 - Crown Point Evacuated.

June 30 - British returned to Staten Island from New Jersey.

July 6 - Ticonderoga evacuated by General St. Clair and 3000 men.

July 7 - Skenesborough seized.

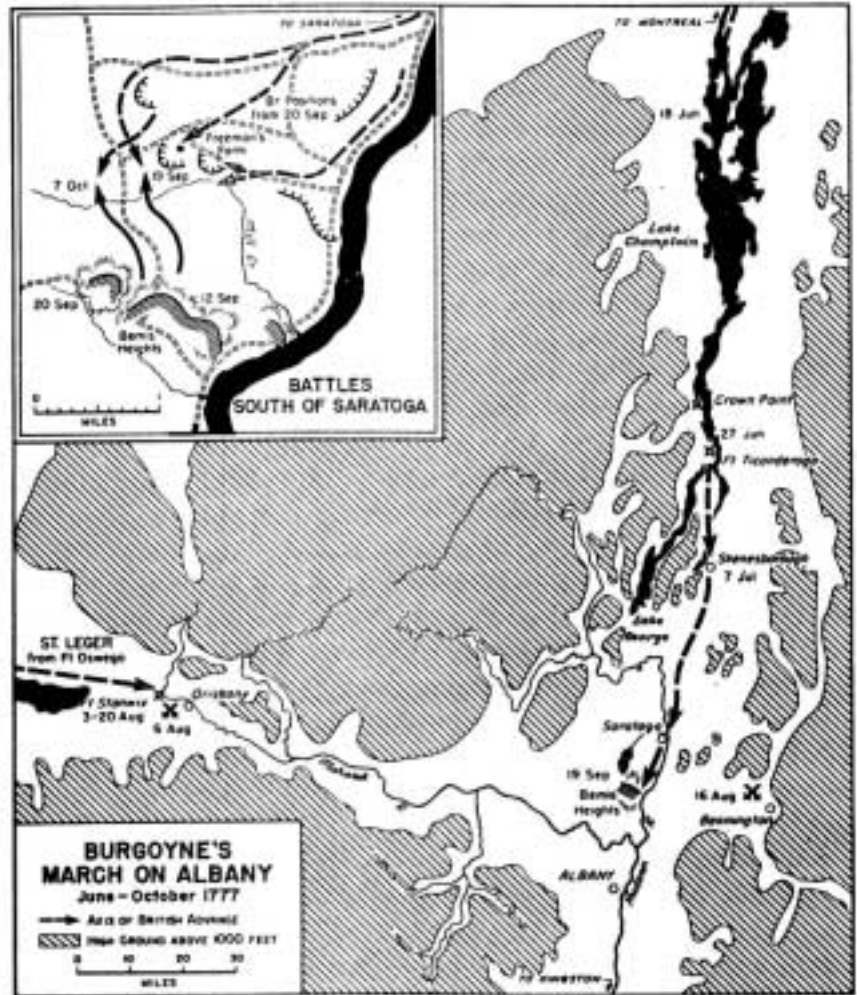
July 7 - Battle of Hubbardton. American force retreating from Ticonderoga routed by British and German troops after heavy fighting.

July 8 - Battle of Fort. Ann. Americans under Livingston driven out, losing 128 cannon and stores.

July 12 - General St. Clair arrived at Fort Edward.

July 27 - Jane McCrea murdered.

July 30 - Burgoyne reached Fort Edward.



Map courtesy of the General Libraries, the University of Texas at Austin

August 4-22 - Fort Stanwix (Fort Schuyler). Barry St. Leger attacked fort under Colonels Gansevoort and Willet.

August 6 - Battle of Oriskany. General Herkimer checked and mortally wounded in an ambush of Tories and Indians.

August 12 - General Benedict Arnold marched to relief of Fort Stanwix.

August 16 - Battle of Bennington. Colonel Baum defeated by General John Stark at Walloomsac.

August 19 - General Schuyler superseded by General Gates.

August 21-22 - Staten Island raided by General Sullivan and Colonel Ogden taking stores and 130 prisoners.

September 18 - Colonel Brown attacked British at Ticonderoga and

on Lake George.

September 19 - First battle of Saratoga.

September 20 - Burgoyne fortified his camp.

September 23 - Battle of Diamond Island.

October 3 - General Clinton ascended Hudson to cooperate with Burgoyne.

October 6 - Forts Clinton and Montgomery captured by Sir Henry Clinton.

October 7 - Second battle of Saratoga; British defeated.

October 13 - Kingston Burned

October 17 - Saratoga; surrender of General Burgoyne.

Source: *The American Revolution in New York. University of Albany, 1926.*

Just For Fun

Word Search

H I G H L A N D E R S M L K S H T R C S A L V B U N K E R H I L L T L K
 F C Z N Y R F R H H D R H S T G G V N D R M Q L L H Z D M S S J P I Y W
 Y X Q Z R C D W S N C C P L D Y T T H B G G E C T G P G T D N V L C R Y
 K V X R V B W M X W G B S R W V M S C D C V T R H N Y S W G Q D V O P X
 L I V I N G H I S T O R Y L E A R N I T L I V E I T L O V E I T Z N J R
 L K S F Z Q K D V F B L C T V Z T Y P H K W X Y C C L V Q G H H L D H V
 C N C V P R S H M Y P Y R S F D L S B P S H O D X Y A K Z W P Y O E F C
 N O V H Z M C T O F O V T M A F V P D Q W P R N B J W N N Y X Y H N R F Q
 N S O X T R C D B R Y R K R Y Q D T V H K B K G Z C S F S B S V G O Y Z
 C T H Z F C K L H K J W S A Y G N Z W T G P Y P P U H F W I F P H G Q K
 O Z A P A P J R Z E C C F T K O T J O L T B R Q T R H T T Y H L O A M V
 R Q R S T D N G L R X L N O T B N W B Z N L N L G A R I I Z J N U I Y D
 D S I O U Q O R I S B U R G O Y N E R A N G E R S B R O W N B E S S S Q
 F N E G W L L O K N K V N A Y K K F F I Y R H X Y B D T R H D Q E C Z E
 S M T H N D L F D P R I M N C R P V D T S O Z J I S G K I T R E N G C Z
 M Z A W V J I R X L H T S A M Z Q B C I H Y N D P N H Z P L J V R C M G
 F P R Y Y N R Z T S E F I R E L O C K L V W D E Z T G J Q Y L P C B F P
 R P T Y T J A N A C S S Q G H N B B Y I S G F Y T T H T J Z T E V B O T
 S F A M L S C W L Z Y N C T X K Y B S M L J W S T B X G O K J P R D C X
 Q S N K C L H W X S F V F X M Q F D M X X D B L L S V X S N T X P Y M R

Here is a word search for you to try. If you like it let me know. Mike Kolwalski

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| AMERICANS | BUNKER HILL | HENRY KNOX | MOCCASINS | TICONDEROGA |
| ARTILLERY | BURGOYNE | HIGHLANDERS | POISE | TINDERBOX |
| BAR | BVMA | IROQUOIS | RANGERS | WASHINTON |
| BAYONET | CARILLON | LEXINGTON | SARATOGA | YORKERS |
| BRITISH | CONCORD | LONG HOUSE | SHCOHARIE | YORKTOWN |
| BROWN BESS | DOODLES | MILITIA | SUTLERS | YKKFFIY (?????) |
| | FIRE LOCK | | TARTAN | |

No YKKFFIY doesn't mean anything at all. I just want to see if you said WHAT!!!!
 If you really thought it meant something, are you sure you should be a reenactor?

NEXT ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Next issue to be distributed at Johnson Hall (or by mail if you are not in attendance at J'Hall.) Please submit articles, ideas, questions, etc. at any time or by May24 for the next issue.
 — Kristin

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