

Du Août 2005.

Du BUREAU du PRÉSIDENT, from the Prefident's Defk

Now that the atmospheric pressure is at the point that I'm used to, I can finally get back to life. Jon and I had a wonderful time at Philmont. The weather was dry for the most part, except for the monsoon like rain storm on the last night. As far as encounters with wildlife, the mini-bears left us alone; for the most part.

I would like to congratulate everyone for a wonderful event in Newport RI. We were a hit! The coordinators loved us and told us again and again that if it wasn't for us there wouldn't have been an event. I would like to thank Carrie Albertin for her outstanding performance at Kings Park and through the entire weekend; Sue for coordinating commissary; Ellie and Carl for putting together a fantastic dinner party on Saturday night. Dan and Judy there medical impression; Glenn Cook, Jerry Jaquinto, Bernard and Carmen Rieutord, Susan War and John Welsh for traveling from all parts of the continent to be with us for the weekend.

Looking forward; we have a great event lined up for the beginning of this month at Old Sturbridge Village. The weekend is packed full of events. OSV has asked us to join them in their second annual timeline event. There will be units that date back from 1600's up through the American Civil War. More details for the OSV event can be found in this newsletter and in the July newsletter.

You might notice that Lebanon, CT has been added to the event schedule. Although we have not yet committed to the event, I have added it to the schedule because there is a strong possibility that many of us will attend the event. At this event the W3R will be unveiling a Commemorative Historic Marker to mark the Route taken by the French Troops to Yorktown.

> Your Humble Servant, Dana Rock, Président Régiment de SaintOnge

Le RAPPORT du CAPITAINE, Captain's Report

Framingham on the Sudbury August 2005

Folks.

Wow – what a month!! Thanks to everyone who made it to Newport – it was quite the event. I've received a number of thank you messages from the RI folks as well as from others in the French Line which was shared in prior documents and posts. As I said before, thank you all for your presence, patience, and above all, professionalism at the event. Everyone who saw us over the weekend commented on how good we looked and how well we executed. More than one person on the event staff stated that if it wasn't for us, they would not have had an event. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations were so impressed by our performance and support that they are drafting an official accommodation for all the French Regiments. This is a first for our Regiment!

This event brought many aspects of the French Line together. We were joined members of the Bourbonnais, Gatinais, and Royal Deux-Ponts Regiments. Like our prior events, Quebec or Savannah come to mind, everyone from the other Regiments came together and worked as one. We were also greeted by the BAR folks warmly when we came in Line on Sunday. The pass in review and inspection exceeded the BAR's expectation – we also lead the Line on both days.

I wanted to thank a few people who went above and beyond. Thanks to Ellie and Carl for putting together a great meal for us on Saturday; Sue for volunteering to organize the Commissary; the Mees family for bringing enough food to feed an army; our music, especially Carrie who had a command performance, and Reed Harder who performed for the first time and the entire Harder clan who came along; Geoff Gardner of the Newport Artillery Company who graciously donated their space for us; Bill and Myles for acting as liaisons to the dignitaries; and Dana who traveled with me to RI for the meetings and did most of the Regimental organization for the event, especially when I was on travel. For our Regimental family who came from other parts of the country, or from out of the country, thanks! It was great to see Glen Cook from Maryland, Jerry from New Jersey, Sue Warr (RDP) from Virginia, and Bernard and Carmen (RDP) from Quebec. John Welch (RDP) gets the most miles traveled from Washington State! Thanks go to Mark Schnieder (from Williamsburg who played Lafayette) who organized the official side of the event with the dignitaries, whether they needed or not (they did).

Looking forward to the coming month, we have the "Redcoats to Rebels" program at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV). Folks who participated last year in other groups had a blast. I expect that this year will be no different. The last time I participated in an event at OSV where other groups were invited was during the bicentennial! I had a blast the last time, so I'm looking forward to this event.

The next 225th event that the Regiment has been asked to play a major part is Lebanon Connecticut October 1-2. This event is an encampment and tactical demonstration, which should be exactly what we did 5 years ago. I'm recommending that the Regiment go to this event, so please reserve the weekend. It is a 225th event and a great way for the Regiment to do a little recruiting and talking up the 2005 campaign. Bob Selig is also speaking at this event as an added benefit. If you folks haven't heard him speak, it is definitely something worthwhile.

Looking to 2006 we have a number of events coming together - including Battle Road! I have a small group helping to organize these events with me as well as the BOD who will discuss these events at the next meeting. We also have been approached by the BAR and others regarding participation as French Troops. These folks are looking at keeping their own unit identity, but modifying their uniforms to have the appearance of French Troops. The 5th Connecticut is the primary group that is looking for these modifications since most of the Connecticut events involve French Troops. The BOD will discuss this new development later this month to see how we can help. Prior e-mails discussed some of the details of the events in Southbury and Ridgefield Connecticut. I'm quite certain we'll hear more about these events in Lebanon in October. Next month's newsletter should have a report on the events for 2006 including Yorktown, which is getting interesting.

> Pour le Roi et le Régiment, Steven



ÉVÉNEMENTS PROCHAINS, Upcoming Events

Old Sturbridge Village, August 6 & 7. Arrival : Check-in and set-up will be between the hours 3:00PM-8:00PM on Friday, August 5 and 7:00AM -9:00 AM on Saturday, August 6. Private motor vehicles are not allowed in the historic Village. Please plan on transporting your gear on handcarts, which will be provided, or having your gear delivered on an OSV vehicle. Directions: You can reach OSV via Rt20 off the Mass Pike or you can go Rt84 South and take exit 2 off Rt84. Then follow signs to the Main OSV Entrance. (do not follow signs for the Education Building). Our encampment location is situated on the north side of the Center Meetinghouse which is located on the west side of the Village Common (see OSV map that we have on File in Yahoo), just in front of the horse sheds. **Details:** Encampments of re-enactors representing military groups from the 1600s to the Civil War illustrate the evolution of equipment and uniforms over three centuries of American history. Other highlights include fife and drum music, presentations by each unit on the Common, and an opportunity for visitors to see time pass before their eyes, when all units join for a Parade through History.



After Action Report for the Landing of General Rochambeau

Well, the kick-off to the French windup to Yorktown has begun. Of course, one could view Savannah as the first event, but its distance and the weather, oh yeah the weather, or maybe Quebec, but then there's the weather, that maybe keeps Newport in the lead.

It is not possible for me to name, basically because I won't remember every name and I don't want to offend anyone, all the French that participated. It was spectacular and I think it has set the tone going forward.

Look at who we were. There were new faces, old faces, re-remembered faces, faces in a rainbow of colors, faces

hidden by acres of drapeaux, same old faces and faces from far-off places.

So, I can't list each of you whom I would like to applaud so I'll take a different tack:

I'll wander through the weekend as I experienced it and those who were there will know and those who were elsewhere will get a hint at the other things that happened.

Some may wonder at the preponderance of officers. Well, Myles and I have been working with John Welsh, alias Rochambeau, for a year to do the impression of his aides de camps, me as de Closen, and Myles as the grenadier captain of his guard. We had a boat. The boat sank. We didn't have enough to mount the guard and leave any soldat for the landing. The rain made for no landing anyway, who's to know in advance? Problems, problems, problems! As it turned out, the impression as Rochambeau's aides was both worth it and a bit tedious. But First!!!

I think there is standout group within our group that needs to be recognized. This little segue stems from the fact that Myles and Steven and I, aided in huge measure by Mark Schneider as Lafayette, on a routine basis helped pull the ceremonies out of the fire. While the Regiment was doing its usual fine job, the organization of the event was in a constant state of near collapse. The script was fine but the execution for whatever reason was just not there. During the ceremonies at King's Park the boss organizer came up to me, seeing as how you guys were landing and I was in proximity of the heavies, and said the singer of the anthems did not show up. I sort of thought, "Why is that my problem?", but then it seemed more important to make the ceremony proper and to show the reverence we were there to display for those that went before us. In situations like this there is only one thing to do...GET THE MUSIQUE.

My personal, humble and heartfelt thanks go to Carrie Albertin. I bushwhacked her with zero warning. Moreover this just wasn't to play for the troops, this was for the Admiral of the War College, the Governor of RI and THE Ambassador of France to the United States, along with associated other dignitaries. No small audience. Besides giving no warning I asked for a tune not usually played by the French. Brava, to Carrie. While I am told there was a certain sinking feeling in the stomach, she performed, period. The chanteuse did show up, but in return for our help I prevailed upon the organizers that we French should hear a tune appropriate to the occasion. The Marshal March, by Carrie Albertin was performed flawlessly, with dignity and grace.

Didn't tell her then but will now, the Admiral and the Ambassador were very impressed. They thought it was just a routine part of the program; shows you how good we can be at our thing. I did not inform them of the last minute heroics so they left thinking the French army, no sweat, they're good!

The contribution does not stop there. Our newly attending drummer is a stand up guy. Again thanks to Carrie for giving him guidance and support. As the day progressed, the music kept getting more and more powerful. As I, in the role of de Closen, continually babysat the General, I was in the position to hear the battling music as the column marched along. Our Fife and Drum drowned out the other music. Moreover, it was more spirited and more appropriate. There is just no substitute for competence. On behalf of the organizers and the personalities of Washington, Rochambeau and Lafayette, Myles and I offer major kudos. I think the Regiment as a whole would echo those sentiments.

Of course it doesn't stop there. Remember when we were assembled on the verge in front of Trinity Church? Well, the dignitaries were dragging their anchor in getting out there to do their part. Once again there was an embarrassing silence. And once again to the rescue come the creative Saintonge and their music. The back and forth dueling of music was an on the spot show and again all the participants were unaware of the ad hoc nature of the performance. In fact, Cori and my daughter, Merry, overheard the crowd comment on how the music added to the ceremony. (If only we had played the Marseillaise, perhaps a few less clunkers and more on key!)

I think you all get the point. Our team, specifically our music did their duty and they did it to a degree I will be grateful for, for a long time to come.

With those accolades dispensed, I would like to get back to describing to everyone in the regiment those activities to which you did not personally add your splendor and pomp.

A year ago, and then some, John Welsh, of the Royal Deux-Ponts and the permanent Williamsburg Rochambeau portrayer, worked with the following groups to create a super 225th commemoration to the landing of the French in Newport. (He is quite the showman and he really got everyone wound up.) The SAR/DAR of both the US and France, the RDP Amicale, the French Society of the Cincinnati, the historical interests of Newport and RI, the Navy and the French Embassy. From 3 thousand miles away, and arguably 6 thousand miles away, he organized the theatrical side of this thing. He arranged for Lafayette from Williamsburg and worked for Washington's

appearance (George was actually not here for the landing and neither was Lafayette) as well. But, with this troika of heavies, he attracted a bunch of attention for the event and got the local organizers pretty charged up.

The event was supposed to have us land Friday morning, us is the big three Washington, Lafavette and Rochambeau, Myles as the Guard Capitaine, me as de Closen and 6 soldats with Myles. On top of that we were supposed to be in a boat manned with US Navy sailors dressed in period clothes, they rowing their little hearts out. Well, not quite. As the event neared, things got thinner and thinner. As we all saw, the weather also chose not to help, so we were left with the big three, the Regiment, and even at that, most of the unit was "lost" en route from Fort Adams to the Colony House. Myles got trapped in NYC (it took him 7 hours to get home from there and he missed all of Friday.) The boat supplied would have literally sunk so cancel that, there were no Navy guys, although afterward the Admiral said if he'd been asked he would have been able to do more!!!!, and no one really knew what to do. Plus the organizers used the word cancel at the wrong time and the wrong place and everyone started to bail because they thought the whole thing was scrubbed.

The Regiment to the rescue. We recruited Lafayette to play emcee as he does that in Williamsburg well. Steven was hors de combat due to circumstances beyond his control and Rosemary Marini was trying to get, and finally did, Dana via 18th century communication (cellphone). We got the word he was on the way so we delayed as long as we could. 50 minutes later Dana and the rest of the Regiment were still missing! The organizers were slitting their wrists and chaos prevailed. What to do, well of course there is only one thing to do. Rassemblement!! En avant.....marche!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW GREAT IT WAS TO SEE YOU GUYS ARRIVE IN MID MARCH!!! Most of the spectators thought it was planned that we were portraying more troops landing and getting in the column! It came off perfectly and I think that set the tone for us to consistently create the feel of the whole weekend. Lafayette and the Saintonge took command and made things work.

After the ceremonies on the steps of the Colony House, the Regiment was at its ease, as far as I knew, until later to mount guard for Rochambeau as he leaves the White Horse Tavern. R, L, W and me were' feted' courtesy of the Tavern. John really dragged this out. He arranged for a 7 course meal. Now I know what you might be thinking, not fair. I agree, but I'm innocent; I was unaware of the planned meal. I thought it was to be a little finger food to commemorate the thing and then we'd bail. Not if you know Welsh, and I should have. Here we go and no hate mail please...

Baked oysters....then clam chowder...then smoked salmon.....then sorbet to cleanse....then filet mignon, but it was very small!!!!.....then salad.....and finally a trifle to finish. I bailed out before the salad because I felt guilty, first of all I don't like oysters, chowder or salmon, and secondly you guys were out there supposedly to escort us back to Colony House and R was taking his time.

Meanwhile, did you notice the mounted Dragoons? These guys are very interesting. First they are paid by the State of Connecticut and they are outfitted by the state and are considered an active military unit in the state. Thus the governor can tell them when and where to be. Their mission is to support events like this. Their horses are retrained abused animals, the youngest horse being 19 years. That was a very nice touch. They were being paid to guard R, W and L in the Tavern. So the other diners got smelly, sweaty, sword swinging dragoons to help them enjoy their meal! These guys did a great job and I hope to see them often in the future. They thought we were a very squared away unit and would like to work with us.

Next, we finally got out of there and the Regiment escorted us about and did a little drill. The day wound down, but the entourage for R had to prepare for the Admiral's Reception. This was not fun. We were treated as self moving decoration and for a unit whose ambassador was there, as well as a host of other Frog like dignitaries. That hurt. After standing in the rain for 30 minutes I rounded up a harried Lt and asked whether we could get on with the show. A civilian came out and rounded us up and stashed us in the Admiral's basement. W, R, L, Cole Jones (porte drapeau), Rhonda and I. Steven had crashed the front door so he did not have the indignity of being hidden from view. I would love to hear his take on what was happening above stairs. Anyway, we finally got announced after 1.5 hours of waiting. It was a little hokey, but the folks loved it and we did get to meet most of the dignitaries. I didn't see any for us get any food and I managed one glass of water. We escaped at about 9:00. I got home after dropping off Rhonda about 11:30. This was one long, wet, tiring day.

We got up at 0500 to get back for the morning ceremonies. Myles made it so the 0830 carriage ride has W, R, L, Capitaine de Grenadiers and me. Well the darn thing is a 4 person chaise and sitting Rose, Myles and L in a seat designed for two considerably less well developed posteriors was not pretty. It was not a well thought out evolution. Three runners, a homeless person

and four dog walkers with biohazard gear were all we encountered on our way through Newport. Not the image of a grand precession to the landing site! Once near the statue we were told the chaise could not get up over the curb so we disembarked and hoofed it to the statue.

Again, things took a little more fluid aspect than I think was intended. The organizers told us to hide so the arriving army couldn't see us as R was supposed to command them up from the beach upon his arrival. Well, we got that sorted out and we marched to the statue. All the arrangements you guys saw were winged. There was no visible plan to time and site the participants that was in use soooooo......Regiment take command again.

The organizers herded the dignitaries into some order on the gazebo and then it got irritating. We had no direction in what anyone, Steven, the honor guard or W, R and L were to do. L and I got yelled at (I am still trying to figure out what we were supposed to do) so we agreed that that was enough and hang the consequences, it was the French Army's show so watch out. The Regiment was dutifully hiding on the beach. I could see Steven trying to get the troops mustered and informed of the movement L and I hoped would work, some one told me to find R and have him command the army to march up from the beach and display on the lawn. As I walked past the Admiral in pursuit of R, the admiral, in a stage whisper says, "What are you guys doing, handing out Tootsie Rolls?" I can assure you that was not a compliment. Ok, watch this.. I find R and walk out to announce the command. John is a stellar guy but a booming voice he does not have. Steve hears nothing I can see so I yelled and I was still not sure he heard the en avant. Well, the army started and things went a little better. Why? Because you guys with music, and the colors, and the army, and the camp followers looked staggeringly awesome. No one remembered the little slips and time delays as you guys marched on. Saved!!!

So then we were informed the Admiral does not want to review the troops. Don't know why, but there goes that evolution. Plan Q....we got you placed and move the dignitaries to the seats near the statue of R. Then the fun starts anew.

It revolved around the chanteuse and all so you've heard that tale. But as were are trying to look military and maintain some semblance of dignity, it became apparent that the flags on either side of the dais were either going to commit murder or suicide. The US flag almost ripped the face off of one the event organizers as it flapped and then proceeded to tear itself out of the stand. Myles leapt in and grabbed the thing and became human statue no 1. They found a Kentish Guard who was none too happy to hold the French flag. That just didn't seem right so I ran to you guys and recruited Dana. While he expressed horror at holding such a bit of anachronistic and anti sovereign fabric he heroically became human statue no 2. Ok things had smoothed out a bit but did anyone notice? Dana did not move. I don't know how he did it but the guy was a rock.....sorry!! My wife and daughter tried to get a picture of him elegantly holding the rag, but his face was being perpetually flogged by the thing. I don't think we got one picture of his face!! We have many of the two legged French tricolor however. Meanwhile Myles was up wind of his flag so his personal safety was preserved but the thing threatens to whip any speaker that comes near it to death. I don't know if you could see it, but it was within one inch of slapping each of the speakers in the back of the head. Myles fought that thing for 30 minutes.

The ceremony ended with no casualties and we gracefully exited. Again thanks to the Regiment and Steven for the parade and a proper ending to the morning, or so we thought.

Back at Colony House things were getting testy with the organizers. The folks that you saw running around Francesca, Martha-Marie and Roseanna, the overall honcho, were all doing their best. The problem was that each only managed a part of the game. There was no overall maestro set to improvise or discipline as required. Richard was fifing and Bourbonnoising so he could be of limited service. Moreover, he had ten thousand folks giving him advice. There was a very snippy little scene on the steps of Colony House that cased a drastic reevaluation of the events to come.

As happened more than once, L acted as emcee to the affair. His voice and his demeanor, as a result of years at Williamsburg, helped to save the day. We had a good script from Richard but we needed discipline so Steven started an ad hoc, on paper rehearsal of the ceremony at Queen Anne Park. In the midst of the little flap he saved the day by suggesting that a trip to the site would clarify a lot. Off we all went and, to save a few words, the Regiment wrote the plan and executed same. What you saw on the greensward was all thanks to a few battletested and motivated reenactors form the French army. Again, there were a few glitches from the dignitaries so the music was called to the rescue. I think it went well and from what I overheard form the dignitaries, save Lincoln Chaffee the Sen from RI who seemed to think the best part of this was when it was over, they were impressed. David McCollough told me he thought the whole thing was splendid, so kudos to all of you.

Then we march to the graveyard. Things were not good there. First of all, there were way too many in there. The original plan had ALL OF US in there. Can you imagine the fiasco? Well, as it was, we muddled through until the wreath laying. I was supposed to give the nod to the firing party who were supposed to be down at the gate. Why? So they didn't shoot anyone in the back and so they could be seen. NOT WHAT HAPPENED. They lined up behind the dignitaries, some of whom were not that young. I tried to warn the ceremony organizer to warn the folks and I tried to get the speaker to hold off. Nope....BANG and predictably, people jumped out of their skins. No one got hurt, so one more for the books.

Interlude, we all got released and, thank the deities, it was over but for the reception for McCollough. Again, no one has a coordinated script. L gets volunteered to open and close things, which he does. It actually went well and I trust all of you made an appearance there as it was open to all reenactors come to find out.

Saturday ended. A full day, and extreme gratitude from the organizers. Fort Adams had the highest one day attendance ever. The dignitaries are ecstatic and we got to the Armory for chow. Not Quite for W, R, L Grenadier Capitaine, Rhonda and me.

You saw me crash the party and lasso John Welsh. It turned out the organizers wanted us to be greeters at the Vernon House for some of the dignitaries. The owner of the house, whose name we never got, was having a dinner party for 20 or so. We got to be butlers! Now to be fair, the house was cool. Both Wash and Roch stayed there while in Newport and the inside is all original from 1759. The owner is a direct descendant of the original occupants, at least from the time of Lafayette's grand tour in 1824. She had the glasses her great aunt and Lafayette drank from and we were lucky enough to have our L recreate the event with her, the glasses and Moet Champagne. We got pics. Rhonda was recruited as serving wench for wine as the guests arrived, and the rest of us were footmen. Myles greeted at the door and announced and W and L scintillated. I tried not to trip over the antiques. R, in civvies schmoozed.

Now the day was really over and time to be with normal people. The dinner at the Armory was nothing short of super. I don't know who thought it up, but I think it was one of the best caps to a regimental event of all time. Burgers and basketball were there as well, but this evening affair was very nice.

I don't have much to add for Sunday. W, R, L, and I were again sent to Colony House to be color for a kids

book signing and schmooze for the boss organizer; about 10 people showed up. That was truly a pain.

Next off to Fort Adams and, very sorry to say, the hasty address of the troops by W, R, and L was a result of poor scheduling for their airplane rides back whence they came. Kinda anti climactic, but there you go.

I can't say enough about the things I heard about the Regiment, and that includes the Deux-Ponts. The dignitaries loved it, the organizers loved it, the people loved it and that sounds pretty good to me. I was bone tired at the end. I wish we could have been less of self moving decorations and seen more as historians but that is the nature of these things! I thought it was well worth it and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Next off to Yorktown. We gotta outdo Quebec in terms of attendance, no weather comments please.

Thanks to you all. YHS, Bill Rose



GALERIE des IMAGES, Picture Gallery







The events listed below are the official schedule for 2005 - as approved by the membership at the annual meeting. Questions and suggestions may be directed to members of the BOD.

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 11	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Feb 26	All	Regimental Annual Meeting (10-12) Berlin, MA
Mar 8	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Apr 12	All	Work Party at the Rose's (7-9) Bolton, MA
Jun 14	All	Work Party at Steven's (7-9) Framingham, MA

EXERCICES et RENDEVOUS, Drills & Diftaff Gatherings

Date	Unit	Event
Jan 8	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Feb 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Mar 12	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (10:30-12) Old Town Hall, Stow, MA
Apr 3	All	4th Middlesex and 2nd Massachusetts Drill Dunstable, MA
Apr 9	All	4th Middlesex and Sudbury Drill Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
May 14	All	French Drill & Distaff Gathering (TBA) TBA
June 11	All	Fencing Seminar Burlington, MA

Mar 13	4^{th}	MMNHP rally Lexington, MA
Mar 20	85eme	St. Patrick Day Parade <i>Boston, MA</i>
April 16	4^{th}	Battle Road Lexington, MA
May 13 – 15	85eme	225th Siege of Charleston Charleston, SC
May 21- 22	Music	Drummers Call Williamsburg, VA
May 21- 22	85eme	Little Farm <i>Newbury, MA</i>
May 29	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Somerville, MA
May 30	85eme	Memorial Day Parade Andover, MA
July 8,9,10	85eme	Landing of Rochambeau Newport, RI
Aug 6 -7	85eme	Old Sturbridge Village Timeline Sturbridge Village, MA
Sept 5	85eme	Labor Day Parade/ Regimental Birthday Party Marlborough, MA
Sept 17	4^{th}	Applefest Parade Northborough, MA
Sept 24	85eme	Sudbury Muster Sudbury, MA
Sept 25	4 th / 85eme	Rehoboth Rehoboth, MA
Oct 7 -9	85eme	Warren Farm Chelmsford, MA
Oct 1	85eme	Lebanon Lebanon, CT
Oct 1	85eme	Weymouth Day Parade Weymouth, <i>MA</i>
Nov 19	85eme	Plymouth Time Line Plymouth, MA

Date	Unit	Event
Mar 12	4^{th}	Dorchester Heights Dorchester, MA



ARRIVAL AT NEWPORT, July 2005 Rochambeau's Troops land on the shore of Newport, Rhode Island

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