



BUSHWACKER

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This is the 202nd consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and whatever else comes to mind. This is brought to you by: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Phone: (301) 461-1885. Phone calls accepted between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time, except during the dinner hour from 6 to 7 p.m. Please try to submit all your orders by mail. This zine is also dedicated to the proposition that you have to be both crazy and smart to get involved in a game which may take two years to finish. If you want instant gratification, buy a Lottery ticket.

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by the Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. The funny character with the "Snuffy Smith" nose on the masthead is my comic strip character, "Bushwacker," whom I was drawing, along with his spaceships and ray guns, as far back as 1941.

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GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers. \$8.00 for current readers. STANDBY FEES: \$5.00 for newcomers; \$4.00 for everyone else. Note that a Standby signs up for a specific game of his choice. Mensa Diplomacy SIG members receive an additional \$1.00 discount on these fees. For your money, you receive the rules/maps for your game(s), and BUSH for the duration of your game, providing you don't drop out. If you NMR twice in a row, you're out of the game and the zine stops coming, unless you decide to sub. Players and standbys don't have to worry about their subs expiring. SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-players are 12 issues for \$6.00. OVERSEAS SUBS are \$8.00 for 12 issues, by sea mail. SAMPLE copies are 50¢. We also TRADE with many other zines on an all-for-all basis.

This issue contains reports on VACATION DIP III (1985R re39), CHARACTER DIP (1987AF-rm49) and CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD (1988AQ wc03).

NEW MILLER NO. CUSTODIAN

Fred Hyatt is stepping down as MNC as of October 31st. The new MNC will be: Randy Grigsby, R.R. #2, 571 Sunnisdale Rd., Barrie, Ontario, CANADA L4M 4S4. I am looking forward to cooperating with Randy on the Variant scene. Hopefully, the MNC zine, ALPHA & OMEGA, may become a little larger under his control. If you have been receiving A & O from Fred Hyatt, you'll continue to receive copies from Randy. If you'd like to sub or trade now, send him a copy of your zine, or ask him what his sub rate is going to be. The MNC issues internationally recognized designators for Postal Variant games running in North America.

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PLUG: GET THEM DOTS NOW! A new Diplomacy zine, being published by Lee Keniter, Jr., 264 Spruce Ct., Bensalem, PA. 19020. Subs are 10 issues for \$7.50. Game Fees are \$2.00 per game. There will be openings in Regular Dip, Youngstown XII (the 12-player version including the entire world), Colonia VI, Gunboat, and his own new design, Land Bridge Dip. Standby players are also wanted, and people may also volunteer to serve as Guest GM's. A good way to get your feet wet as a GM.

REASONS TO VOTE FOR MIKE DUKAKIS:

1. If your wife/sister/daughter/niece gets inadvertently pregnant and needs an abortion under sanitary circumstances. (If Bush is elected, he'll appoint more right-wing Supreme Court justices, who will repeal the decision legalizing abortion. Then, your only choices will be a coat-hanger or a back-alley operator.)
 2. If you'd like to be able to get to work when the next gas crunch begins. Dukakis supports AMTRAK and mass transit construction. The Reagan Administration has cut off all Federal money for mass transit, and has been trying to kill AMTRAK in the last five budgets.
 3. If you'd like to have a decent Social Security and Medicare program in place when you reach retirement.
 4. If you'd like to have day care programs for your children, and a decent school lunch program. (The Reagan Administration said "ketchup was a vegetable.")
 5. If you care about the environment. (Reagan appointed James Watt as Secy. of the Interior, and tried to give the store away. He appointed Anne Gorsuch to guard our water supply, and she went to jail.)
 6. If you believe in ethics in Government. Reagan appointed James Meese as Attorney General. And James Deaver as a White House aide.
 7. If you believe that space travel is the wave of the future for the human race. NASA has been on such a starvation diet for the past 10 years that when we finally do get to the planets, we'll find both the Russians and the Japanese already there.
 8. If you agree with 99% of U.S. scientists that "Star Wars" is an impossible dream, and the biggest boondoggle in American history.
 9. If you disagree with the idea that trading arms for hostages is a good idea. By the way, where was George?
 10. If you don't like the idea of an inexperienced right-wing fundamentalist being only a heartbeat away from the Presidency.
- ((We're voting for Dukakis here, and hoping for a Harry Truman type come-from-behind last minute miracle.))

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THIS ISSUE WAS GOING TO INCLUDE a reprint of an old Diplomacy variant. However, between visits to the hospital and having out-of-town company for three days right at deadline time, a lot of things have had to go by the boards. We apologize for the lateness of this issue, but some things are more important than game deadlines.

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For the benefit of those of you who didn't see the news in THE MEGADIPLOMAT, Bruce Geryk dropped out of attending school at the University of Chicago about a year ago. This seems to have coincided with his souring on the Postal Diplomacy hobby, and the folding of BLUNT INSTRUMENTS. There is nothing shameful per se in dropping out of college. There could be many reasons for doing so. I left school myself at the end of my Junior year to enter military service during the Korean War. However, it is a bit peculiar to go on pretending one is at school for nearly a year after leaving.

BASEBALL WARZ

Well, I did predict that Boston would finish ahead of Detroit. Only, I'd picked Boston for 3rd, and Detroit for 4th. As things turned out, Toronto was coming on so fast at the end that if the season had lasted another week, they might have won the AL-East. Boston was in such a slump that any one of three teams, Detroit, Milwaukee or Toronto, would have made a better showing in the Playoffs. I'm sure that none of them would have been beaten four straight by the A's.

My only correct prediction was Minnesota finishing second in the AL-West. The closest I came with my first-place picks was Cincinnati, which finished a rising second in the NL-West. Oh, yes, I did predict that Baltimore and Seattle would both finish last in their respective divisions.

As of October 1st, I'd predicted that Oakland would beat Boston for the AL pennant, and I was rooting for the Dodgers to beat the Mets. I also expected Oakland to win the World's Series, no matter who they played. So, I was delighted when both Oakland and L.A. won their respective playoffs. Then, since I'm a Dodger fan, I was amazed when they put Oakland away in five games. It could have been four straight, as the only game Oakland won (2-1) should have been a 2-2 tie with that 9th inning home run, as the Dodgers had failed to score a second run only by some fantastic circumstances. Gibson's home run will go down in our memory bank as one of the most indelible World's Series events. They'll be talking about that one for years to come.

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NAVB NEWS

I had mentioned earlier that I was planning to establish a new category for the several "Anarchy" and "Chaos II" designs, since they appear to be distinctive enough to warrant such a category. These games all feature having anywhere from 11 to 34 players, each with one, two or three Home SC's, assigned at random. The two most common versions being played today are the 17 and 34-player versions.

I found ten games which fell into this new category. All were currently classified in the "rs" subcategory, Major Revisions with Short Rules, which is really just a catch-all category for things which don't fit in elsewhere. The new category is:

rh. Home Centers Assigned at Random; Large No. of Players

The games reclassified into this grouping, and their old Catalog Nos., are:

	Now	Was
Anarchy I, Don Miller	rh01/34	rs01
Anarchy II, Don Miller	rh02/17	rs17
Anarchy IV, Lew Pulsipher	rh03/07	rs02
Anarchy V, Lew Pulsipher	rh04/02-11	rs03
Anarchy VI, Lew Pulsipher	rh05/02-34	rs04 (Rules w/ Anarchy V)
Chaos II, Michel Feron	rh06/34	rs28
Megalomania, G. Wallace & R. Bart	rh07/15	rs09
Diplodocus I, Paul Meerts	rh08/34	rs36
Diplodocus II, Nick Kinzett	rh09/17-34	rs40
Anarchy VII, J. Tullett	rh10/07-34	rs10

As a footnote, Anarchy III (rv08) and Chaos I (rs05) do not fit into this category, and will remain where they are in the Catalog. Owners of the NAVB Catalog are asked to make pen & ink corrections of these changes. There will be no change of MN's for any games currently under way, but GM's may wish to make a note of this reclassification in their final game summaries.

AUSTRIANS CLOBBER RUSS. ENGLISH MARCH EAST. ITALIANS SKIP OVER TYRR, BUT RUN INTO LITTLE SURPRISE IN PICARDY. FRENCH RETAKE MARSEILLES.

ENGLAND (Baty): 2A Munich-Silesia-Bohemia (Double move). 1A Ruhr-Munich. 3A
(11) Picardy-Burgundy. 6F Edi-Norwegian Sea. 5A Liverpool-Edi.
4A London-Belgium. 5F Eng Charnel (C) 4A Lon-Belgium. 1F Den (H).
2F Norway-St. Pete(nc). 3F Kiel-Heaven. 4F Berlin-Prussia.
FRANCE (Acheson): 1A Spain-Marseilles. 3A Gascony (S) 1A Spain-Mars. 2A Brest (H).
(5) 3F Tyrr Sea-Tunis (held up by ITALIAN 2F Jump). 2F Naples (H).
ITALY (B. Wilson): 1A Paris-Picardy, Blown up by Mine. 2F Rome-Western Med, by
(2) Jumping over FRENCH F Tyrr. Sea. (Card 5).
AUSTRIA (Suchard): 4A Sev-Moscow. 6A Rumania-Sev. 8A Budapest-Rumania. 7A Vierna-
(10) Galicia. 5A Warsaw-Ukraine (Double strength). 3A Venice-Apulia.
2F Trieste-Venice. 1F Ionian-Aegean. 1A Bulgaria-Con. 2A con-
tinues to remain invisible.
RUSSIA (Bargender): 1F Gof Bothnia-St. Pete(sc). 2F Con (S) AUSTRIAN 4A Sev-Armenia
(3) (NSO & (S) cut). 3A Ukraine-Warsaw /d/, (Annihilated).
TURKEY (Cheek): 1F Ankara-Con. 2F Smyrna (S) 1F Ankara-Con. (Russ 2F Con is
(2) Double strength unit).

My thanks to Eric Brosius, who submitted back-up orders for Italy. Everybody is now numbering their units, but players are reminded that you are supposed to sign your orders. You can do this either after the orders proper, or after your press. It doesn't matter. But, please, sign them.

PRESS:

VIENNA WAR CHRONICLE: Due to a long-standing communications blackout, the Austrian 2nd Army Group has effectively vanished from the face of the earth. Foreign leaders tremble in their boots, awaiting the news that their capital has been captured. Our correspondent reports, "They seek them here, they seek them there, those Frenchies/English/etc. seek them everywhere; so BEWARE!"

BREST to Paris & Rome: I'm getting a little tired of chasing you all over my possessions. Isn't it time you surrendered? You've allowed both England and Austria time to size me up.

ENGLAND to Austria: Because of Austrian aggression against my Turkish and French friends, I feel there is no other option open to me but to declare that there is a state of war between our countries. Besides, I want to see how I can do with my characteristics, against you and your characteristics.

TURKEY to Austria: They are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing!

ITALY to France: Die, you worthless scum. Or failing that, just don't win.

FRANCE to England: It will be a very slow job if you decide that my centres require investigation by a British Expeditionary Force. Maybe you could go and finish Russia off, and then concentrate on things - say, Viennese?

AUSTRIA to World: It seems that each of you suspects my invisible unit is in your area. If I had a unit in each province where its presence has been suggested, I would have won by now.

(more)

AUSTRIA to Russia: Sorry. You knew it was a dangerous job when you took it.

DEADLINE for FALL 1905 orders will be TUESDAY, November 29, 1988. Phone deadline will be Monday, Nov. 28th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD III - 1988AQ wc03

FALL 1590

NORTHERN PARTS OF NEW WORLD YIELD SIX NEW SUPPLY CENTERS. PORTUGAL PASSES UP SURE THING TO KNOCK SPAIN GALLEY-WEST. RUSS AND SPANISH FLEETS SLIP PAST EACH OTHER IN THE FOG AT CAPE HORN.

ENGLAND (McCrumb): A/F St. Lawrence Sea disembarks A in Quebec. A/F Bermuda disembarks A in Virginia.
(4)
FRANCE (Baty): A/F Hispaniola-Cuba. A/F Antilles disembarks A in Cartagena.
(4)
PORTUGAL (Gheek): A/F Atlantic Ocean-Shelf. A/F The Nose (S) A/F Atlantic-Shelf.
(4)
SPAIN (Dousette): A/F Shelf disembarks A in LaPlata /d/, (R) to Atlantic Ocean (only
(4) (R) not involving destruction of A. Alternately, Spain may opt to
(R) F to LaPlata or Uruguay, with the loss of the A). A/F Atlantic
Ocean-South Pacific.
RUSSIA (Greaves): A/F North Pacific disembarks A in California. A Hawaii (H).
F Western Pacific-Falkland Sea.

GM's Notes: The "two-ocean building rule" will be postponed to 1645. That appears to be the consensus here. This means that any Power can build in either ocean in or after 1645, if the game lasts that long. That would be after six conventional game "years." I plan to revise the rules for future games to permit such building in or after 1625, when the Russian option is played, but that won't affect this game. Note that 1600 will be the last year Powers are entitled to four off-Board SC's. This will drop to three off-board Centers in 1605. Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.

Note that Panama touches five adjacent spaces, including Central Pacific. A F entering Panama from any of these spaces may use the Portage on the following turn. (also, see Bottom of Page 7)

PRESS:

FRANCE to Spain/Portugal: What is this rumor I've heard that people living south of the Equator are belligerent low-lives? Does everyone want the Falklands?

PORTUGAL to Spain: Most men would rather be charged with malice than with making a blunder!

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT OF ON-BOARD SC'S, WINTER 1595: GAINS

		Total	
ENGLAND:	QUEBEC, VIRGINIA. (+ 4 OBSC's)	6 (+2)	Build 2
FRANCE:	ANTILLES, CARTAGENA, CUBA (+ 4 OBSC's)	7 (+3)	Build 3
PORTUGAL:	(none) (+4 OBSC's)	4 (--)	No change
RUSSIA:	CALIF, HAWAII. (+ 4 OBSC's)	6 (+2)	Build 2
SPAIN:	LA PLATA or (none) (depend- ing on (R)). (+ 4 OBSC's)	4 or 5 (+1?)	Build 2 or No change (if one annihilated)

DEADLINE for 1595 adjustments, including Spanish Retreat, is TUESDAY, November 29, 1988. Phone deadline will be Monday, Nov. 28th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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VACATION DIP III, 1985R rm39

SPRING 1915

G/A: Paul Kenny (TURKEY): 75 Maple Ave., #A, Collingswood, N.J. 08108

CRASHING OF ARMIES & FLEETS CAUSES LOSS OF BRITISH FLEET, COUNTERTHRUSTS IN GALICIA & TYROL, FRUSTRATION ELSEWHERE. AUSTRIANS FROZEN. TURKS FORGET TO ORDER TWO UNITS.

AUSTRIA (Reges): VA Prussia (H). VF Portugal (H). VF Western Med (S) ENGLISH F
(1)(3 units) NAfrica-Tunis (NSO). (In C.D. per play of Card #31 by Russia).
ENGLAND (Chang): A Norway (H). F Liverpool-Hebrides. F Eng Channel-Irish Sea.
(10)(10 units) F MAO & F NAfrica (S) AUSTRIAN F Western Med. F America (S) F
(1 short) NAfrica. F Spain(sc) (S) F Gof Lyon. A Marseille-Piedmont.
VF Sicily-Tyrr. Sea. E Gof Lyon (S) F Sicily-Tyrr /d/, Annihilated.
GERMANY (Young): F Norwegian Sea-Hebrides. A Bohemia-Tyrol. A Munich (S) A Boh-
(10)(10 units) Tyrol. A Galicia-Vienna.* A Silesia-Warsaw. A Livonia (S) A
Sil-Warsaw. A Moscow-Sev. A Ukraine (S) A Mos-Sev. A Burgundy-
Marseille. A Siberia-Persia (Illegal order. Persia impassable.)
* /d/, (R) to Bohemia (Per R.H.R.).

FRANCE (B.Wilson): Says hello, and laughs in the face of the silly Turks!
(0) (0 units)

ITALY (D.Wilson): VF Iceland-Hebrides Sea. A Piedmont (S) TURKISH A Tyrol. F Tus-
(3) (3 units) cany (S) TURKISH F Tyrr. Sea-Gulf of Lyon.

RUSSIA (Cheek): VF Sardinia (S) TURKISH F Tunis-Western Med. (NSO).

(0) (1 unit) Plays Card #31 to put Austrian VF Western Med into C.D.

TURKEY (Kenny): F Tyrr-Gof Lyon. F Tunis-Tyrr Sea. F Rome (S) F Tunis-Tyrr Sea.

(16)(16 units) A Vienna-Galicia. A Budapest & A Rumania (S) A Vienna-Galicia.

A Tyrol-Vienna. A Venice-Tyrol. A Serbia-Trieste. A Sev-Ukraine.

A Armenia-Sev. F Blk Sea (S) A Arm-Sev. F Greece-Ionian. F Albani

(S) F Greece-Ionian. F Ionian (U)(H). A Con (U)(H).

(The Turk A Sev has become, in effect, a Beleagured Garrison).

WE HAVE A PROBLEM. The institution where Dan Wilson lives has refused to permit us to mail BUSHWACKER to him. Apparently, they think we're either a porno zine or a subversive publication. I'd been sending Dan a "press clipping" each month, containing the Vacation Dip game report, but now they've even banned that. I've already asked Tom McNally, 1109 Wagar Rd., Rocky River, Ohio 44116, to submit back-up orders for Italy, and will do so again for the Fall 1915 season. Tom, I haven't heard from you. Please advise whether you'll stand by here.

Tom McNally was the last person on the Vacation Dip Standby list. If anyone else would like to be a Standby here, you can have a slot for \$2.00. This includes the cost of sending you the Rules. If we've run out of standbys, this game is in real trouble. There are only three original players left: Bob Cheek, Paul Kenny and Brad Wilson. If things are not straightened out by the Fall 1915 turn, I am going to take the bit between the teeth and make a GM's proposal of a 3-way draw between England, Germany and Turkey.

PRESS:

RUSSIA to Austria: Size is not grandeur and territory does not make a nation.

ICELAND: Storm clouds over Europe have blurred communications. Italian units have been ordered to support Turkish allies.

ENGLAND to Turkey: Good job, mate! You really hoodwinked those poor misguided souls. Must be that seductive hashish and dancing harems. Our fleets would never succumb to such tawdry temptations!

ENGLAND to Italy & Russia: O you foolish ones. English fleets are nobly attempting
(more)

to escort deposed Austrian fleets to their homeland. And you must be brainwashed, for you aid the very foe that occupies all the Supply Centers of your own homes. Have you no reason or faith? Wake up guys. Do you think Germany and England want to rule? We only want to restore order! More East! More Home!

ANKARA to Rome: Welcome to the game. The way this is going, you are definitely going to get your money's worth.

ANKARA to London: This is the wrong game to get bored in. This is a Great War siege.

TURKS to Russians: Look at it this way. Sardinia is so much warmer than Moscow.

ANKARA to Berlin: I have never been busier, and I still got my moves in. I can keep this up forever. ((It looks like the game could go on forever, too. - F.C.D.))

Brad Wilson also adds a political prediction that in the Presidential election, Bush will carry the popular vote by a 51% - 49% margin. However, he predicts that this will result in Bush winning the Electoral Vote by 403-135. ((If correct, this is another good argument for abolishing the Electoral College, and going to a straight popular vote election. Then, the candidates wouldn't be spending most of their time in a few key states like New York, Ohio, Texas and California, and would devote some attention to the rest of us in the smaller States. - FCD))

DEADLINE for FALL 1915 orders is TUESDAY, November 29, 1988. Telephone deadline will be Monday, Nov. 28th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Anyone else want to suggest a way to end this game. I feel it's getting very stale.

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ATLANTICA III (BUSHWACKER #21)

UPDATE

All is well here. I would appreciate all of you mailing in your first set of orders for APRIL 1870 ASAP. If anybody has any problems, please contact me right away. The DEADLINE will be TUESDAY, November 29, 1988, as for all other games.

C/A for Don Samelson (ENGLAND): 2802 Newton Ct., Blacksburg, Va. 24060

If either Robert Cheek or Mark Gorski wants to be a Standby for this game, please send me \$3.00. Anyone else already in a game here, or subbing to BUSH, may have a slot for \$4.00 (w/ a \$1.00 discount to members of the Mensa Diplomacy SIG). For \$5, anyone else is welcome to sign up.

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★ SPECIAL NOTICE FOR "CONQUEST" PLAYERS. This was originally going to be the "Mensa Variant Game #4." Four of the five starting players are members of the Mensa Diplomacy SIG and receive the bimonthly SIG newsletter, DIPLOMAG. The Regular Mensa #22 game in DIPLOMAG has just ended. Accordingly, in January 1989, "Conquest" will be moved into DIPLOMAG as a demonstration game. All of you, including Standbys, will automatically receive that newsltr. for the duration of the game, at no charge. In the in-between months, the game reports will be sent out by flyer, as was done with Mensa #22.

This means that after you receive the 1595 results in the December BUSHWACKER, you will have about a six-week deadline to mid-January for the Spring 1600 moves. Anyone receiving BUSH for any other reason (Player, standby, Trade, sub) will continue to receive it. If your only connection with BUSH is the "Conquest" game, you may wish to sub to it. I'll give you a \$5.00 rate for the first 12 issues, beginning with the January 1989 issue.

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TOP PLAYERS (Cont. From Last Month)

Randolph Smyth has been kind enough to send me the figures for the most number of Wins for starting players in Regular Diplomacy games. He has recently been able to add this statistic for the Calhamer Point Count listing. Here they are:

Ron Kelly*	14	Brenton Ver Ploeg*	8
Randolph Smyth	13	Steve McLendon*	8
Edi Birsan	11	Dave Crockett*	8
Lee Kendter, Sr.	10	John Smythe*	8
Blair Cusack*	9	Kathy Byrne Caruso	7
Tom Ripper*	9	Doug Beyerlein	7

* = indicates Retired player

Thus, Ron Kelly holds the top spot in this category, too. Randolph adds: "I think his record was unfairly maligned as being composed largely of standby positions and draws. He did take a lot of standby positions, but, as you might expect, these were often poor positions that went nowhere. Half of his total Calhamer points came from games he started."

Randolph also points out that anyone in the list of the Top 50 players would make a capable, and maybe dangerous, opponent, in any "dream game." I agree.

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PLEASE VOTE IN THE "RUSTY BOLT AWARDS" (American Div.). You get a chance to vote on everything from the Hobby Dyslexia Award-to Odd Couple-to Player You'd Most Like to Stab-to Most Eagerly Awaited Zine Fold. 15 categories in all. If you haven't rec'd a ballot, send a SASE to: Simon Billenness, 630 Victory Blvd., #6F, Staten Island, N.Y. 10301. You also send your votes in to him. Deadline is November 26, 1988. Since I or my zine have been nominated in five categories, I'm looking forward to the thrill of adding more awards to my den wall. This is your chance to really bash someone or a hobby craze. Don't miss it!

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