



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

MailCall No. 2354

May 7, 2017

517th Parachute Infantry Regiment
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company

May 7, 1945 - Victory in Europe Day





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From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victory_in_Europe_Day

Victory in Europe Day, generally known as V-E Day, VE Day or simply V Day, was the public holiday celebrated on 8 May 1945 to mark the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi



Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. It thus marked the end of World War II in Europe.

The term VE Day existed as early as September 1944, in anticipation of victory. On 30 April 1945, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader, committed suicide during the Battle of Berlin. Germany's surrender, therefore, was authorised by his successor, Reichspräsident Karl Dönitz. The administration headed by Dönitz was known as the Flensburg Government. The act of military surrender was signed on 7 May in Reims, France and on 8 May in Berlin, Germany.

Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted throughout the

world. From Moscow to Los Angeles, people celebrated.

In the United Kingdom, more than one million people celebrated in the streets to mark the end of the European part of the war. In London, crowds massed in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds. Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister Princess Margaret were allowed to wander incognito among the crowds and take part in the celebrations.

In the United States, the victory happened on President Harry Truman's 61st birthday. He dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died of a cerebral hemorrhage less than a month earlier, on the 12th of April. Flags remained at half-staff for the remainder of the 30-day mourning period. Truman said of dedicating the victory to Roosevelt's memory and keeping the flags at half-staff that his only wish was "that Franklin D. Roosevelt had lived to witness this day." Later that day, Truman said that the victory made it his most enjoyable birthday.

Massive celebrations also took place in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and especially in New York's Times Square.



"Here you are—don't lose it again"



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MailCall News

RE: **Robert R. Gruwell (KIA)**

Mr. Barrett:

As you may recall, I contacted you some time ago concerning Gruwell as a future research/exhibit subject at the USAHEC. You had me contact **Jean-Loup Gassend** and he sent me his picture that he, Jean-Loup, got from Gruwell's sister. I have since gotten Jean-Loup's book, "Autopsy of a Battle," and am reading it. I noticed on Gruwell's portrait photo he is wearing the shoulder insignia of the 11th Airborne. This would make sense as the 11th went to the Pacific Theater and Gruwell was from Los Angeles. But, it has me wondering how Gruwell became a member of the 517PIR. I sent an email to the 11th Airborne Association asking if any survivors there remember Gruwell or if there is any documentation concerning him. They will put my request in their newsletter, but not until June. I hope to find a way to access Gruwell's records through NARA, for an explanation, but that may be a long shot. Jean-Loup also told me that he understands there has been a party in France attempting to locate Gruwell's grave. I don't have any other details as yet. I have to email Jean-Loup for more photos and additional information. According to a German sailor survivor, Otto Hessert, who was on the bus that was attacked, the bus contained sick and wounded, but some had weapons. One of the young Germans got nervous and began firing, thus setting off the events that led to Gruwell's death. Take a look at pages 107-110 of the book. I have all of **Clark Archer's** documents as he sent them to USAHEC. If I get any information, I will see that you get it as well.

One other most important thing for you and your members. You are aware of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. I presume. The web site is: www.wwiimemorial.com. In the upper left, click on "WWII Registry." That will take you to the "unofficial" World War II Registry. On it a WWII Veteran, or a family member can create a free account and register the service of any WWII veteran. BUT, you can also register the service of any civilian who worked in support of the war effort on the Registry. For example, I registered my mother, Mary Figueiredo, on the site. She sewed bindings for uniforms and then became an electrician's helper at the New York Ship Building Company yards in Camden, NJ. I was also able to get her records through NARA. It would be a good project for family members of those veterans who have passed away.

Sincerely,

Joe Figueiredo

P.S. I am sure Jean-Loup will give permission for you to place Gruwell's portrait and story on your web site.



Robert R. Gruwell, 21, of G Company of the 517th PIR, was apparently killed his own grenade when he tried to throw it into the German ambulance that was bushed beneath Callian on the morning of the invasion. Virginia Bunkofske Ilection.



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Attached is a photograph of **Colonel Graves'** staff car taken in Germany in 1944. I had it scanned and am sending it to your association as a thank you for your service to our country and as a thank you from me. I am sending it as a Zip File and in Word so you can use whichever is easier for you. Please credit the **Military History Institute, Carlisle PA, Rupert D. Graves photograph collection**. Colonel Graves' papers are also at AHEC and I will take a look at them as well as some archived material concerning the 517th.

Also, see the below email request.

Sincerely and with the greatest respect,

Joe Figueiredo



COL R. D. GRAVES
STAFF CAR
CAPTURED FROM GERMANS
IN Night Invasion of
S. FRANCE
August 1944



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From: Joe Figueiredo
To: webmaster@517prct.org
Date: April 21, 2017 at 12:40 PM
Subject: Permission to use photograph.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Joe Figueiredo and I have been researching the death and burial in an unknown grave of **Pvt. Robert R. Gruwell** of Company G of the 517 PIR, for use in a **possible** exhibit in the Soldier Experience Gallery at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA.

I would like to submit for consideration by Army officials a photograph found on your site submitted by **Ms. Shelly Azeff** taken by her father, **Lt. Warren Caulfield**. The photograph is number 60 and is of two wrecked German vehicles which as I understand it is the location at which Pvt. Gruwell met his death. The photograph was also used by **Jean-Loup Gassend** in his "Autopsy of a Battle." It was he who advised me to ask Ms. Azell for permission to use the photograph. Therefore, would you please forward this email to Ms. Azell for me?

I find the story of Pvt. Gruwell very compelling in that he was apparently accidentally killed by his own hand grenade, but then the location his grave has been unknown for all these years. I can only imagine his family's grief upon being notified of his death and then to be notified that his remains have been lost. Should Army officials decide to use his story as a part of the Soldier Experience Gallery, a process which may take about three years, I believe visitors will better appreciate the many sacrifices made by our Veterans and that not all are accounted for.

Thank you for your service and your kindness to me in all my requests.

Joe Figueiredo



from:
http://www.517prct.org/photos/warren_caulfield_2/warren_caulfield2.htm

"60 something happened at the crossroad"



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Sorry for the delays in getting this MailCall out. I was traveling for business in the UK and tied up at work. -- BB

While driving to Cambridgeshire, we happened to pass the Cambridge American Cemetery, one of the 26 permanent American cemeteries located in 19 Countries that are maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission. I have been to the ABMC cemeteries in France and Belgium, but never realized that there were two in England as well.

I had to stop and take a couple of pictures. Like all the ABMC locations, it is a beautiful site, always well maintained.

Our driver, a Brit, made note that most countries, including England, do not have such memorial parks for their veterans.

The Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial site in England, 30.5 acres in total, was donated by the University of Cambridge. It lies on a slope with the west and south sides framed by woodland. The cemetery contains the remains of 3,812 of our military dead; 5,127 names are recorded on the Tablets of the Missing. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. Most died in the Battle of the Atlantic or in the strategic air bombardment of northwest Europe.

From the flagpole platform near the main entrance, the great mall with its reflecting pools stretches eastward. It is from the mall that the wide, sweeping curve of the burial area across the lawn is best appreciated. Along the south side are the Tablets of the Missing, and at the far end is the memorial with a chapel, two huge military maps, stained glass windows bearing the state seals and military decorations, and a mosaic ceiling memorial honoring the dead of our air forces.

Meanwhile, back in the States, here is a recent photo of my grandson, Crew (15 months old) climbing on an M4 Sherman tank at the General George S. Patton Memorial Park in Hamilton MA.

Hamilton MA was the adopted home of General Patton and his wife.

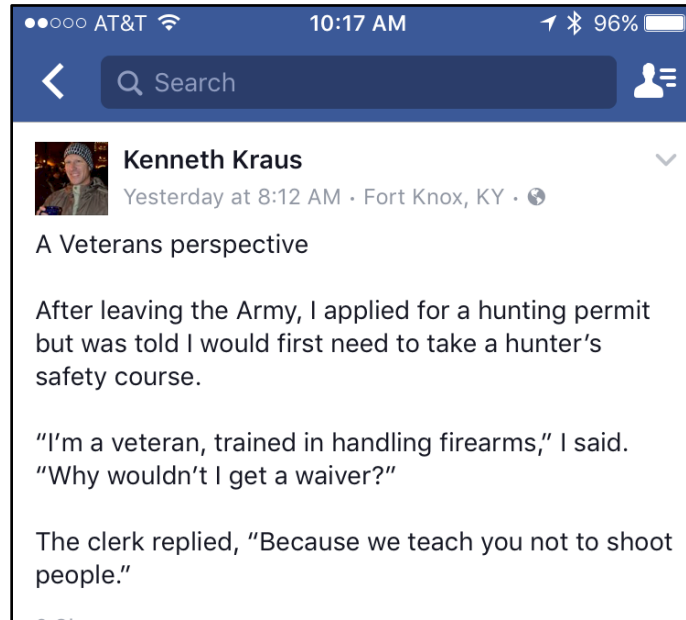
Some say this M4 tank actually fought in Patton's Third Army.





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Found on Facebook;



Bob: Happy Easter. I'm getting caught up on my Mail Calls.* Was in trial for several weeks, so they stacked up. Also we just returned from Kansas yesterday. We had been in Kansas for three events honoring Dad. The first event on Wednesday was the formal dedication of his papers at Kansas State University's library's special collection. On Thursday, the elementary school named after him, posted a birthday celebration complete with the General's mounted honor guard performing extraordinary feats of horsemanship. Friday afternoon we have the dedication of the new veterans administration clinic for eastern Kansas in Dad's name. Senator Moran spoke and Congressman Marshall and General Frank, Fort Riley's Big Red One commander, honored the extended Seitz clan by their presence. It was a moving day.

Pat Seitz

Dear Bob: this has been a feast to catch up on Mail Calls. And how nice of **Kenton Floyd Immerfall**, nephew of **Floyd A. Stott**, 1st Lt., Co. "I", 3rd Bat., 517th PRCT, to remember Dad's birthday. We belatedly yet wonderfully celebrated it at the elementary school named in his honor at Fort Riley. He loved the students and teachers at that school and was a frequent visitor, reading to the kids.

Pat Seitz

From: <https://www.facebook.com/WW2ABHistoricalCo/>

Thanks to the [33rd Signal Construction Battalion Reenactors](#), we have the Continental Telephone Directory, European Theater of Operations from May 20 1945.

Here we have the code names for 517th PIR ("DRAGONET"), 460th PFAB ("DECCA"), and 596th AEC ("CISCO"). Note that "CISCO" is code name for "586th Engr A/B Co" on the document. Most likely an error as no 586th Engineer Airborne Company or AEC existed during World War II.



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<u>CODE NAME</u>	<u>UNIT SERVED</u>	<u>CODE NAME</u>	<u>UNIT SERVED</u>
CHEESECAKE	314 Ord Dep Co	CIGARBOX	23 TD Gp
CHEMIST	320 Engr Bn	CIGARETTE	245 Engr C Bn
CHENEY	281 FA Bn	CINCH	44 AAA Brig Pt Base
CHERBOURG	Cherbourg SWC	CINMABAR	280 FA Bn
CHEROKEE	134 AAA Gun Bn	CIPHER	264 FA Bn
CHERRY	82 Abne Div MP Pl	CIRCLE	376 Preht FA Bn
CHESAPEAKE	407 FA Bn	CIRCUS	753 FA Bn
CHESS	172 Engr C Bn	CISCO	586 Engr A/B Co
CHESTER	547 AAA AW Bn	CISTERN	193 FA Bn
CHESTERFIELD	358 FA Bn	CITADEL	291 FA Obsn Bn
CHESTNUT	325 Glider Inf Regt	CITIZEN	658 Ord Amm Co
CHEVRON	60 Ord Gp	CITRON	199 FA Bn
CHICAGO	263 FA Bn	CLAM	211 FA Bn 4 - 5 Gn
CHICKEN	359 FA Bn	CLAMBAKE	820 TD Bn
CHICKERING	401 FA Gp	CLANCY	257 FA Bn
CHICO	692 TD Bn	CLAREMONT	252 FA Bn
CHIDLEY	37 Engr C Bn	CLARKSTON	349 FA Bn
CHIEF	81 FA Bn	CLARKSVILLE	111 Evac Hos SM
CHIGGER	124 AAA Gun Bn	CLASSIC	80 A/B AA Bn
CHILD	9 Armd Div CC "B"	CLATTER	55 AAA Brig
CHIMES	286 FA Obsn Bn	CLAYMORE	259 FA Bn
CHIMNEY	811 TD Bn	CLEAT	554 Engr MP Bn
CHINA	782 A/B Div Ord Maint Co	CLEAVER	349 FA Gp
CHINCHILLA	360 FA Bn	CLEO	686 FA Bn
CHINOOK	32 AAA Gp	CLEVELAND	692 FA Bn
CHIPMONK	XVI Corps Arty	CLIFFHOUSE	954 Ord Dep Co
CHIPPENDALE	920 FA Bn	CLIMAX	754 FA Bn
CHIPPER	776 FA Bn	CLIMBING	147 Engr C Bn
CHISEL	578 Sig Dep Co	CLINKER	10 Armd Div Arty
CHLORIDE	137 Sig RI Co	CLINTON	411 FA Gp
CHLOROX	328 Ord Bn	CLIPPER	472 FA Gp
CHOCOLATE	301 FA Bn	CLYDE	809 TD Bn
CHOCTAW	103 AAA Gp	CLOCKER	407 A/B QM Co
CHOKEBERRY	548 AAA AW Bn	CLOCKWISE	208 Engr C Bn
CHOO CHOO	420 Armd FA Bn	CLOUD	81 Cml SG Co
CHOPPER	555 AAA AW Bn	CLOUDBURST	252 Engr C Bn
CHOPSTICK	319 Glider FA Bn	CLOVER	307 A/B Engr Bn
CHOSEN	82 A/B Div Hq Co	CLOVERLEAF	748 FA Bn
CHOWCHOW	84 Inf Div Arty	CLUSTER	777 FA Bn 4 - 5 Gn
CHOWDER	778 AAA AW Bn	CLUTCH	419 Armd FA Bn
CHRISTY	261 FA Bn	COACH DOG	182 FA Bn
CHROMATIC	16 TD Gp	COACHMAN	638 TD Bn
CHROMITE	796 AAA AW Bn	COAL BIN	195 FA Gp
CHRONICLE	34 AAA Gp	COASTAL	695 Armd FA Bn
CHRYSLER	758 FA Bn	COAT	182 FA Group
CHURN	390 FA Bn	COBALT	7 FA Obsn Bn
CIDER	504 Preht Inf Regt	COBBLER	272 FA Bn
CIGAR	207 FA Bn	COBBLESTONE	9 Armd Div Arty



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CURRENT	119 Inf Regt 3 Bn	DAUNTLESS	99 Inf Div
CURTIS	113 FA Bn	DAUPHIN	9 Armd Engr Bn
CURVE	120 Inf Regt 3 Bn	DAVENPORT	581 Med Amb Co
CUSHION	1107 Engr Group	DAVID	149 Armd Sig Co
CUSTER	120 Inf Regt	DAWSON	1160 Engr C Gp
CUSTON	30 Inf Div	DAYBREAK	12 Armd Gp
CUTOUT	74 Cml Smk Gen Co	DAYDREAM	552 FA Bn
CYCLOID	269 FA Bn	DAYLIGHT	104 Inf Div Hq Co
CYCLONE	625 Engr LE Co	DAYTIME	419 Med Coll Co
CYLINDER	292 Engr C Bn	DAYTON	9 Armd Div Com Comd "
CYMBAL	330 Ord Bn	DAZZLE	634 AAA AW Bn
		DEACON	135 Ord MM Co
	"D"	DEADEYE	99 Recon Trp
DAFFODIL	972 QM Serv Co	DEADLOCK	799 Ord LM Co
DAGGER	413 Inf Regt	DEADSHOT	87 Cav Recon Trp
DAGWOOD	16 Inf Regt	DEBARK	1151 Engr C Gp
DAHLIA	64 Med Gp	DEBATE	629 Engr LE Co
DAIRY	170 Med Bn	DEBONAIR	1153 Engr C Gp
DAISY	3042 QM Grave Reg Co	DECADE	3060 Engr Top Co
DAKAR	106 Inf Div Arty	DECATUR	106 Inf Div
DAKOTA	393 Inf Regt	DECCA	460 Para FA Bn
DALLAS	174 FA Bn	DECEMBER	1000 Engr TB Co
DAMAGE	701 Ord Co Im	DECIBEL	90 Sig Opns Bn
DAMASCUS	370 FA Bn	DECIMAL	994 Engr TB Co
DAMNATION	77 Tk Bn	DECIPHER	99 Sig Co
DAMPER	106 Div MP Plat	DECLARE	19 Tank Bn
DAMSEL	590 Med Amb Co	DECORATE	324 Med Bn
DANDELION	266 FA Bn	DECOY	18 Inf Regt
DANDER	771 Tank Bn	DEERSKIN	18 Cav Recon Sqdn
DANDY	5 FA Bn	DEDICATE	329 Med Bn
DANGER	1 Inf Div	DEFENDANT	6 Belg Fus Bn
DANGER RECON	1 Recon Trp Mecz	DEFENDER	69 Cav Recon Trp
DANGER SIG	1 Sig Co	DEFENSE	104 Recon Tr
DANIEL	333 FA Bn	DEFIANCE	415 Inf Regt
DANISH	131 Ord Maint Co	DEFOE	408 FA Gp
DANUBE	395 Inf Regt	DEFROST	69 QM Co
DANZIG	394 Inf Regt	DEFY	84 Recon Trp
DAPHNE	623 Med Clr Co	DEGREE	635 Med Clr Co
DARE	106 Inf Div Hq Co	DELAWARE	372 FA Bn
DAREDEVIL	740 Tank Bn	DELIGHT	7 FA Bn
DARIUS	551 FA Bn	DELIRIOUS	75 QM Co
DARKNESS	3 Sta Hosp	DELIVER	32 Cav Recon Sqdn
DARNEL	329 Engr Bn	DELPHI	474 AAA AW Bn
DARTMOUTH	1257 Engr C Bn	DELTA	33 FA Bn
DARWIN	99 MP Plat	DELTABASE	Deltabase Section
DASHBOARD	742 FA Bn	DELTOID	170 FA Bn
DATA	580 Med Amb Co	DELUXE	4 Med Bn
		DEMAGOG	276 Engr C Bn



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<u>CODE NAME</u>	<u>UNIT SERVED</u>	<u>CODE NAME</u>	<u>UNIT SERVED</u>
DISCUS	78 Inf Div	DRAGONFLY	746 FA Bn
DISGUISE	1 Engr C Bn	DRAGON HEAD	190 Ord Bn
DISINTEGRATE	33 Cav Recon Sq	DRAKE	84 Div Hq Co
DISMOUNT	581 AAA AW Bn	DRAMATIC	705 Ord Co LM
DISPLACE	903 FA Bn	DRASTIC	5 Div Arty
DISSECT	308 FA Bn	DRAWBAR	589 FA Bn
DISTILLERY	401 FA Bn	DRAWBRIDGE	7 Engr Bn C
DISTORTION	3052 Engr C Bn	DRAWL	324 Ftr Gp
DISTRICT	75 Inf Div Arty	DREADFUL	351 FA Gp
DITTO	336 Engr C Bn	DREADNAUGHT	51 Highland Div (Br)
DIVERT	326 FA Bn	DREAMER	19 FA Bn
DIVIDEND	627 FA Bn	DREAMLAND	78 QM Co
DIVORCE	3 Inf Regt	DREAMTRAIN	656 FA Bn
DIXIE	1 Med Bn	DREDGE	81 Engr C Bn
DIXON	309 FA Bn	DRESDEN	528 FA Bn
DOBBIN	5 Ren Tr (Mecz)	DRIFTWOOD	591 FA Bn
DOCKYARD	325 FA Bn	DRIVER	50 FA Bn
DOCTOR	23 Tank Bn	DRIVEWAY	78 Cav Recon Trp
DODGER	5 QM Co	DRIZZLE	84 QM Co
DOESKIN	161 Ord Bn	DROMEDARY	205 FA Gp
DOGBERRY	730 FA Bn	DROPKICK	590 FA Bn
DOGMA	303 Engr C Bn	DROWNING	46 FA Bn
DOGWOOD	5 Med Bn	DRUGGIST	21 FA Bn
DOLLAR	10 Inf Regt	DRUGSTORE	369 Med Bn
DOLPHIN	289 Inf Regt	DRUID	78 MP Plat (Inf Div)
DOMINION	290 Inf Regt	DRUMBEAT	1699 Engr C Bn
DOMINO	102 Inf Div	DRUMMER	534 QM Gp
DOMONIC	CIC Quimperle	DRUMMAJOR	660 FA Bn
DOOMSDAY	159 Inf Regt	DRUMSTICK	106 QM Co
DOORMAT	3053 Engr C Bn	DRYAD	5 Engr C Bn
DOORNAIL	634 Engr L Equip Co	DRYCLEAN	331 Med Bn
DOORSTEP	138 Ord M Bn	DRYDOCK	422 Inf Regt
DOUBLE	2 Inf Regt	DUSTY	11 Inf Regt
DOUBLET	291 Inf Regt	DYEWOOD	619 QM Bn
DOUGHBOY	333 Inf Regt	DYNAMIC	423 Inf Regt
DOUGLAS	571 AAA AW Bn (Mob)	DYNAMITE	5 Inf Div Hq
DOUGHNUT	762 FA Bn	DYNAMO	106 Sig Co
DOWNPOUR	9 QM Bn		
DOWNSTREAM	281 QM Bn	"E"	
DOYLE	567 AAA AW Bn		
DRACULA	54 Sig Const Bn	EAGLE	12 Army Gp
DRAFTSMAN	672 Engr Topo Co	EAGLE REAR	12 U.S. Army Gp (Rear)
DRAGLINE	1159 Engr C Gp	EAGLE TAC	12 Army Gp (Tao)
DRAGLINK	778 Ord LM Co	EASTCOTE	A/B Forces CP IX TC
DRAIGNET	106 Cav Recon Trp	ECLIPSE	213 AAA Gp
DRAGON	5 Sig Co	EEIS	Victor 6 O EEIS
DRAGONET	517 Par Inf Regt	EGLANTINE	3 Algerian Inf Div



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Administrivia

If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>

- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: MailCall@517prct.org
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

517 PRCT Association, Inc.
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly
19 Oriole Court
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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