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DDG-21/MH/ve
5740

ser: 11-73

1 MAR 1973

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From: Commanding Officer, USS COCHRANE (DDG-21)
 To: Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet
 Subj: Command history for calendar year 1972; forwarding of
 Ref: (a) COMUSPACINST 5800.35, para A3117
 Encl: (1) USS COCHRANE (DDG-21) Command History Chronology of Outstanding Events
 (2) USS COCHRANE (DDG-21) Command History Narrative
 1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

R. F. U. KIRUNE

Copy to:
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Classified by: OPNAVINST 5750.12A /
 Declassified: 31 December 1976
 by Executive Order 11652

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1 JAN 72 Moored, B-22, U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

4 JAN 72 CDR R. K. U. KIHUNE, USN, relieved CDR W. C. NEEL, USN, as commanding officer

20 JAN 72 Shifted to berth W-1, Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu, Hawaii for ammo onload. Departed for naval gunfire support training, Kahoolawe

26 JAN 72 Conducted practice naval gunfire support at Kahoolawe Island

27 JAN 72 Departed Kahoolawe en route local op area G-2 and conducted anti-air gunnery exercises

28 JAN 72 Moored, Berth B-24, U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

31 JAN 72 Underway for local op areas. Began COMPTUEX 1-72

1 FEB 72 Fired a TARTAR missile in an AAWEX off Kauai

2 FEB 72 Refuelled from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)

2 FEB 72 Fired TARTAR missile in AAWEX off Kauai

4 FEB 72 Conducted AAWEX/aerial gunnery exercises in local op areas. Moored outboard USS KEPPLER (DD-765) and USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36)

16 FEB 72 Shifted berths to W-1, NAD Oahu. Rearmed Departed NAD Oahu for berth H-2, fuelling piers. Off-loaded fuel

18 FEB 72 Shifted berths to berth B-20, U. S. Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor. Began Navy Distillate fuel conversion

5 MAY 72 Underway from berth B-20 for sea trials in local op areas. Returned to Pearl Harbor. Moored outboard of USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36)

12 MAY 72 Shifted berths to NAD Oahu. Moored berth W-2 NAD Oahu. Departed NAD Oahu for fuelling piers, Pearl Harbor. Moored berth H-4

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15 MAY 72 Departed fuelling piers for local op areas. Conducted surface gunnery exercises. Departed local op areas en route to Kauai and the Barking Sands Missile Range

17 MAY 72 Conducted surface gunnery exercises off Kauai. Departed Kauai for NGFS training off Kahoolawe Island

18 MAY 72 Conducted NGFS training off Kahoolawe Island

19 MAY 72 Moored alongside USS REEVES (DLG-24), berth B-25, U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor

22 MAY 72 Departed Pearl Harbor for San Diego, San Francisco, and Portland Oregon, while conducting midshipman training cruise

28 MAY 72 Moored alongside USS RATHBURN (DE-1057), pier #8, U. S. Naval Station, San Diego

31 MAY 72 Shifted berths to fuelling piers, Pt. Loma. Departed San Diego, en route San Francisco

2 JUN 72 Moored outboard USS RATHBURN (DE-1057), pier #26, San Francisco

6 JUN 72 Departed San Francisco, en route, Portland, Oregon

7 JUN 72 Refuelled from USS CACAPON (AO-52)

8 JUN 72 Entered Columbia River at Astoria, Oregon. Moored to seawall, Portland Oregon. Commenced participation in Portland's "Rose Festival"

12 JUN 72 Departed Portland en route Pearl Harbor. Refuelled from USS CACAPON (AO-52)

18 JUN 72 Moored outboard USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20), berth B-23, U. S. Naval Station, Pearl

20 JUN 72 Departed Pearl Harbor for local op areas and type training.

21 JUN 72 Conducted air and surface gunnery exercises in local op areas

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22 JUN 72 Conducted air and surface gunnery exercises in local op areas

22 JUN 72 Moored outboard USS REEVES (DLG-24), berth B-25, U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor

26 JUN 72 Shifted berths to NAD Oahu, moored berth W-2. Departed NAD Oahu for local op areas. Conducted air and surface gunnery exercises in local op areas

28 JUN 72 Conducted gunnery exercises in local op areas

30 JUN 72 Moored outboard of USS ORLECK (DD-886), berth B-24, U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Began 30 day POM period.

27 JUL 72 Departed Pearl Harbor, to local op areas. Conducted gunnery exercises in local op areas.

28 JUL 72 Conducted ASW training in local op areas with USS SAILFISH (SS-572)

28 JUL 72 Moored outboard USS CARPENTER (DD-825) berth B-25, U. S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

31 JUL 72 Underway from Pearl Harbor to Barking Sands Missile Range, Kauai. Conducted gunnery exercises. Departed missile range for WESTPAC deployment

3 AUG 72 Brief stop for fuel at Midway Island

10 AUG 72 Brief stop for fuel at Guam

13 AUG 72 Arrived Subic Bay, R.P. Moored outboard of USS NEWPORT NEWS (CA-138) at berth G-4, Alava Piers, U. S. Naval Station Subic Bay

18 AUG 72 Shifted to ammunition anchorage, Subic Bay, departed ammunition anchorage, en route to the gunline

20 AUG - 1 SEP 72 Attached to TU 70.8.9, Gunline Commander

20 AUG 72 Arrived on the Gunline, commenced conducting NGFS in vicinity of Quang Tri City. Refueled from USS KAWISHIWI (AO-146)

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24 AUG 72 Rearmed from USS MT. HOOD (AE-29)

25 AUG 72 Refuelled from USS WACCAMAW (AO-109)

28 AUG 72 Replenished from USS VEGA (AF-39). Rearmed from USS MT HOOD (AE-29).

1 SEP 72 Refuelled from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)

2 SEP 72 Departed the gunline. Initiated typhoon storm evasion measures in the South China Sea to avoid Typhoon Elsie

4 SEP 72 Refuelled from USS KANSAS CITY (AOR-3)

5 - 21 SEP 72 Attached to TG 77.1.2, conducting Linebacker Strikes

5 SEP 72 Ceased typhoon evasion, conducted first Linebacker strike against the coast of North Vietnam

6 SEP 72 Rearmed from USS SURIBACHI (AE-21) and refuelled from USS CACAPON (AO-52)

10 SEP 72 Rearmed from USS MT HOOD (AE-29) and refuelled from USS CACAPON (AO-52)

14 SEP 72 Participated as support ship for USS ENGLAND (DLG-22) in an attempted SAR for downed Air Force pilot vicinity Hanoi. SAR unsuccessful. Refuelled from USS MISPELLION (AO-109), rearmed from USS MT HOOD (AE-29)

18 SEP 72 Rearmed from USS MT HOOD (AE-29) and refuelled from USS PASSEUMPIC (AO-107)

19 SEP 72 Replenished from USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7)

21 SEP 72 Refuelled from USS MANATEE (AO-56). Departed Linebacker and the Gulf of Tonkin for Sasebo, Japan

25 SEP 72 Moored to Pier 66, U. S. Fleet Activity Sasebo, Japan. Commenced seven day upkeep

3. OCT 72 Departed Sasebo, en route Gulf of Tonkin

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7 - 11 OCT 72 Attached to

7 OCT 72 Arrived on the Gunline, commenced NGFS. Refuelled from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145)

8 OCT 72 Visited by RADM KERN, COMCRUDESGRU SEVENTHFLT

9 OCT 72 Refuelled from USS MANATEE (AO-38)

11 OCT 72 Departed Gunline. Continued Linebacker ops off North Vietnam as part of TG 77.1.1

12 OCT 72 Rearmed from USS PYMO (AE-24) and refuelled from USS TOLOVANA (AO-64)

15 - 20 OCT 72 Attached to TG 75.9 Gunline

19 OCT 72 Returned to gunline and began conducting NGFS. Anchored, made material transfer with USS DAVIS (DD-937)

15 OCT 72 Rearmed from USS HP KATMAI (AE-16). Refuelled from USS TOLOVANA (AO-63)

20 OCT 72 Replenished from USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7). Rearmed from USS NITRO (AE-23)

21 OCT - 3 NOV 72 Attached to FU 77.1.1 while conducting Linebacker strikes

22 OCT 72 Refuelled from the USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-107)

25 OCT 72 Rearmed from USS NITRO (AE-23). Refuelled from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE-1)

28 OCT 72 Refuelled from USS MISPELLION (AO-109) and rearmed from USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28)

31 OCT 72 Rearmed from USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28) and refuelled from USS PASSUMPSIC (AO-109)

4 NOV 72 Departed Linebacker operations in the Gulf of Tonkin for Kaohsiung, Taiwan

6 NOV 72 Arrived Kaohsiung, moored to USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36), buoys 2 and 3. Commenced 2 week upkeep period

20 NOV 72 Departed Kaohsiung, Taiwan en route Gulf of Tonkin

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22 NOV 72 Entered harbor at Danang, Vietnam. Departed Danang. Refuelled from USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)

23 - 27 NOV 72 Attached TU 77.1.1 while conducting Linebacker operations

23 NOV 72 Continued Linebacker operations

24 NOV 72 Refuelled from USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)

27 NOV 72 Refuelled from USS PONCHATOULA (AO-148)

29 - 30 NOV 72 Attached to TG 75.9 while on the Gunline

29 NOV 72 Refuelled from USNS TALUGA (AO-62). Rejoined gunline

1 DEC 72 Refuelled from USS CACAPON (AO-52). Departed Gunline enroute Subic

3 DEC 72 Moored outboard USS KING (DLG-10) at Eton Piers, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Began 6 day upkeep period

9 DEC 72 Departed Subic, en route to the gunline

11 - 19 DEC 72 Attached to TG 75.9 while on the gunline

11 DEC 72 Refuelled from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145). Arrived gunline, commenced NGFS

12 DEC 72 Rearmed from USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28)

14 DEC 72 Refuelled from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145). Replenished from USS NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3). Rearmed from USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28)

16 DEC 72 Rearmed from USS SANTA BARBARA (AE-28). Refuelled from USNS TALUGA (AO-62)

19 DEC 72 Refuelled from USS TOLOVANA (AO-63). Departed gunline enroute Hong Kong. Recalled to Gulf of Tonkin

20 DEC 72 Rejoined TU 77.1.1 on Linebacker

21 DEC 72 Refuelled from USNS TALUGA (AO-62). Rearmed from USS MT HOOD (AE-29). Departed Linebacker

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23 DEC 72

Arrived Hong Kong. Moored to buoy #4. Began six day port visit

29 DEC 72

Departed Hong Kong, en route Gulf of Tonkin and Linebacker ops

30 DEC 72

Joined RU 77.1, Linebacker. Conducted raid on North Vietnam

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The year 1972 opened quietly, finding COCHRANE moored in Pearl Harbor enjoying the last remnants of the holiday stand-down period. The status quo was to last only three days, for on 4 January, COCHRANE received a new commanding officer, Commander Robert Kalani Uichi KIHUNE, USN who relieved Commander William Charles NEEL, USN. Commander KIHUNE came to COCHRANE from the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D. C.; and Commander NEEL left COCHRANE to become prospective commanding officer of USS SOUTH CAROLINA (DLG(N)-35).

COCHRANE remained in Pearl Harbor until 25 January when she shifted berths to the Naval Ammunition Depot, Oahu, for an ammunition onload. With load-out completed, the ship left Pearl Harbor for three days of type training in local operating areas. This training included several anti-air gunnery exercises, as well as naval gunfire support training off the island of Kahoolawe. Returning to Pearl Harbor on 28 January, COCHRANE spent a busy weekend, putting the finishing touches on her preparation for a week of heavy operating that was to follow.

Monday, 31 January found COCHRANE underway to participate in COMPTUEX 1-72, an involved series of realistic training exercises at sea in the Hawaiian operating areas. This week-long exercise was conducted in a multi-threat environment in which at any time the participating units could be taken under simulated attack by air, surface or subsurface elements of the opponents. The anti-air warfare and anti-submarine warfare weapons firing portions of the exercise were conducted off Kauai's Barking Sands Missile Range, and the ASW operations with USS SNOOK (SS-591) were held throughout the week in various operating areas. The exercise ended on Friday, 4 February, having consisted of the following major events: 31 January, opposed sortie from Pearl Harbor; 1 February and 2 February, TARTAR missile firings at Barking Sands, 2 February opposed underway replenishment from USS HASSAYAMPA (AO-145); 4 February, anti-aircraft warfare exercise with other participating ships, and an aerial gunnery exercise. The evening of 4 February found COCHRANE moored alongside BRYCE CANYON (AD-36), at Bravo Piers, Pearl Harbor.

For the next two weeks COCHRANE was employed preparing for a conversion to her engineering plant that would permit her to burn Navy Distillate Fuel vice Navy Standard Fuel Oil. Shifting berths to berth B-20 in the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on 18 February, she began the conversion. A task requiring round-the-clock ship's force work, this conversion was eagerly set upon by COCHRANE's engineers working with Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Completed in an unprecedented six weeks, COCHRANE emerged from this overhaul a much different ship. While the new fuel would not al-

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low the ship to go quite as far as when she burned NSFO, it presented some distinct advantages, primarily to the engineering personnel. Boiler maintenance and cleaning requirements were drastically reduced due to the cleaner burning properties of distillate, greatly reducing the maintenance workload of all hands.

Underway on Navy distillate for the first time on 5 May, COCHRANE went to sea for sea trials. Tests and trials successfully completed in only one day, the ship returned to Pearl Harbor the same day and moored outboard the USS BRYCE CANYON (AD-36). The next week was spent finishing engineering work and preparing for an upcoming week of training and exercises.

On 12 May, COCHRANE spent the morning at NAD Oahu rearming, then later shifted berths to Pearl Harbor's fuelling piers. Remaining there for three days, the ship departed Pearl Harbor 15 May for training in the local operating areas. This type training consisted of surface and aerial gunnery exercises, a TARTAR missile firing off Kauai's Barking Sands Missile Range, and a day's training at Kahoolawe Island, refining the ship's naval gunfire support skills. May 19 found COCHRANE once again moored in Pearl Harbor outboard USS REEVES (DLG-24) at Berth B-25.

COCHRANE's respite was a short one, for three days later she was once again underway. Departing Pearl Harbor on 22 May, COCHRANE headed for the West Coast on what was to be a tremendously successful and much enjoyed trip. First entering San Diego, COCHRANE spent four days in the home of our Type Commander. It was in San Diego that the ship embarked thirty eight midshipmen: three American first class midshipmen and three Australian midshipmen, and thirty two third class midshipmen. The midshipmen, from various units throughout the country, spent six weeks onboard, learning the ways of the Navy and of the sea.

Leaving San Diego on 31 May, COCHRANE set a course for San Francisco. Arriving on 2 June, she moored at pier #26, outboard USS RATHEURNE (DE-1057). Four days of enjoyable liberty were spent in San Francisco, and on 6 June COCHRANE departed, headed again north to Portland, Oregon, and an eight hour transit up the Columbia River to be one of the Fleet units at the annual Portland Rose Festival.

When the ship entered the mouth of the Columbia River at Astoria, 38 citizens of Portland boarded COCHRANE as guest to ride the ship from the river mouth to Portland, some 90 miles. Some of the guests were relatives of COCHRANE crewmembers,

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some were friends, others were civic leaders. All were very much interested in the ship, its mission, its capabilities, and enjoyed the scenic transit to Portland. COCHRANE wasted no time in joining the festivities. The ship hosted a breakfast for the Festival's Rose Queen, her court, and their escorts which was very well received. Sending off each of the young ladies with one of the 200 fresh pineapples carried from Hawaii was a gesture well received by them and our other guests.

During Open House, COCHRANE conducted shipboard tours for over 6,000 interested Portlandites in three days of general visiting.

12 June found the Rose Festival ended and COCHRANE enroute back home to Pearl, where she arrived on the 18th, mooring at berth B-23, U. S. Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. After a brief weekend to be with our loved ones, COCHRANE was off again due to her deployment date being moved up a month. The next week was a hectic one spent conducting air and surface gunnery exercises on two different days, and an ammunition onload at NAD Oahu on June 26. This last week of predeployment training ended on 30 June, at which time COCHRANE began her thirty day inport preparation for overseas movement.

Though the next 28 days were spent moored, the period from 30 June to 27 July was an extremely busy one. The materiel condition of the ship, supply stocks, ammunition, and personnel were all brought to the highest degree of readiness possible prior to departure to join the war in Vietnam with the Seventh Fleet.

31 July came entirely too early this year for COCHRANE for her 325 crew members, and for their families, as this was the day she again deployed to the Western Pacific. Pausing for an afternoon at Kauai's Barking Sands Missile Range, the ship conducted several gunnery exercises, before heading West. Stopping at Midway and Guam for brief fuel stops, COCHRANE arrived in Subic Bay, Philippine Islands on 13 August. Moored for four days at Subic's Alava piers, the ship completed minor last minute repairs prior to entering the Gulf of Tonkin and the Vietnam War. On the way out of Subic, the afternoon of 18 August was spent at the ammunition anchorage, topping off the ship's magazines with all the ammunition she could hold.

Arriving in the Gulf of Tonkin on 20 August, COCHRANE was assigned to Task Unit 70.8.9 on the gun line. The afternoon of 20th found COCHRANE on station, ready for call for fire. Her offer was quickly taken. The beleaguered city of Quang Tri, South Vietnam was under heavy enemy attack, and naval gunfire sup-

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port was badly needed by the South Vietnamese Army. Twelve days were thus spent, firing numerous missions. While not firing gun fire support, COCHRANE was either in a standby station or replenishing underway. Almost daily replenishments were the rule. Each of the ammunition replenishments was an all hands evolution and soon became a way of life in our routine. COCHRANE's first gunline period was cut short by Typhoon Elsie entering the Gulf with threatening winds and high seas. For three days, 2-5 September, COCHRANE evaded the storm, in company with all the other gunline units.

5 September found COCHRANE in combat once again, but the action was of a different kind. Joining Task Unit 77.1.2, COCHRANE became a member of Operation Linebacker as flagship for Commander Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-FIVE. Consisting usually of three, sometimes four destroyers, these units performed a dual mission. By day they patrolled the merchant ship anchorage off Hon La, North Vietnam. Keeping the Communist Chinese merchant ships there under constant surveillance. Linebacker units provided higher command with intelligence concerning the merchant ships as well as interdiction of the flow of supplies between the merchant ships and the mainland. By night, the Linebacker units became high speed raiders, conducting naval gunfire raids on enemy logistic targets in North Vietnam deep in the Gulf of Tonkin. Usually conducting three strikes each night, the Linebacker units would approach pre-selected point targets at high speed, slow to fire and retire, again at high speed. Conducting some 120 of these missions during 1971, the ship expended approximately 5,000 rounds of 5"/54 caliber ammunition, while receiving approximately 1,500 rounds of often accurate hostile fire in return.

During the night of 14-15 September, COCHRANE was detached from Linebacker to aid in an attempted SAR effort in the vicinity of Hanoi. Acting as a "shotgun" or surface protection ship for the primary search and rescue platform, USS ENGLAND (DLG-22), COCHRANE patrolled the area east of Hanoi's harbor entrance. To the great disappointment of all hands, the SAR effort, conducted on behalf of a downed Air Force pilot, proved to be unsuccessful. The next morning COCHRANE was detached from the area, and headed south to rejoin the Linebacker commander.

After spending over 30 days in combat, COCHRANE was treated to a well earned rest in Sasebo, Japan. Arriving on the 25th of September, the ship began a much needed seven day upkeep. After a pleasant and productive week in Japan, COCHRANE once again headed back to war, joining the Gunline on the 7th of October. For the next month COCHRANE's schedule was very flexible and varied, alternating between the gunline and Linebacker in six to eight day

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periods. While never directly hit, it was during the night of 25-26 October that COCHRANE received shrapnel damage and holeing topside from close air bursts. COCHRANE finally left the Gulf of Tonkin on 4 November and headed for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Arriving the morning of the 6th, COCHRANE began a two week upkeep period that provided time for many badly needed repairs. Fit once again and ready to go, COCHRANE left Kaohsiung on 20 November and headed back to the Gulf of Tonkin.

Because of the untimely death onboard of one of her crewmembers, COCHRANE was diverted to Da Nang to transfer his remains ashore. Leaving Da Nang that day, 22 November, the ship headed north and the next night, once again, was conducting Linebacker strikes against North Vietnam. After six days of Linebacker operations, COCHRANE rejoined the gunline. In the 3 day period from 28 November to 1 December both of COCHRANE's gun mounts suffered casualties that ship's force personnel were unequipped to repair and which necessitated shipyard aid. Detached from the Gunline on 1 December, COCHRANE steamed at high speed to Subic Bay for these repairs. Arriving in Subic Bay on 3 December, the ship began an upkeep period that was to last one week. With her repair work done and her gunmounts ready, COCHRANE again steamed at high speed to the Gulf of Tonkin where her guns were badly needed. Arriving on the 11th, COCHRANE conducted heavy gunfire support as a part of the gunline until detached on the 19th to proceed to Hong Kong for some much looked forward to, and well deserved rest and relaxation.

No sooner enroute, COCHRANE was diverted to Linebacker because of a direct hit on USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20) on the night of 19-20 December while she was conducting a Linebacker raid. After conducting three Linebacker raids on the night of 20-21 December, COCHRANE was once again detached to proceed to Hong Kong. Arriving early in the morning of December 23rd the ship moored to buoy #4 in the shadow of beautiful Victoria Peak, Hong Kong. This exciting city proved to be the most enjoyable port visited. Many united with their wives for the first time in months, COCHRANE's whole crew spent a unique Christmas in Hong Kong, a dramatic contrast to the war so close in our memories.

December 29 came all too soon, for on that day all lines were taken in and once again COCHRANE returned to war. After a fast transit to the Gulf of Tonkin, COCHRANE rejoined the Linebacker forces, the recollection of Hong Kong all but lost in gun duels with North Vietnamese coastal batteries. COCHRANE ended the year 1972 by striking targets in North Vietnam, taking the war to the enemy and contributing to the hard fought peace that was to come so soon thereafter.

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