

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society News Update September 2010



Next Meeting is on **November 6**. 10 AM till 2 PM

History News

Readers, where's your story? See the last page on how to share your history.

Oregon 8th AFHS Booth at Oregon International Air Show

During the Hillsboro International Airshow the Oregon 8th Air Force Historical Society Chapter was again able to obtain booth space (right next to the ANA group – Association of Naval Aviators) and both Capt. Wally Groce (sitting left in photo; in the NARA Enlistment data base his civil occupation was listed as "Semi-skilled construction of aircraft"...he built balsa models!) and Capt. Bill Seitz (sitting right) were able to be there both Saturday and Sunday to talk with airshow visitors about their combat experience in WW II. Wally was in the 56th Fighter group flying P-47 Thunderbolts while Bill was in 98th BG(H) in B-24s and flew 85 missions out of



North Africa and Italy (two tours).

Bill's first mission as part of the 15th AF:

http://www.thecombatreport.com/index.php?Itemid=86&id=124&option=com_content&task=view



table), a P-47, Me-262 and B-24 model, and a 5 foot x 7 foot strike photo of Regensburg that was taken when navigator Lawrence Fick led his B-24 group to the target in the spring of 1945. The

Here is an overall view of the booth along with Tom Davis (left), Bob Dean (Tom Philo your editor took the photos) who also manned the booth during the whole airshow. Tom Davis collected aircraft calendars during the year and then gave them out to young visitors. The displays included a short history of the 8th AF (front of



photo was enlarged from one of the photos he put into the archive. To the right was a B-17 cockpit simulator that is owned by Don Keller. He is slowly gathering parts to make it completely operational like the ones used at the Boeing factory and other training facilities teaching maintenance personnel repair skills as well as pilots how to fly the Boeing B-17. If you come across cockpit parts be sure to contact Don!

A 9 Minute Version of the Memphis Belle movie and the Early 8th AF

324th BS, 91st BG, Memphis Belle's 25th mission.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JET2KAWSmGg&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

The Belle is currently being refurbished at the National Museum of the US Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Members of the 91st Bomb Group will be holding a reunion there this fall.

Tom Tate September Article Update

Please note that the aircraft in which Tom Tate (September newsletter) was a crewman was a **RAF Fortress III**, not a USAAF B-17. All the crew except the pilot bailed out over Huckensfeld on the night of 15/16 March 1945 during an ECM sortie in support of RAF bomber operations. The aircraft serial No. HB779 BU-L of 214 Squadron, based at Oulton, Norfolk, was set on fire by enemy action **but it did NOT CRASH.**

Pilot Flt Lt J G Wynne managed to fly the crippled aircraft back to England and landed at Bassingbourn.

Flt Lt Tate was the Wireless (Radio) Operator aboard the aircraft and was one of four crewman who survived as a PoW.

I hope this has cleared up any confusion over this tragic incident.

Congrats on a superb newsletter. Regards, Bob Collis, Oulton Broad, Suffolk England

Lt Cook Evade Dates

Lt Cook evaded and made it to British lines before "Operation Market Garden" started on September 17, 1944.

In the grand scheme of things all British forces under Field Marshall Montgomery were on the left flank – with their left flank on the coast – all the way into Germany. It was pretty much the same general arrangement of operations that they had during the First World War.

Of course this meant that the British has a LOT more difficult river crossing to accomplish in their fighting due to the way rivers drain out of Europe.

Last of the Great Escape Members Dies

JACK Harrison, believed to be the last survivor of the daring "Great Escape" plot to flee Stalag Luft III German prisoner of war camp, died in June at the age of 97. Only 76 prisoners managed to get outside the wire on March 24, 1944 and only three make a "home run" -- escaped recapture - two Norwegians and a Dutchman. The others were recaptured and 50 were killed in retaliation under direct orders from Adolf Hitler

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/world/last-survivor-of-great-escape-wwii-prison-break-dies-aged-97/story-e6frfkyi-1225876906351#ixzz0zelHyUxJ>

Brothers at Stalag Luft III

Lt. Paul Gordy was in the 384 BG(H) and was shot down on July 29, 1943. Then a while later his brother Leonard was shot down while flying in the 94th BG(H) and was also sent to Stalag Luft III.

<http://www.chipleypaper.com/news/historical-6273-holmes-pow.html>

Being Shot Down in a Lancaster

Arthur Pritchard seemed all normal, but he was only 2 crewman who survived a fireball when his Lancaster was shot down. He evaded and made it back to England. He died in June of 2010.

"I was shocked at how cramped and inaccessible the conditions were that my father flew in. The mid-upper gunner and rear gunner in particular were stranded in turrets up winding steps." - Carolyn Pritchard.

Ease of escape from a British bomber was not at the forefront of their design criteria.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10210380>

"An exceptionally good run of bad luck"

During the war there were several units that were designed as hard luck outfits. The movie "12 O'Clock High" references the 417th as being one that the Col is assigned to rectify.

The two best known bomber groups in the 8th that had this unwanted designation were the 100th BG(H) flying B-17s - 'The Bloody 100th' and the 44th BG(H) - 'The Flying Eight Balls' flying B-24s. The problem was that these two units were just in the wrong place at the wrong time on various missions.

The Luftwaffe learned that if you concentrate on a single group then as aircraft are shot down or fall behind due to damage it becomes even easier to shoot down the remaining aircraft. Flying 'low' group in a formation meant that the Germans did not have to climb as high, nor did they have to worry about 54 to 100 other aircraft getting a shot at them as they attacked the low group. Being the low squadron in the low 3 of 13 Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society, 'Milk Run' October 2010

group quickly got the term 'coffin corner' or 'purple heart corner' assigned to them due to the physical arrangement of a bomber stream. This is one reason the rotation method was implemented so that every group, and within each group a squadron, at one time was assigned as low, lead, high, trail in the formation or part of a composite group which in turn had its own rotation.

And this of course could vary based on plain luck. The trailing force in the 2nd Schweinfurt raid – when 60 aircraft were shot down – reported only seeing a couple German fighters and reported that to them the mission was easy and lost no aircraft. This was because the Germans concentrated on the two lead divisions and had no planes left to fight the third.

A Quote

"The knack of flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss." - Douglas Adams

NY SWC 8TH Air Force Historical Society BLOG

<http://blogs.ny8thswcafhs.org/>

This is update by Joseph 'Pat' Keeley.

5th Air Force Nose Art

This web site has photos of aircraft that fought in the SW Pacific.

<http://www.aerothentic.com/photos/noseart/noseart.html>

Fort McPherson Georgia Closes in September 2011

This fort opened in 1889 and has seen a lot of personnel go through it – including WW II AXIS POWS – gets turned over to Atlanta in September of 2011. When it was built it was way outside of Atlanta, Georgia, but now has since been surrounded and was part of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BARC) set up by Congress to get rid of currently un-needed bases built in the last 100 years or so – especially WW I and WW II bases.

<http://www.smartplanet.com/people/blog/pure-genius/atlanta-plans-for-more-green-space-and-a-new-city-to-replace-military-base/4284/?tag=content;col1>

A bit of History goes to the Eighth Air Force – Barksdale AFB

"In 1943, nine officers stood together with World War II Gen. Ira C. Eaker in England's Castle Coombe, silver cups raised in the audacious hope of a history-making victory, and to the equally optimistic hope that when the war ended they would gather to conduct reunions celebrating that victory."

This was the beginning of the Air War in Europe and they certainly were optimistic that the bomber would win the war all alone.

There is no way to actually see the bowl and cups since it is on a military base; and from what I can tell in the article and there are no photos of them posted anywhere either.

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123062829>

Also at Barksdale, which no one can see, is the ashtray of "Piccadilly Lilly" of the 100th BG B-17F. It was sent home as a keepsake before it was shot down over Bremen.

Bombardiers Lament

Oh, the disk drives the roller, and the roller drives a gear
If you're under 27 you can be a Bombardier
You level up your bubbles and you open up your rocks
If you went to church last Sunday you're sure to get a shock
(Look where the bombs hit T.S.)

Oh you work upon your course and set the target in
And then make your run with extended vision in
And your altitude is off or the airspeed is too great
Or else the pins are in the bombs, or lay out at on the rate
(Look where the bombs hit T.S.)

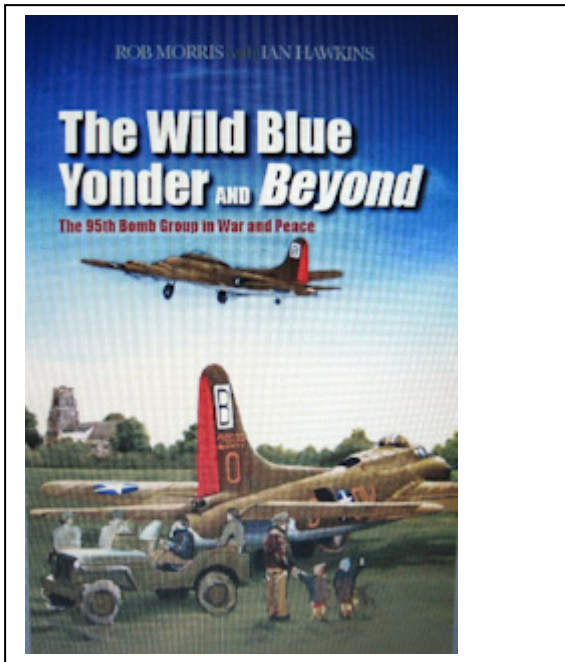
If you salvo the instructor you may get the D.F.C
But if instead they wash you out, just bring your card to me
If you have to hit the silk and forget the cord
Then you may sign this little ditty in the presence of the Lord

Written by 2Lt Horton L. Fross, Bombardier on a B-24 Liberator in 392 BG(H) 578th Squadron, who was shot down on the 24 February 1944 to Gotha while flying in A/C 41-29192 (no a/c nickname). He was on his 4th mission. Just of one of many poems he wrote while in Stalag Luft 1 as a Kriegie. Published by the YMCA, Switzerland. We have a copy of the diary in our archives.

Enigma Machines on Display

If you want to learn about these machines directly you have to go to Fort Meade Maryland, else this CNET article gives a good overview and photos of them.

http://news.cnet.com/2300-11386_3-10004406-13.html?tag=mncol



New Book due out next year on the 9th BG(H)

A new book coming out in March of 2011 by Robert Morris and Ian Hawkins is called *The Wild Blue Yonder and Beyond* and is about the 95th BG(H) which flew out of Horham, England, as one of the many heavy bomber units of the 8th Air Force.

A book that was long out of print is now back in print is called *Combat Bombardier*. Leonard Herman was a Bombardier in the 95th BG, flew 25 missions in 1943. Rotated back stateside and then returned to Europe to fly a second tour of duty in A-26s and B-26s.

Amazon link: [COMBAT BOMBARDIER: MEMOIRS OF TWO COMBAT TOURS IN THE SKIES OVER EUROPE IN WORLD WAR TWO](#)

Lt. Col. Paul Yingling

"A private who loses a rifle suffers far greater consequences than a general who loses a war."

2007 article in Armed Forces Journal, <http://www.afji.com/2007/05/2635198>

Newberg Man was on Ploesti Raid

<http://www.newberggraphic.com/news/2010/May/28/Local.News/remembering.wwiis.dead/news.aspx>

T/Sgt Alfred M Zielaskowski was later killed on November 13, 1943 over the North Sea when his aircraft was shot down by Luftwaffe fighters while flying in a B-24D of the 93rd BG, 409 BS. Listed in the Cambridge Tablets of the Missing; shows him being awarded a Silver Star, DFC, and Air Medal.

Want to find out Who Evaded after Being Shot down in WWII?

A researcher discovered the files of the various agencies who debriefed returning personnel and has posted a listing of all personnel who made it back to Allied control – and it includes the aircraft SN, name, as well as the person who made it back. It has reports from MI-9, IS9, and MIS-X. Phil Richard found the site while researching about Oregon WW II veterans.

<http://www.conscript-heroes.com/Art38-MIS-X.html>

Finally getting to Bale out of an Airplane

Frank McCauley was in the 56th Fighter Group and was a 6 plane ACE, decides to find out what it is like to parachute since he never had to while flying over Europe.

To celebrate his 94th birthday he went to Ravalli County Airport on Sept. 3, 2010 and finally did what most fighter pilots hope they never have to do: He jumped out of a perfectly good airplane and skydived for the first time in his life.

<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/article/20100925/DC5/9250356>

I Will join So you Don't Have to

Bob Dilling joined the Army in 1941 in the hopes that his brother, working the farm, could thereby become exempt not be drafted. Instead they both were in the Army but Bob spent the war in England, North Africa, and Italy working on B-17s

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_16169442

Clair Cline Prison Camp Violinist Dead at 90

Clair was bored in Stalag Luft 1 in the winter of 1944/45 so he built a violin out of bed slats and played it in Stalag Luft I POW camp and then around the nation. The violin will likely be given to some museum according to his son.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/09/25/1636453/wwii-pilot-with-famed-violin-dies.html>

With Gear down Showing Surrender Navigator bailed out of his B-17

The pilot dropped the gear and the German fighters stopped attacking and then the crew bailed out to become POWs in Stalag Luft 1 at Barth Germany.

<http://www.eastbayri.com/detail/138396.html>

Flying with "The Flying 8 Balls"

Sam McKinnely flew 26 missions with the 68th Squadron of the 44 BG "Flying Eightballs" during World War II.

http://www.hcnonline.com/articles/2010/09/15/river_oaks_examiner/news/ro_neighborhoods_0916.txt

Need a 4-inch crescent wrench for a B-17?

John Gosbeck still has one in his garage if you need one.

<http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/546621/Veteran-repaired-B-17-bombers.html?nav=5021>

Flying with the 13th Air Force in The South Pacific

Out of the 10 man crew four are still left and three were reunited at the Rexburg Idaho airport in September. They flew 44 missions as part of 72nd Squadron of the 5th Bomb Group.

http://www.rexburgstandardjournal.com/news/article_3d480bd6-b4bc-11df-a902-001cc4c03286.html

Battle of Britain Day September 15, 2010

Flight Lieutenant Walker: "It's time to commemorate all the pilots who took part in the conflict. Unlike us many German pilots had already seen a lot of action over Poland and France. In contrast I was a complete rookie and went into action in June 1940 after just five hours training."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/world-war-2/battle-of-britain/8004304/Battle-of-Britain-day-a-time-to-remember-all-who-lost-their-lives-in-the-conflict.html>

Hauling Gas for B-17s

Lawrence murphy spent a lot of his airtime flying planes filled with high octane fuel - for other planes. He was in 463rd Bomb Group, and 774th Bomb Squadron from July 5, 1943 to October 31, 1945. He flew gas to bases in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

From Taining Pilots in WW II to B-26 night missions in Korea

Ken Woodward already knew how to fly and once commissioned became an instructor teaching other in BT-13s, AT-6, the Vultee Vibrator in advanced training classes during the war. But in Korea, he was given a B-26 and told to fly at night and bomb the enemy supply system.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100903/NEWS13/9030309/1141/news01/Mortar++pestle+trad+ed+for+duty+training+pilots>

WW II Army Nurse Marched in Memorial Day Parade

<http://www.gloucestertimes.com/local/x1358969324/Rockport-WWII-nurse-still-on-the-march-at-90>

USS Olympia in Danger of being Scrapped

<http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Endangered-warship/ss/events/us/090610ussolympia>

Researching where it happened

Zwolle, Netherlands resident looking for info on airmen shot down over his country

<http://www.oshawaexpress.ca/story2905June22010.html>

More Publicity for the B-17

A movie made during the war by the USA "Flying Fortress" was panned by the British movie press – but they did like scenes filmed at a British base. (I have the 20 minute movie.)

<http://www.amazon.com/B-17-Bomber-Flying-Fortress-Movie/dp/B001GKVXSG>



From The Blue Skies over Italy to The Mud of the South Pacific – Two men tell their tales

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/288113>

"The Playboy Crew" B-24 SN 41-29399 a book by Robert F. Pipes

<http://www.prlog.org/10737118-tale-of-brave-men-bold-escape-told-in-the-playboy-crew-1943-1944-published-by-outskirts-press.html>

A Russian War movie in the vein of "Saving Private Ryan"

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/178846/controversial-russian-war-epic-rumbles-into-cannes>

With the 92nd BG at Pilsen in the last mission of the war

http://www.theapexherald.com/view/full_story/7769322/article-Last-flight-memorable-mission-for-Edwards?instance=home_news_lead

A summary of how France lost in 1940 - but not because of not trying to win

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/fyi/in-defence-of-france-94646334.html>

Tales of Dunkirk

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/features/Keeping-the-Dunkirk-spirit-alive.6311616.jp>

B-17 Restoration news at 8th AF Museum at Pooler

<http://savannahnow.com/west-chatham/2010-05-26/bomber-preserved-remembrance-those-who-served-world-war-ii>

WWII memorial honors Green Bay aviator Lt. Donald Kuske

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100615/GPG0101/6150473/Photos-WWII-memorial-honors-Green-Bay-aviator>

Tuskegee Bill Holloman dead at 85

http://blog.seattlepi.com/aerospace/archives/211267.asp?from=blog_last3

Italian finds Vet's Dog Tags

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hRd9WmXTdejAYrZIUjCyQU--pU-QD9G21U800>

Survivor of the Sinking of the Rhona - A German Guided missile sunk it

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_15291177

Merchant marines still trying to get pay status as veterans

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10150/1061927-84.stm>

"Flat-Bottom Odyssey: From North Africa to D-Day,"

This book is a memoir of Jaeger, who in World War II served on the Landing Ship Tank 400 and went into battle in Normandy, North Africa, Italy and Sicily.

<http://mywebtimes.com/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=406645>

Escaping the Death Camps by wit and luck

<http://www2.seattlepi.com/articles/421248.html>

Driving around the Mediterranean Battlefields

http://www.timesleader.net/articles/stories/public/201005/29/4MMv_news.html

LST 282 in Normandy and Anvil operation

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/article_6526c88c-7122-11df-90c0-001cc4c03286.html

It was sunk by radio controlled bombs – and was witnessed by our 8th AFHS member Urban Kluthe who was in the LST next to it!

Local Man on Ploesti Raid on Newburg Oregon Memorial

<http://www.newberggraphic.com/news/2010/May/28/Local.News/remembering.wwiis.dead/news.aspx>

10th Mountain Division Veteran

http://www.reviewmessenger.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5905:memorial-day-salute-eddie-jokela-served-as-mountaineer-in-wwii&catid=78:school-board

With a Graves Registration unit in Italy

<http://www.republic-online.com/201005269189/news/community-news/paola-veteran-salutes-fallen-comrades.html>

Helped in The Anzio Breakout

<http://www.kbtx.com/news/headlines/96231234.html?ref=234>

From Dunkirk to VE Day

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1766260?UserKey=>

Book review: 'Crossing the Rapido' by Duane Schultz

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/ent/stories/DN-bk_rapido_0530gd.ART.State.Edition1.2963db5.html

Drafted into the Germany Army as a Medic - then Drafted in the US Army as a Medic

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/144642.html>

Awarded the Medal Of Honor

DeGlopper was the only soldier from the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment to be awarded the Medal of Honor

<http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/95250144.html>

Tracking UXBs a fulltime industry in Germany

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10164/1064983-109.stm>

Local Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News

Project “Muddy Hill”

This was a project of doing low level (500 to 2500) recon missions in day and night using state of the art night vision and radar gear tracking and identifying enemy supply columns and men moving down the Ho Chi Minh trail during the Vietnam war.

This history of this project will be the November meeting subject for the 8th AF given by one of the men involved Bob Zafran.

8th AFHS Oregon Archive Update

<http://www.8thafhsoregon.com/archive/Oregon-Chapter/index.aspx#toc>

Items recently cataloged:

- A wartime diary from Stalag Luft 1 – including meals
- Orders, assignments, postcards, training manuals, class books and a diary of a bombardier
- Aerial maps and strike photos
- 93 BG(H) unit book published by them
- Miscellaneous items

Local Aviation Groups

Old Bold Pilots Club

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from around 11:45 till when people leave. Meetings are at The Village Inn Restaurant; 17070 SW 72nd Tigard right at Lower Boons Ferry Road and I-5 on the west side of I-5 at Exit 290. Open to everyone. No fees, no dues, it is designed as a gathering to talk aviation over lunchtime.

ANA – Association of Naval Aviators

--- No meeting in July or August ---

Meetings are the last Thursday of each month from 11:30 till around 2 PM.

Contact: Lt Commander George H. Bickford Sr. USN (Ret) at 503-656-6643. e-mail: bick @ teleport.com

Mailing address: Flying Beaver Squadron #39; PO Box 432; Clackamas, Oregon 97015-0432

Southern Oregon Warbirds Association

If you live in southern Oregon you can meet aviation personnel at the Southern Oregon Warbirds Association (SOWA) <http://www.southernoregonwarbirds.org>. Meeting location: New Life Christian Center, 1723 NE Vine Street. Roseburg, OR and they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. The July / August dinner meeting is on the fourth Tuesday of those months at the American Legion Hall 406 SE Oak Street. 6:30 pm Elmer L Giles, Sec.. POC: Elmer L Giles, 102 Shadow Ranch Lane, Roseburg OR 97470 Cell phone 541 430 4165. Dues \$10 a year.

Breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark

EAA chapter 105 <http://www.eaa105.org/> holds a breakfast at Twin Oaks Airpark www.twinoaksairpark.com on the 1st Saturday of each month. Cost is \$5 and you get to eat in the hanger. Their next breakfast is at the same time as our 8th AFHS meeting on November 7th. It is a pancake breakfast so you could go there and then still get to the 8th AFHS meeting that starts at 10 AM.

Bomber Restaurant Breakfast

On the first Friday of each month people meet at The Bomber Restaurant (find the B-17 along McLaughlin – hard to miss) at 10 AM till noon. The Bomber Complex, Inc. 13515 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd.; Milwaukie, Oregon 97222; 503-659-9306

The B-17 restoration project has its own web site at:

<http://www.b17wingsoffreedom.org/>

Aviation Breakfast Club

This is the Walt Bohrer Chapter and they meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month (3rd Sunday in May; **no** meeting in August) American Legion Post #150 at 8329 SE 89th Ave. in Portland; Exit 16 off of I-205.

Doors open at 9:30 AM and usually meet on the second Sunday of the month. Contact person is Dennis Elms at (503) 626-8131.

“Milk Run” Definition

Milk Run: noun; uneventful, routine. Slang for an “easy mission”. A combat mission where you attack the enemy and get credit for a mission toward your tour total but no enemy fighters, nor any effective anti-aircraft guns, are expected to be firing at you. Word origin based upon the routine nature of delivering milk every morning to people in the US in the 1920s. First referenced in print 1925. See “cake walk”. Antonym of Schweinfurt.

Send Stories and documents to be Borrowed / Archived

If you have items that you wish to share with others, they can be loaned to the Oregon Chapter, scanned and catalogued and then returned to you. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter if you wish. Contact Tom Philo to make arrangements for the documents.

Items in the archive are usually be posted onto the web site (see release form) so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.

Contact Information E-mail and Postal

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

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