

Message from the President

By Stuart Beaton, President OMMC

Happy New Year to all members of OMMC and hope you had a peaceful and restful Christmas. As we start a new year, full of hope for a crazy world to find peace, we trust that the powers that be in Ottawa Canada Revenue Agency, will come to their collective senses, and do what is proper and right concerning our re-registration.

We are looking forward to our Annual Museum Studies Programme and Annual General Meeting being held in Kingston in June (and warmer weather). We have many good ideas and suggestions to make this one of the best programmes that we have ever held. The directors are positive that the direction we took in London is the way to go.

Best wishes for a successful 2014, Stuart Beaton

Message from the Secretary By David Stinson, Secretary OMMC

To all OMMC members, particularly those working directly in a museum. OMMC has an annual program of education grants, total value \$2,500, maximum grant to any applicant in a calendar year \$500, purposes to be devoted to the costs of museum education or specialized training not available through the annual OMMC training courses, or attending a seminar presented by a provincial museum association or major institution related to military museums. More details to follow in an OMMC broadcast message very soon from the Secretary.

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The PPCLI in Achterveld (Part 2)

By Karen Storwick, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

As the civilians waited anxiously, hope was restored when they saw the Canadian armoured car. The messenger returned one hour later with the Patricias in support. A fierce firefight ensued; four Germans escaped but the Patricias captured three others and the church was spared. Sydney Frost recounts, "We got as far as Achterveld. We arrived there just in time; the Germans were about to blow up their church...a Patricia officer was about to enter the tower when a Dutch civilian presented him with 25 pounds of dynamite and several feet of fuse he had found in the church. Those Germans were going to blow it up just for spite....We got there just in time and saved the church."

German soldiers had wired the Achterveld Church with 60kg of dynamite on April 19, 1945. There was a mass scheduled at the Church for 6 pm that same evening. It is pure speculation to suggest that the Germans might have intended to blow the Church while the villagers were inside celebrating mass. But what is certain is that the treasured and sacred Church was to be destroyed as the Germans retreated to prevent the advancing Canadians from being able to use it as an observation tower.



Regardless of the scope of the impending disaster, the village of Achterveld held on to their gratitude for decades after the end of the war. In 2000, they erected a monument in honour of the Patricias with both Sydney Frost and Rudy Deutsch in attendance at the unveiling. The plaque reads, "Canadian soldiers from the Princess Patricia Light Infantry prevented the destruction of the parish church of Achterveld (used as an observation post). We thank these soldiers who saved the heart of our village. May 2000".

Just hours after the PPCLI fired their last shots of the Second World War, history was made in Achterveld. On the morning of April 28th, 1945, Allied and German leaders agreed on a temporary armistice. The people of Holland were on the brink of disaster with widespread starvation after four years of occupation and the German imposed Hunger Winter. Meetings

among high ranking officers took place at the Achterveld School House over the course of two days. Rudy Deutsch recounts, "Our last position was in Achterveld and I took part in the food drop there. I was an interpreter there because I was one of the only ones that could speak German."

It was finally agreed that both armies would engage in a truce while convoys of food and supplies were moved in under Canadian command to relieve the suffering. Operation Manna began immediately on the morning of April 29th. Tons of food and supplies were convoyed in and dropped in gunny sacks at very low altitudes by Canadian Bomber Command.

On May 5th German forces surrendered in Holland. In the advance from the Ijssel River the PPCLI had suffered 5 killed, 34 wounded and 3 missing. Over 700 German soldiers had been taken prisoner. The people of Holland have never forgotten the Patricias and have honoured their contribution to the liberation of the Netherlands with five memorials in the path of their historic advance on April 1945.

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry are preparing to commemorate the Regiment's 100th Anniversary with events across Canada in August and September of 2014 and in Belgium in April 2015. Please see our website ppcli.com for more information or contact Karen Storwick at kstorwick@me.com

You Never Know What's Going to Walk Through the Door By Mel Birnie, Comox Air Force Museum

It is generally accepted by the museum volunteers at the Comox Air Force Museum that they never know how their day will evolve, who will come through the door, what will be brought in and what they will learn. Such a day started with an email received by our Director, Captain Barley, which was passed to Collections Management for action. Judy Hudema's email message stated, "I am caring for a wonderful 93-year old veteran gentleman who has log books and papers etc. and would your museum be interested in receiving them?"

Our reply was, of course, that we would be delighted to look at the items, this being our raison d'etre. Some time passed until the day Comox Air Force Museum representative Steve McNamee greeted Judy at the museum and received, in a "roll on" suitcase, his items for her to donate. Steve started the receipt process, and when he opened the case, to his delight and amazement he discovered inside of it a beautifully bound pilot's log book from Wing Commander John MacKay, including a set of medals featuring a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar. Naturally, this caused much excitement among the volunteers. The name, W/C John MacKay, seemed familiar. Into the books they dove and on to the Internet they searched to find out about this veteran pilot.

F/O J. Mackay, Second World War RCAF Fighter Ace, shares in the honour of the shooting down of the first enemy jet aircraft, had three victories on one sortie and, after having expended all of his The incoming collection ammunition, was forced to crash. He was also one of twelve members of the RCAF to receive the American Air Medal while serving in the Korean War with the USAF. He had a notable wartime record flying about 300 sorties. There has been much written of him, most notably by Hugh Halliday in his book "The Tumbling Sky".



Mackay during the war period

The Comox Air Force Museum is delighted to be the recipient of W/C John MacKay's RCAF memorabilia and to be the place "to let his treasures rest so others can enjoy the history".

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Included in the donation is an autobiographical snippet of his career, recalling his attempts to join the RCAF and get overseas and into the fight. Mackay served in many capacities in the RCAF. He was Chief Flying Instructor of 403 Squadron (1948-49) and accumulated 1,459 hours flying Harvards. He had a period during 1954-55 as OC Pilots Weapons School at MacDonald, Manitoba. Through the "Golden Years" in Europe he had 882 hours on Sabres while serving as CO on a number of squadrons, and Chief Operations Officer at No. 2 and No. 4 Wings and served an exotic tour at the Winter Experimental Establishment at RCAF Station Watson Lake, Yukon. He retired in February 1969, after a twenty-seven year career in the RCAF.

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RCEME MUSEUM TO OPEN LATE 2015

By Andrew Nellestyn, Co-Chair RCEME Heritage Committee

The RCEME Museum has a new home! After a long absence occasioned by the closing of the RCEME School at Barriefield, Ontario, members of the Corps, past, present and future, now have a place to reminisce and reflect on their manifold accomplishments. It will also provide an exceptional venue to share our proud history with the Canadian public.

The pieces are now in place to begin the construction process of the RCEME Museum Phase I to be located at CFB Kingston. The RCEME museum has been accredited and funded by a DND Directorate of History and Heritage, Non-Public Funds, Museum Development Fund grant. The Corps has also become a member of the OMMC. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and Defence Construction Canada has been hired to assist with project management. The Statement of Work for the interior design is in its final stages and the Request for Proposal is now in the hands of interested contractors. The official opening is scheduled for late 2015.

One of the guiding principles in developing the RCEME Museum's design concept is illustrated by a recent *Special Report: Museums* which appeared in the 21 December 2013 edition of *The Economist*. In the section entitled "Temples of Delight", it states: "... the more successful [museums] have changed out of all recognition. The range [of subjects] they cover has broadened spectacularly and now goes well beyond traditional subjects such as art and artefacts, science and history...[N]ow they have to enchant visitors rather than lecture them. Museums offer narratives in their exhibitions, provide context for objects by linking them to other people and other places [such as through the Web and social networks], work with digital experts to enable visitors to participate [interact] as well as watch and listen, and create innovative public programmes [community outreach] to bring in the young and inexperienced." The impact of the digital age, of tablets and smart phones, is upon us and is here to stay; developing ever more sophisticated applications to enlarge and enhance our social, entertainment and educational environment. Victoria Newhouse's iconic book *Towards a New Museum*, first published in 1998, is still considered by many museologists as the authoritative how-to work on the evolution of museums.



The MC&E Museum in Kingston, Ontario

The RCEME museum project is managed by the RCEME Heritage Committee with oversight by D RCEME and the RCEME Council. The project has two phases: Phase I which consists of shared space in the new extension (completion date late 2014) of the Military Communications and Electronics Museum; and Phase II which will consist of a stand-alone RCEME Museum adjacent to the MC&E Museum, to be completed in 2019, in time for the RCEME 75th Anniversary or shortly thereafter. The combination of the stand-alone RCEME Museum and the MC&E Museum will constitute a Military Technology Park to showcase RCEME's and C&E's history and heritage. The complex also serves to illustrate the role of technology in the CAF and its beneficial and extensive impact on readiness and operations and Canada's science and technology leadership at home and abroad.

Phase I of the RCEME Museum, consisting of shared space in the new extension to the MC&E Museum, is an outstanding example of the common interests and strong partnership which exist between the Communications and Electronics Branch and the Corps of RCEME. Both organizations epitomize the critical role played by engineering, technology and combat support in the CAF. The marriage is thus most fitting and complimentary.

The leadership and untiring support provided by the C&E community (MGen Dave Neasmith, BGen (Retd) Pep Fraser, BGen (Retd) Michel Charron and Maj (Retd) Mike DeNoble) combined with that of the Corps of RCEME (MGen Ian Poulter, BGen (Retd) Peter Holt, BGen Nicolas Eldaoud, BGen Alex Patch, BGen Scott Kennedy, Col Sebastien Bouchard, Col Jean-Francois Prévost, Col Al Benson, LCol James Bower, LCol Yves Turgeon, LCol (Retd) Ken Jones and Capt Gary Dzeoba) made this a reality. The support and guidance provided by DHH's Michel Litalien and Capt (Retd) Yves Lesieur were and continue to be invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Mention must also be made of the indefatigable effort and creative work that Col (Retd) Gilles Nappert and Col (Retd) Tom Temple are dedicating to the Statement of Work for the interior layout and exhibit concept and design for Phase I of the RCEME Museum, which is of the highest calibre. They have recently been joined by Maj (Retd) Gord Goddard and Capt (Retd) Yves Lesieur both of whom bring many years of experience in museum design and operation to the project. Many others have assisted in the project. To them we also owe a great debt of gratitude.

Examples of the excellence and relevance of what can be achieved are much in evidence and can be seen on the existing MC&E Museum's website www.c-and-e-museum.org. Much work remains to be done and the A-Teams are in place to see it to completion. The RCEME Museum project is indeed a timely celebration of the re-institution of the designation ROYAL to the Corps' name. The RCEME Museum will serve as a tribute to our proud history and heritage and as a bridge between the past, present and future.

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Going Digital: Vimy Ridge Map Initiative

By Dave McCarey, Military Communications and Electronics Museum

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the capture of Vimy Ridge, the Military Communications & Electronics Museum Education Program is developing an interactive, 3-dimensional, computerized model of the battlefield. The finished product will function like a website, offering a unique educational resource based upon period trench maps, unit war diaries and other documentation. Enhancing the viewer/ participant's understanding of the capture of Vimy Ridge, links to digitized documents, graphics, audio and video files will be included in the final product.

While the MC&E Museum Education Program will highlight the role played by the Canadian signallers during the battle, it is the goal that this project will include all of the Canadian units that participated in the attack in 1917. Consequently, all OMMC museums are offered the chance to send information which can be included in the 3D model. Once completed, all OMMC museums will also be invited to use the finished product for their respective sites. Once launched, this 3D model will be the premiere educational resource for understanding the significant role Canada played at Vimy Ridge.

In order to achieve this goal, a collaborative partnership with the Computer Science Department at Nipissing University has been established. This institution has created 3D interactive maps for their Ancient History and Classics Department and already has the framework to complete the project. Using NASA WorldWind software, they will be able to create a realistic 3D model of the battlefield, incorporating topographical features such as trench works and shell craters. The Dean of Nipissing University, Dr. Ann-Barbara Graff, is enthusiastic about this project partnership as it fits into the goal of their Digital Humanities program.

What I am requesting from willing participants are *high resolution* digitized copies of the 1:10000 scale maps and aerial photos (with grid references) of the battlefield. To begin with, we are interested in 51b NW, 51c NE, 36b SE and 36c SW. If you have these in your collection and you are willing to scan them for the project, let me know. If there is a cost involved please contact me and we can make arrangements. Multiple and varied copies of the above mentioned maps from different museum sources would be advantageous as each map may offer unique and specific information. If you know of other institutions which may have these docs, I would appreciate any guidance or suggestions.

After the 3D model is constructed, we would like to incorporate as much geographically-based material into the model as we can. For example, grid references of significant events and locations which pertain to your respective unit(s) taken from any reports or war diaries highlighting HQ locations, noted engagements etc. would serve to enhance the finished resource and present a more detailed picture of the various units' participation. If you do not have copies of your own unit war diaries, they may be available on the Canadian archives website.

The next phase will be to incorporate photographs, document extracts, and personal stories into the 3d model which the user can "click" and learn more about Canadians at Vimy Ridge. As indicated above, the goal is to get this up and running by 2017.

If you would like to participate in this project or have any questions, comments or advice please do not hesitate to contact me.

New Brunswick Aviation Museum Celebrates Sabre History By Kevin Anderson, New Brunswick Aviation Museum

The New Brunswick Aviation Museum (NBAM) is one of the newest museums being created in Canada and the goal is to preserve the military and civilian aviation history of the province. A location at the former Royal Canadian Air Force/Canadian Forces Base Chatham in Miramichi, New Brunswick, is the preferred site, whether in an existing building or in a new facility. The museum is a provincially incorporated, not-for-profit organization and we are currently working on obtaining charitable status.

We began operating in the summer of 2013 and had a display at the Atlantic Canada International Air Show (held at the former Chatham airfield in August) to generate interest in the museum and to highlight the story of the Golden Hawks. To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the final performance year of the Golden Hawks, a reunion for air and ground crew was arranged. We were fortunate to have four pilots, one of the team's commentators and five ground crew members, as well as family members of pilots and ground crew members. For some, it was the first time in 50 years that they had been together. New Brunswick has a great aviation past, boasting the invention of the variable pitch propeller, the first woman in Canada to obtain a commercial pilot's licence, the home of the Golden Hawks and so much more. It is time we capture that history and share it with the world.

One such aspect of that history is being captured through the Sabre Legacy Project. The Canadair F-86 Sabre was the premier fighting aircraft of the 1950s and early 60s. In 1959, Canada's first national aerobatic team was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada and the 35th anniversary of the RCAF. The team ultimately flew the F-86 Sabre and formed at RCAF Station Chatham. This now legendary team was named the Golden Hawks. They called Chatham 'home' for 4 of the 5 years they existed before moving to Trenton, Ontario, in 1962. The F-86 Sabre played a very important role in Canadian and New Brunswick aviation history and was an integral part of the story from beginning to end. Chatham as the 'home' of the Sabres, including the Golden Hawks, and this is where they should be commemorated and where their contributions to world security be recognized.

As the pilots and ground crew involved with the Sabres grow older, the Sabre Legacy Project aims to capture this fascinating history before there is no one left to tell the story. Its mandate is to conduct video interviews with former F-86 Sabre pilots (including members of the Golden Hawks), to capture their stories of training at 1 (Fighter) Operational Training Unit at RCAF Station Chatham, NB, activities in Europe and any other Sabre-related events, including exchange duties and Korea. The acquisition of Sabre-related artefacts via donations for future museum exhibits will also be explored.

Anyone interested in contributing to the NBAM or Sabre Legacy Project, please contact NBAM Executive Director, Kevin Anderson, at nbamdirector@outlook.com.





Above: Golden Hawks ground crew members -Mick Nordeen, Bill Briggs, Norm Gray and John Elmose (B. Briggs photo)



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New Exhibit to Honour Those Who Served in Burma

By Pat Murphy, Vancouver Island Military Museum

For most Canadians, history of the Second World War is limited to what took place in Europe, yet many Canadians served in the Pacific and South East Asia with distinction. The Vancouver Island Military Museum will soon be adding a tribute display to honour the Canadians that served in Burma with the RCAF, the Fleet Air Arm, the Royal Canadian Navy and the RAF.



Squadron Leader Birchall

Squadron Leader Leonard Birchall OBE, DFC, CD, is credited with finding the Japanese fleet as it steamed towards the Island of Ceylon in April 1942; this was the same fleet that had successfully attacked Pearl Harbour just four months prior. Birchall, at the command of a RCAF Catalina patrol bomber based in southern Ceylon was in the twelfth hour of his patrol when he spotted specks on the horizon, after a closer look he discovered a massive Japanese battle fleet that included five aircraft carriers, two battle ships and numerous cruisers and destroyers. He was able to get a radio message back to Columbo to warn the Royal Navy before being shot down by carrier based Japanese fighters. He was recovered from the water by the Japanese, taken prisoner and spent the

balance of the war as a POW. He was named the savior of Ceylon by Winston Churchill for this deed and later Churchill remarked that Birchall's discovery was one of the most significant events of the Second World War.

Also serving in the Pacific theatre was one of the last Canadians to die in the Second World War. On August 9, 1945, Lt. R.H "Hammy" Gray RCNVR flying off the Royal Navy Carrier HMS "Formidable" Gray, from Trail B.C. He was piloting his Corsair fighter attacking a Japanese ship in Onagawa Bay, northern Japan. Gray was successful in sinking the ship but lost his life in the process. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions that day.

F/L James Whalen DFC, of Vancouver B.C., flew both Spitfires and Hawker Hurricanes with the RAF. Sixty percent of all Canadians that served with the RCAF when posted to England found themselves sent to Royal Air Force Squadrons. This was the case with Whalen. After service in England with Spitfires, he was posted to a Hurricane Squadron in Ceylon and served in India and Burma. On April 18, 1944, while leading twelve Hurricanes on a strafing and bombing run, Whalen was killed in action.

Our Burma display, dedicated to these underappreciated individuals is scheduled to be completed in February.



Flight Lieutenant Whalen

An Engaging Paradox: How Leadership, Innovation and Entertainment Make a Better Museum

Extracted from a presentation by Maya Hirschman, Secrets of Radar Museum

Museum engagement is something I'm deeply passionate about. It isn't about flashy exhibits or gadgets. Being an engaging museum is a philosophy of best practice. We're in this field because we love museums.

Think about the first museum you remember visiting. Think about what made it stand out. Is there a feeling associated with it? Chances are, you remember it because of an emotional response to something or someone. We grown-up museum staff have come to believe that what makes museums so important are things like collections, aesthetic choices, and learning opportunities. I'm not saying that stuff isn't important. It is.

However, if we want people to return, we need to think about their emotional responses, how their curiosity is peaked, the personal connections that are made. Visitors, like any customer or client, want: value for money, good quality products, good customer service, they want to be part of the conversation, and to feel like they're listened to and understood.

We hear it all the time. Museums need to become audience centred. No, that doesn't mean we lose control over scholarship or content. It means including opportunities to interact, share, and respond. Give people the motivation to visit. Changing exhibitions, innovative interpretation, and creative programming certainly help, but that alone won't do. Excellent customer service is essential.

From the front steps outside to the the security guards inside, visitors need to feel like we want them there. Over protective collections managers aside, we *do* want them there. We have to help put them in a museum-visit frame of mind. Do that and they'll be more inclined to view their visit positively.

Provide the stimuli and support to engage the public directly. This means the display design, quality of interpretation and content. We have to think about our audiences, their needs, their diversity. Create content that doesn't alienate, talk down, or assume the visitor shares the same view of the world. Invite people to enjoy themselves and smile like you mean it.

Work with your staff at every level to revise your museum's strategic vision about this. People are what make museums matter. If we want our museums to be engaging, we need to foster our own culture of sharing, relationship-building and respect.

A final thought on museums as Muppets: I really love the Muppets. Here was this amazing cast of characters, all wildly different from each other, with diverse backgrounds and interests, pulling together to create this provocative, sometimes controversial, often profound, and always entertaining variety show. But Muppets are lifeless puppets. Standing beneath them, arms up their butts, was an equally diverse group of men and women, from all different backgrounds, all intelligent and deeply creative, making the magic happen. We are the puppeteers that breathe life into our museums.

Engagement is up to us.

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First and Second World War Memorabilia Available

By Bob Darnell, The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Museum

The Chisholm family is hoping for a suitable military museum that would care to display a collection of their family photos and medals from the First and Second World War. There are five professionally framed sets of the Chisholm military family and their medals. The collection consists of pieces representing:

- Lieutenant Hugh A. Chisholm, enlisted 1914 into the 23rd Btn., CEF.

- Captain Hugh A. Chisholm, MC, (1st Regiment, Canadian Grenadier Guards 1915) with gold Dress Pin MC, then with the 3rd CAN INF.

 Capt./A/Major Hugh A. Chisholm, MC & Bar, 3rd Btn. Inf. Picture mounted with Medal and Citations.
Pte. John Walter Chisholm, MCG-203, PPCLI. kia Mt. Sorrel 1916 (Younger brother of Hugh A.) Mounted with WWI Medal

- F/O Walter John Calverley, RCAF, KIA 1943, Bay of Biscay. (Nephew of Hugh A.)

This fine collection is available to who ever best perpetuates 23rd Btn. CEF or 1st Regiment, Canadian Grenadier Guards. A tax receipt to the donating family would be appreciated. Please contact Bob Darnell, Canadian Scottish Regiment Museum, Victoria (250) 363-8753.



Training Volunteers About Your Museum By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

Like all museums, we are reliant on donations from 'the outside'. We tend to think of donations as artifacts or financial contributions, but we all have one thing in common that we simply could not work without – the time and dedication of our volunteers.

Different museums have vastly different volunteer programs depending upon their needs. Some are small core groups of a few versatile individuals, whereas some larger museums have volunteers that are part of different departments and focus on only one or two projects or tasks. Even with these differences, it is important for volunteers to have a standardized training so that they can serve the museum better.

This training needs to be more than simply how to turn the museum on, or how to sign out the keys. It is important that each member of your museum's team, staff, Board and volunteers included, is made aware of the mission or mandate of the museum and the objectives, goals or desired outcomes. Why is the museum here? For whom is the museum existing? How are we meeting our objectives?

Knowing these answers means that any volunteer, whether in education, collections, restoration, etc., will know why they are doing the projects that they are doing, and will have a collective focused mindset on furthering the museum's mission. Understanding this, volunteers can feel that they can actively contribute towards improvements or new ideas that could enhance your museum operations.

This training also gives you the chance to discuss important topics such as health and safety, insurance, confidentiality and other important personnel issues that volunteers often do not receive because they aren't considered 'employees'. This is important for museums as responsible employers, but again also works to the advantage of making the volunteer understand that they are a legitimate member of the institution. Even if they have volunteered or have even been staff at another museum, it is essential for volunteer training to include all aspects of your specific workplace.

Having a strong team of volunteers not only means that the work being completed in your museum will be higher quality, it also means that you are likely to draw in more volunteers because of a reputation of having a cohesive group of valued and educated individuals. This will ultimately enhance your programming, exhibits and community presence.

We cannot do it without these individuals who dedicate so much of their own time to our causes. By providing a formal, standardized training to each individual, museums can help them understand the deeper contextual aspects of running a museum , and allow your volunteers to feel more connected to your institution.

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Featured Artifact

A "run-of-the-mill" donation has rendered a remarkably complete badge belt. A souvenir belt made by William Henry Kay (R/N 700328), 101st Battalion (Royal Winnipeg Rifles) ca. 1916-1919 and donated by his descendants to the Royal Alberta Museum, September 2013. The leather stable belt measures 112 by 8 centimeters and is adorned by 71 pieces of insignia, the vast majority being Canadian. Image courtesy Royal Alberta Museum (2014).



OMMC Membership Reminder

Please remember to complete your membership form - annual fees go up if the form is received after March 31, 2014. The form is available online at www.ommcinc.ca

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