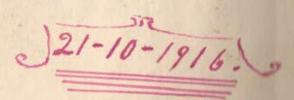
His life & Litographs

Pee. E. HORTON

2/2 MC.FA.

RAMC.



A brief history of the life of

## Andrew Ernest (Ernie) Horton

1894 - 1987

and his autograph book.

Text by Hilary Tolputt Edited by Mark Hourahane

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#### Family Background

Andrew Ernest Horton, known as Ernie, was born at 2, Tweed Cottages, Cheriton (Folkestone) on 12 March 1894. His parents were William Andrew Horton (1866 – 1946), and Sarah Ann Horton, nee Clout (1872-1947); his father's occupation on the birth certificate was given as "wheelwright". In fact, Ernie's father, William Horton, was the third generation of Horton wheelwrights.

Ernie's maternal grandfather was Peter Clout who was a farmer, and it is known that before the houses were built in Clifton Crescent and the Leas in Folkestone, Peter's father used to take the cows down a cliff path from the Leas to pastures on the Lower Sandgate Road each day. (A cliff walk down from the Leas is still known as the Cow

Path.)

For the first seven years of his life, Ernie lived at 2 Tweed Cottages, All Souls Road, the road later being renamed Broomfield Road. Cheriton was a rapidly developing suburb of Folkestone and his father placed an advert in the 1898-99 Pike's Blue book of Folkestone and District, for Horton and Petts, Coachbuilders and Smiths, Stanley Road, Cheriton. The forge stood on the corner of Stanley Road and Cheriton Street (now Cheriton High Street).



The forge as it appeared advertised in 1984 following the retirement of Mr. Bernsley

Ernie's younger brother, Alfred Bertram (Bert), was born in January 1895, his sister, Winifred, in May 1896. By the time of the 1901 census, the family's address is given as 30, Hawley Street, Margate, Thanet, and William's occupation as Fruiterer, Green Grocer. Could it be that William had found there was insufficient employment for wheelwrights and farriers with the coming of the motor car and what appears to be an abundance of forges in Folkestone?

They returned to Folkestone in about 1908 and were living at 104 Foord Road where William's profession is again given as Fruiter and Greengrocer in the street directory and it is known he had a shop at 104 Foord Road. Meanwhile Peter Clout, Ernie's maternal grandfather was living at Martello Road and the 1903 directory gave his occupation as Market Gardener.

The 1911 census has William living at 106 Foord Road and his occupation was listed as Fruiterer, with Sarah his wife assisting in the business. Young Ernie and Bert's occupations are given as Market Gardening and Assisting. Eva Baker, Ernie's sister born in 1917, confirms that before the First World War, Ernie worked at a smallholding on the East Cliff, Folkestone, supplying vegetables to the locality and his brother Bert delivered the produce.

According to the 1911 census, Winifred, Ernie's sister was at school and another brother Arthur James had been born in 1906 at Northbourne. Helen Frances was born in 1912. William appears to have given up working as a Fruiterer during the First World War and according to Eva Baker, his sister, went to Bristol to work in aircraft manufacturing. It was not uncommon for skilled workmen, with a good knowledge of carpentry to do this. During the war, two more daughters were born,

Hilda May in February 1915 and Eva Kathleen in 1917.

At the end of the war the family were living at 32 Ethelbert Road, Folkestone, and William seems to have returned to working as a wheelwright. The 1924 Kellys Directory of Folkestone lists Horton and Reeves as motor coach builders with a workshop at Norringtons Yard in Broadmead Road. During the inter war years, William is variously described as a wheelwright or farrier in the directories. The forge where he worked was listed at Vale Brook Mews in Broadmead Road and it is believed that his son, Arthur James, worked with him during some of this time. In 1933, according to the local paper, William and Sarah were living at 3 East Cliff, Folkestone, where the chimney caught fire as they celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary. Subsequently they moved to 58 Archer Road. During the Second World War, when the civilian population in Folkestone was evacuated, William lived in Redhill where his daughter Eva was living. William and his wife returned to Archer Road, Folkestone after the war and William worked at the Broadmead Forge until his death at the age of 80 in 1946.

#### Ernie Horton and the Great War

While his father went to Bristol during the Great War, Ernie enlisted in the 2/2 Home Counties Field Ambulance on 3 January 1915, his regimental number being 495388 and his rank "private". He kept an autograph album which was signed by some of his patients and colleagues. Along with this album, there are 5 sheets of paper, headed England, January 1915-December 1916, IN BETWEEN EVENTS. Ernie recorded the long marches which he undertook, as well as reviews by the King and Lord Kitchener, signalling instruction, a lecture on gas poisoning and other training. He took an interest in the places he saw including Windsor Castle, Eton College, Runnymede, the National Gallery, the aquarium and pier at Brighton. There were test marches for three sections," A"," B" and "C" and Ernie appears to have been in "A" section.

Appointed a nursing orderly in July, 1915, he recorded being on nursing duties at Cornwall Hall, Sevenoaks, VAD, 76 in October 1915. His note for December 25th reads that there was a big spread in Ward 1, Bon Bons etc. He concludes his notes for 1915 with the observation that all billets were kind to us and that it rained almost every day and hard.

On January 1, 1916, Ernie was on duty at St John's Hospital – presumably also in Sevenoaks and on January 21, he records that Bert (presumably his brother, Alfred Bertram) was called up. Ernie then left Sevenoaks Station for Ipswich where he was in a private billet. There was a Zeppelin Raid on Ipswich on April 2nd and then on May 4th, "A" section Nursing Orderlies started duty at the East Suffolk and Ipswich

Hospital. On May 19th, a convoy of 70 wounded came in – surgical. The next month on June 21 a convoy of wounded came in at midnight and Ernie finished at 2am noting that there were some Canadians and also New Zealanders.

On July 13, he left Ipswich for Warminster, Salisbury Plain, going to the Village of Sutton Veny where he camped in 13 Hut. On July 14, he assisted in unloading about 250 German wounded prisoners at the station who were sent to Sutton Veny Hospital Camp, near his camp. This throws light on how Ernie had the autographs of several German prisoners in his album. He notes the funeral of a German prisoner on 27 July and a further convoy of wounded Germans arriving on 29 July. On August 5th he records a second German funeral with the bag pipers playing. The funeral on 27 July was probably that of H. Jaraczewski who died on 25 July or possibly that of Karl Burkhardt who died on 27 July and the one on 5 August possibly that of Georg Hintze who died on 2 August or Kurt Hoffmann who died on 4 August. The graves of the German prisoners of war at St John the Evangelist Church, Sutton Veny were exhumed and buried at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, following an agreement with the German Federal Government to bring the graves to a central cemetery and the names are taken from the list of those originally buried at Sutton Veny, now at Cannock Chase.

Following his note about the arrival on August 25 of 160 German wounded soldiers, more training follows including some 22 miles of route marches, night exercises and nursing training. On November 29 Ernie played checkers with a German. Embarkation leave started and he visited the National Gallery and the Science Museum in London. Winnie (Was this Ernie's sister, Winifred, or his friend Bramble's sister?) came to Central Station for his send off, and Ernie was made a

second class orderly with pay.

We know from their War Diary that the 2/2 Home Counties Field Ambulance left Southampton for Le Havre on 24 January 1917 arriving at Le Havre the following day. They marched to number 2 camp SANVIC where they stayed the night and from Le Havre went by train to Villers L'Hopital, Auxi-le-chateau. Ernie's diary stops once he left England but he left a map showing the battle lines in 1917 and black lines indicating the places he had travelled, mostly on foot, during his sojourn in Belgium and France from 1917 to 1919. These can be compared with the War Diary of the 2/2 HCFA.



Ernie was discharged from the army on 18 July 1919. His certificate of employment during the war states that his trade before enlistment was "carter" and "has been a most excellent nursing orderly and has often assisted the Dispenser. Bears a very good character." The object of the certificate was to assist the soldier in obtaining employment on his return to civilian life. In fact, Eva, Ernie's sister recalls that the labour market was flooded as the troops returned home. Ernie took whatever work he could and learnt to drive in the hope of increasing his chances. At Folkestone docks, men would line up at the gates each day and the overseer would choose whoever he wanted to work that day. Ernie went to London to look for work and spoke of being mobbed when he

came out of one premises because the crowd waiting to find work thought he had just secured a job, although he had not. Eva also recalls Ernie received 5 shillings a week and wonders whether this was dole money, and an extra one shilling as he had been in the army which had to be verified by a church minister.

After this fruitless search for full time work. Ernie and his brother Bert, who had been in the Pioneer Corps during the war loading and unloading ships at Purfleet near Tilbury, decided to emigrate to Canada. Their aunts Lizzie and Sarah (William's sisters) were already in Canada working as ladies' maids. Aunt Lizzie managed to find a flat for them all to share and jobs at the Montreal Heat and Power Company. They had to have accommodation and work before they were allowed into Canada. The brothers sailed from Southampton to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the "Royal George", arriving on 14 May 1920 and giving their occupations as motor drivers.



Ernie met his wife Mary, who was also English, in Cartierville where she was working as a lady's maid. They married in 1926 and had one daughter, Grace Mary, known as Molly. He worked at the Montreal Heat and Power Company until his retirement and was at the company during the Second World War. Ernie died at the age of 93.

It was the wish of his daughter, Molly, and sister, Eva, that Ernie's autograph album and medals should be returned from Canada to his home town of Folkestone,



The following pages are from Ernie's autograph book.

It was common around this time for autograph books to contain poems, stories and sketches.

Where the handwritten text of the original document may be more difficult to read, annotations have been provided on the following page. When reading this digital edition, these pages may not be laid out side-by-side. Illustrated pages have not been transcribed, but the illustrator will have an entry in the index of soldiers found at the end of the book.

### DISCLAIMER

This autograph album is very much a reflection of the time in which it was written and the circumstances of those who signed it,

It is regretted if some of the language used and attitudes displayed may cause offence.

The Folkestone & District Local History Society does not agree with some of the sentiments expressed, but is of the opinion that it is worth including all pages of the original album for historical accuracy and to give a full picture.



# The World War 1914 - 1916



In memory of -

Johann Peuckert German soldier

1914-1916 war



Rutseds the door a voice was heard The curtain was thrust ander are you Raine was his greeting word No we are D A 2 we replied The paid a few words, not very politic the thought he was ill, on faces went while we asked him his trouble, to this he replied Tunn our you blighters, two stretchers outside AND A ROUND Jan. 34 Ragle Trinets. Flanding.

Outside the door a voice was heard
The curtain was thrust aside
Are you RAMC was his greeting word
No we are WH2 we replied

He said a few words, not very polite
We thought he was ill, our faces went white
We asked him his trouble, to this he replied
Turn out you blighters, two stretchers outside

Jan 3rd Eagle Trench Flanders

> H Y Maynard Sgt 2/2 H.C.F.A. RAMC

When friends you've trusted prove untrue And coldly turn their backs on you And this dull world seems full of carry And you have any cash to spare For-get-me-not 29/0/17 2109501 Con Boda & & HN

When friends you've trusted prove untrue
And coldly turn their backs on you
And this dull world seems full of care
And you have any cash to spare
For-get-me-not

Chas Boddy 470954 2E? EHN France God made the lettle negger He made them in the night He made them in a hurry But for for to paint them white. Day Sor of by God made the little niggers
He made them in the night
He made them in a hurry
But forgot to paint them white

Pte. Pask 352361 2/7 Col. Rgt. Miracourt

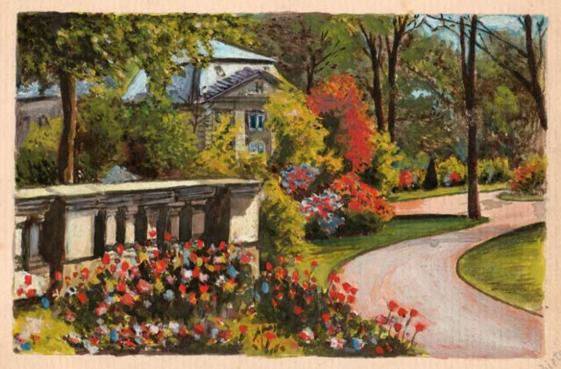
Ervillers. France. Read see that me but not my got Up will I love if is Love for And fou Love for for Love for be Down & fou lif me four you will Dwen Moore. -Owen Moore, he went away, Owing more than he could pay, Owen Moore, came back one day, . thing more \_ 24/7/17

Read see that me but not my got Up will I love if is love for And you love you for love for be Down & you if me your you will

21-6-17 FB Larkins 2/2 H.C.F. Amb.

"Owen Moore."
Owen Moore, he went away
Owing more than he could pay,
Owen Moore, came back one day,
Owing more -

24/7/17



Oxto Ristrull









Mary had a little watch She swallowed it one day and now the's taking ev 9's To pass the time away. Gunnier J. W Grant. 291. Byde RFA. BEF. France

Mary had a little watch
She swallowed it one day
And now she's taking No 9's
To pass the time away.

Gunner S.W. Spaul 291 Bgde. R.F.A. BEF. France



Chemists That (Small Boy to Anseitant) 2 Perny worth of Seichams Pelle Please. Aisistant) Dill you have then unaffed who Small Boy) Do you think I am going to Det Markay (281264) like · ) y your al

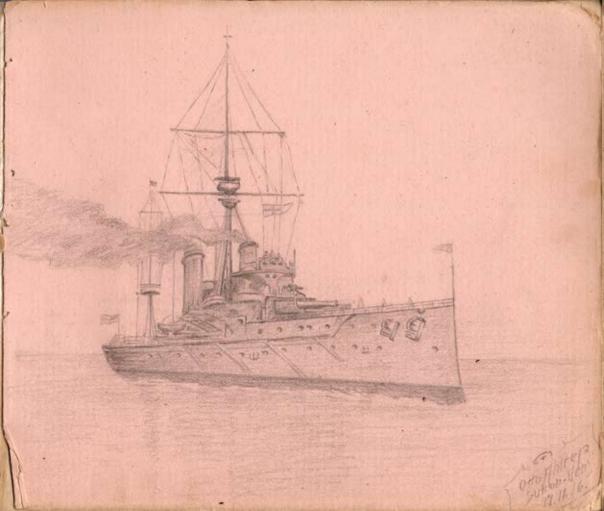
. Chemists shop

(Small Boy to assistant) 2 Pennyworth of Beecham's Pills Please

Assistant) Will you have them wrapped up

Small Boy) Do you think I am going to roll them Home

L/cpl Mackay (281264) 1/7<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers B.E.F. France





I sweat that I died and to heaven! I went.

They asked me my name and from where it was (sent.

I said In from Jolkistone, they said your from where "
where"

Thease step enside your the first one from Thate

Fla B May cocks.

2/2 H. C. F. H 12. a tr. C

I dreamt that I died, and to heaven I went
They asked me my name, and from where I was sent
I said I'm from Folkestone, they said you're from "where"
Please step inside your the first one from there

Pte. B. Maycock 2/2 H.F.C.A. R.A.M.C. Foreman to bricklager decending ladden)
What have you brought those bricks down
again fh. (Bricklager) Sure, it was dinner toine before I got to the top. R. W. Chez. 471902 29-6-17 2/12 th London Rangers B. C. J. Frank

(Foreman to bricklayer decending ladder)
What have you brought those bricks down
again for.

(Bricklayer)
Sure, it was dinner-time before I got to the top.

29-6-17

R.W. Elvey 471902 2/12th London Rangers B.E.F. France



Man was made first,
Then Woman,
Then Tobacco to
Console



as man come into this wide world He ham seems quite decided on It sticks to him through out his life And only by death divided from a woman comes, her way to tread a name attatched tool like a fable But seems quite continued to drop it in life and hitch on to a man and hil fabel. Ch woman Aff A Blanble August 1 - 14

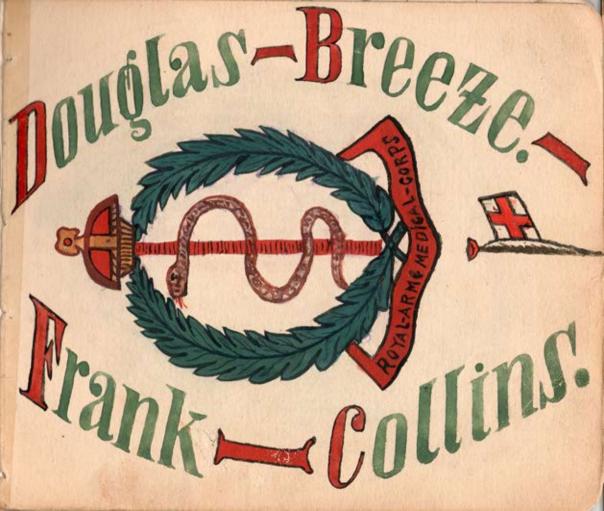
As man comes into this wide world His name seems quite decided on It sticks to him throughout his life And only by death divided from.

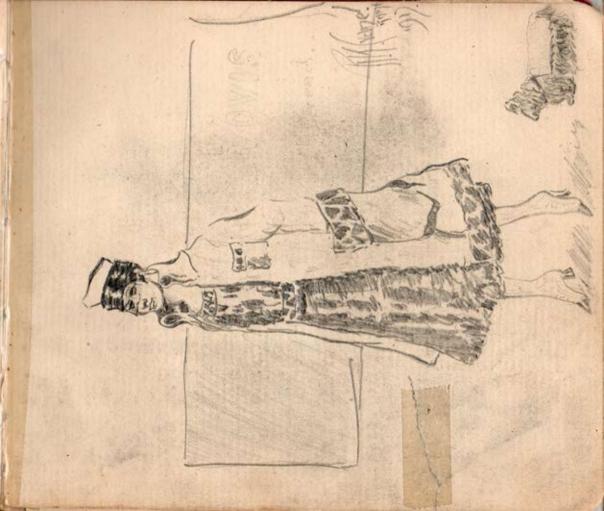
A woman comes, his way to tread
A name attatched too, like a fable
But seems quite contented to drop it in life
And hitch on to a man and his "label".

Oh! Woman

August 1-17

Alf A Bramble







## In memory of the Warminster Hospital

from Jonaz-Amrhein



Ill good boys should love their I so good Rure grown tisters Hat I have other feefle's disters Better Glan my own He Baffrest line of my life Nos in the agains of arather mans Wife Me Moller Mile 2-1-14 Eagle herel

All good boys should love their Sisters
I so good have grown
That I love other people's Sisters
Better than my own

The happiest time of my life
Was in the arms of another man's Wife
My Mother

J. Wild 2-1-18 Eagle Trench



Gande to Explish. I himsed her - and she serateled, because Inhanced her most bewitching charms Putricle, the cross fock thick & deep -The hold was let with finglight plons De oliphily etimed, I dia not pause, and as I watched all raution floor, a common euchiniteash for head The was a Verican Cat, you need. I longed to take her in my aims and wideweast the missletse Say pretly Phyllis, fast aslay. that wiged my opportunity Thyllis 14 1.16.

## Phyllis

The hall was lit with firelight glow Outside, the snow fell thick and deep And underneath the mistletoe
Lay pretty Phyllis, fast asleep.

A crimson cushion 'neath her head
Enhanced her most bewitching charms
And as I watched all caution fled,
I longed to take her in my arms.

She slightly stirred, I did not pause,
But seized my opportunity,
I kissed her - and she scratched, because
She was a Persian cat, you see!

14-1-18



City in Saxonia.

O.Risterbier

autograph. You ash for my autograph to have let me weete al gou that hay yet have a place in the Light autis mounted are whally given If those that can show for what they have striven But of times a strine get loft in the Dark toated he name on a Leat in the pack Tound in the Thamel Some fanil leneth. fou nevel, can till to here let me scribble My nume that often may Rad leke a Riddle. It, last what they gade my bechapt it will plan that kuh received it, afterall, was a man Sujul, y Healt Kunks

Autograph You ask for my autograph, so here let me write As one who may yet have place in the "Light" Autos requested are usually given By those that can show for what they have striven But oft times a striver gets lost in the "Dark" Looses his name on a seat in the park Found in the Thames some ????? remark. You never can tell, so here let me scribble A name that may often read like a riddle It's just what they gave me, perhaps it will plan That he who received it, after all, was a man

August 1-17





## Staff Sergeant Karl Sachs

Vizefeldwebel is an NCO rank in the German Army. The literal translation is vice field usher. There is no equivalent rank in the British Army, but it is more akin to Company Sergeant Major.



As months and years go fassing by And on this fage you cast your eg Think of a soldier most sincere Who wrote her kind remembrance

As months and years go passing by
And on this page you cast your eye
Think of a soldier most sincere
Who wrote his kind remembrance here

Pte. V. Rogers Nº 2916 2.2 H.C.F.A. R.A.M.C. France 9 ay 2 nd 1918

From barren lands and desert Sarcels From Storms on land and Dea From great big guns and My Surger C. Stay of S Good Lord Deliver me. god;

From barren lands and desert sands

From storm on land and sea

From great big guns and womens tongues '

Good Lord deliver me.

57565 Gunner E. Bradley 177 M.G.C. Corp Rest Station Maricourt 15/7/17

The devil sends the wicked winds The blow young ladies skirls knee But God is good ands sends the To blind the bad mans eye Pisa whill your The devil sends the wicked winds

To blow young ladies skirts knee high

But God is good and sends the dust

To blind the bad mans eye

FWF Pig ® Whistle Ypres 15-12-17





01: 12 1916.

Thought for

Somewhere ? 15/12/17 The good Old & E's are viviers a sappers, Om "a. S. E are Hot on Heappers The Prior of the Line I am sure you'll agree (Bow - wow) One the "Good old 2/2" Do. B. M. W. The Control of the Co

### Somewhere? 15/12/17

The good "old R. Es" are miners @ sappers,
Our "A.S.C" are "Hot on Flappers"
The "Pride of the Line I am sure
you'll agree ("Bow-wow")
Are the "Good old 2/2nds R.A.M.C.

(Billy)
W. J. Ayling,
2/2nd H.C.
Field Ambulance
Pig & Whistle
Ypres
Flanders



· Somme Lines Bunny Horton went a swimming In the river somme, buckings didn't stop him grinning Till I came along but darby kelly" How he paddled along, Mosquitoks made him soft as Jelly, Burny said "So long" Quarker' led the Tonely heroes Old Joe was in the year. Bramble's theories were a washout I was after been (napoo, fini.) Homeward up the path they wandered, Skell holes by the score, Made them travel pretty slowly

#### "Somme" Lines

Bunny Horton went a swimming In the river Somme. Duckings didn't stop him grinning Till I came along. One hand under his "darby kelly" How he paddled along. Mosquitoes made him soft as jelly, Bunny said "So long" -"Quarker" led the lonely heroes "Old Joe" was in the rear "Bramble's" theories were a washout I was after beer (napoo, fine,) Homeward up the path they wandered, Shell holes by the score, Made them travel pretty slowly, Through poppies red as gore

Oh Lore! Somme Lines

In the mount of September Teps While stationed near this place, There, one I shall remember For his ever churche fore. The reason why I do not know; Suffere to say he was so francy In that A.D. S. called "Dukallow". The decesing worm was his delight, and as the wounded were brought in Rechance by day as well as night, the'd greet them all will that swing go lend who Tweet him every day! I know to him with a smile, I gay - Will I'll kell you that when yet lear

In the month of September While stationed near this place, There's one I shall remember For his ever cheerful face.

H

He was known to all as "Bunny" The reason why I do not know: Suffice to say he was so funny In that A.D.S. called "Diehallow".

III

The dressing room was his delight. And as the wounded were brought in Perchance by day as well as night, He'd greet them all with that sunny grin. IV.

And when I meet him every day, Greeting me with "Cheer oh Steve"! I turn to him with a smile & say -

- Well I'll tell you that when I get leave.

H. Sayers Sgt 2/2 H.C.F. Amb. R.A.F.C.

By hook or by brook Ith be last in this Book By hook or by crook
I'll be last in this book

Chas W.N. Boddy 470954 2/12 Londons The Rangers France 29/6/17

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Folkestone & District Local History Society are grateful to Ernie Horton's Family for arranging for his autograph album to come back to Folkestone from Canada and, in particular, Ernie's sister, Eva Baker, Eva's son, Roger and daughter-in-law, Kathleen, Eva's daughter, Joyce and her niece, Ros McCarthy.

The transcription of the album, scanning and putting the PDF onto the website was one part of the Local History Society's exhibition on World War I at the Folkestone Museum in 2018.

We thank the following for their contribution to this project:

Brian Adams, Annie & Peter Bamford, Mark Hourahane, Franziska & Julia Pfaar, Alan Taylor, Hilary Tolputt and Vince Williams.

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