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HARIM TOK TOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
 AND
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
 EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.



VOLUME 39 MARCH 2005

President's Up-date....

A MESSAGE FROM PNGVR MT HAGEN.....

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

*Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
 "C" Company Ex Members Association*

The acting President/Secretary Mr Patrick Ambelye on behalf of "C" Coy Ex Members wishes to convey our deepest condolence to Mrs Harbeck, children, comrades of NGVR and PNGVR, friends and relatives on the untimely passing of:-

*The Late Major Peter Harbeck, ED.
 Our Commander*

Our Prayers and thoughts are with you, Comrades and his family and relatives in this time of sorrow, and may they find peace and comfort from the Good Lord.

*May his Soul rest in peace.
 Lest We Forget*

*(Signed) Patrick Ambelye
 Acting Secretary*

It is with much sadness that I inform our members of the passing of Major Peter Harbeck, ED on the 7 December 2004, after a long and gallant battle with cancer. To his wife Lucy and family I extend our deepest condolences at their tragic loss.

Peter will be well remembered as Company Commander of "C" Company PNGVR in the Highlands. Peter has also been an Industrial Chemist, Patrol Officer, PNG Police Officer, Coffee grower and businessman. He was also an aircraft pilot of note in the PNG Highlands. Upon retirement at Cooroy, he became an active member of Coast Guard, "Noosa" and took part in many assists and rescues

His role as Company Commander, "C" Company, PNGVR is reflected today via the recent formation of

HAVE YOU PHONED THROUGH YOUR REGIMENTAL DINNER BOOKING ?

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
 and
 Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles
 Ex Members Association Inc.**

All correspondence to:-
 The Secretary
 PO Box 287
 EVERTON PARK Qld. 4053

Ph/Fax: 07 3311 7480 Mobile:- 042 456 2030
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 Col Gould—Editor

the "C" Company PNGVR Ex Members Association, Mt Hagen in mid 2004, with a membership base from Mt Hagen, Goroka, Banz and surrounding areas.

Peter Noel HARBECK



13/5/26—7/12/04

Major Peter Noel HARBECK, ED

13/5/26 - 7/12/04

**EULOGY
Memorial Service**

By Colonel H N Green, MBE.ED (Rtd)

I am honoured today to carry out the family wishes for Major Peter Noel Harbeck, ED who was born in Deniliquin, NSW on the 13th May 1926.

I say to Lucy, Peter's wife of 22 years, and Tommi, their son, my sincere sympathy. I also extend such sympathy to Brett, Grant and Janet and Neri and Tia.

Peter's life was governed by that magnificent country, Papua New Guinea, as was many of us here today. Initially I knew Peter when he was stationed at Samarai, where incidentally our PNGVR Secretary, Colin Gould was once the Collector of Customs. During the vicious Mount Lamington earthquake on the Papua mainland, Peter rendered conspicuous humane aid and work and was officially commended by the PNG Administration.

Relocating to the Highlands of PNG, particularly in the Mt Hagen area, Peter became a coffee planter and ran the Shell and Gibbs Sepik Airways agencies. During his life in the highlands of PNG Peter Harbeck was the Officer Commanding "C" Company PNGVR, with platoons at Goroka, Banz and Mt Hagen. During his years of service in PNGVR, our service paths continually crossed and bonded into a solid friendship up to this week some 50 years on.

Peter was a loving and loyal husband and an efficient PNGVR Officer. He was selected to active attachment in Vietnam and was awarded the Efficiency Medal. Further to successful command of such unique PNG Highland soldiers was indicative of Peter's character, and even up to last week, our Secretary was receiving correspondence from former national members of "C" Company in the Highlands, showing some 30 years on, their respect and remembrance of their former Commander. Truly exceptional credit to Major Harbeck.

Following the founding of our NGVR / PNGVR Association in 1989, Peter assisted me with advice and brotherly affection over the past 14 years. Well done Peter.

BUSH DINING NIGHTS

Barry and Pam Wright cordially invite members and friends to join them for the Bi-annual Bush Dining Nights to be held at 176 Kurrajong Road, Jimboomba.

SATURDAY 16th July 2005

SATURDAY 19th November 2005

Cost: Estimate \$30-00 pp

Camp the night or just come for the evening.

Ph: Barry Wright 07 5546 9865
Bob Collins 07 5526 8386 or mobile 041 383 1397

RING NOW AND SECURE YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE

31 ROYAL QUEENSLAND REGIMENT—TOWNSVILLE

**NGVR / PNGVR Annual Award for Military Excellence
For a soldier below the rank of Sergeant**

On Tuesday night the 7 December 2004, Juergen Raasch and Brian Jones represented the Association for the annual Award for Military Excellence to a soldier of 31 RQR in Townsville.

The evening was a success with a Private Herbert taking out the Association's Award.

Our congratulations to Pte Herbert and to all the soldiers of 31 RQR who took part in the year's training. We would also like to thank Juergen and Brian for efforts in representing the Association. Well done.



(Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles) in Rabaul and served through to the Regiment's disbandment in 1973. Rudy moved through the ranks to Sergeant and his Army number was 860478.

At The time of Papua New Guinea Independence in 1975, Rudy was transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation in Brisbane where he has lived ever since. Rudy was one of the early members of our Association when it was formed in the late 1980's.

THE SOLDIER'S HANDKERCHIEF:-

Name:- O'NEIL, Barry Richard David (World War 2 Roll)
Service: Australian Army
Service No: VX19523
Date of birth: 30 March 1920
Place of birth: Ararat, Victoria
Date of Enlistment: 6 June 1940
Locality on Enlistment: Box Hill, Victoria
Place of Enlistment: Caulfield, Victoria
Next of Kin: O'NEIL, William & O'NEIL, Beatrice Laura of Box Hill Victoria
Date of Death: 1 July 1942
Rank: Corporal
Posting on Death: 2/22nd Australian Infantry Battalion
Prisoner of War: Yes
Roll of Honour: Unknown
Casualty type: Commonwealth War Dead
Memorial Reference: Panel 16
Cemetery: Rabaul Memorial

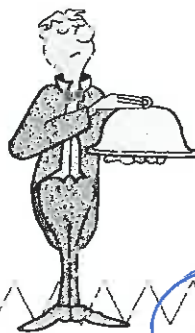
Rudy dictated his story to Vice-President Phil Ainsworth on 10 January 2005. The Soldier's details were kindly obtained by Anne Dow, the sister-in-law of Jay Donaldson who is putting the Association's web site together.

2005 REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

DATE: Saturday 23 April 2005
VENUE: United Services Club—Wickham Terrace, Brisbane
TIME: Assemble from: 1815 hours
Pre-dinner sherry: 1900 hours
Dinner: 1930 hours
COST: \$ 69-00 pp includes Sherry / 3 course dinner / table wine / Port / Coffee / and a great night.
DRESS: Mess Dress / ANZAC Day Dress / Dinner Suit
BOOKINGS: Ph: Col Gould 042 456 2030
Doug Ng 07 3349 2525

Please make your dinner booking no later than 10 April
Make cheques payable to 'NGVR/PNGVR Assoc'.

Members who have already phoned in, please re-confirm.



Peter was given a PNGVR Memorial Service with the Poppy Parade being conducted by Major Bill Kelly, MBE.ED (Rtd) and Peter's youngest son, Sapper T Harbeck—Incident Response Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers. Sapper T Harbeck also conducted the Soldiers Farewell and gave his Father the Final Salute. Peter would have been very proud indeed.

We also lost two of our NGVR "Gallant 500" members recently.

NGVR Bruce Fraser NG 2421 (NGX 419) 19/8/14—5/7/04 just one month short of his 90th Birthday. Earlier in May 2004, Bruce and wife Rene celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Bruce's NGVR recollections appeared in Harim Tok Tok in July/December 2003.



**Bruce & Rene Fraser
60th Wedding Anniversary
May 2004.**

Bruce was always a gentleman, always willing to help others. This continued even at the Salvation Army Nursing Home. His wonderful sense of humor helped him through whatever life dealt him, especially the last 13 long years after a stroke that left him unable to speak. His greatest sadness was his separation from Rene for the last 6 years and he eagerly looked forward to his weekly and sometime twice weekly afternoon visits with Rene.

Our sincere condolences to his devoted wife Rene and loving daughter Yvonne and their extended family.

I was also saddened to learn of the passing of NGVR Fred Still, NG2386, a couple of weeks ago. RO's show Fred being taken on strength on the 27/1/42 and being transferred to ANGAU on the 8/8/42. Further information is being sought.

Whilst this issue of Harim Tok Tok was being compiled, our Association has suffered another sudden and unexpected loss. On the 13 February, 2005, Major Bill Kelly, MBE.ED passed away in hospital.

On the 17 February, family members and NGVR / PNGVR personnel gathered to bid their comrade, Bill, a final farewell. Major Kelly's casket was draped in the Australian flag and an Officer's ceremonial sword was laid on the top along with his service awards. A beret, chrome bayonet, and the Battalion and Papua New Guinea flags completed the formal arrangements. Major Bob Harvey-Hall, RFD.ED flew up from Melbourne and presented a PNGVR Tribute to Major Kelly.

'Bill Kelly was a special friend of mine. I first met him in 1953 at Murray Barracks, Port Moresby, the Headquarters of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. Bill was one of the first Volunteers of the PNGVR, which was formed in 1951, and, along with other dedicated members, was part of the backbone of the Battalion as it evolved from a white man's Citizens Military Force unit into a wonderful cosmopolitan Battalion which began when we were allowed to enlist men of Chinese and Malay background and then the national citizens of Papua New Guinea. Bill Kelly was foremost in Port Moresby during those sometimes, for PNGVR, turbulent and interesting years.'



Major Bill Kelly, MBE, ED
15/6/27 - 13/2/05

In his PNGVR years, Bill was involved in studying for promotion examinations, attending military courses in Australia and at Murray Barracks, being part of examination boards and attending annual camps at such places as Goldie River, Mt Ambra, the Lae Showgrounds, in the foot hills at the back of Igam Barracks and at the last PNGVR camp at Finschhafen.

He also attended the 1969 camp at Igam Barracks, Lae, when the Battalion Colours were presented. Captain W Kelly, ED (Efficiency Decoration) was the Commander of No. 4 Guard on that brilliant day.

The then Capt Kelly went south for twelve months and transferred to the Queensland University Regiment on full time duty in the ARA as Adjutant to that Unit. He told that he took on quite a job, in that some of the Officers did not have the work ethic to the degree he had and he said that before he left to go back to PNG, he felt that he had won the battle. Bill returned to Port Moresby and resumed his work with his beloved PNGVR.

Bill volunteered for full time duty, CMF, in Vietnam and was posted to 1 Task Force, Nui Dat and attached to 9 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment where he was involved in operations in the field and the general wartime duties of an Infantry Unit.

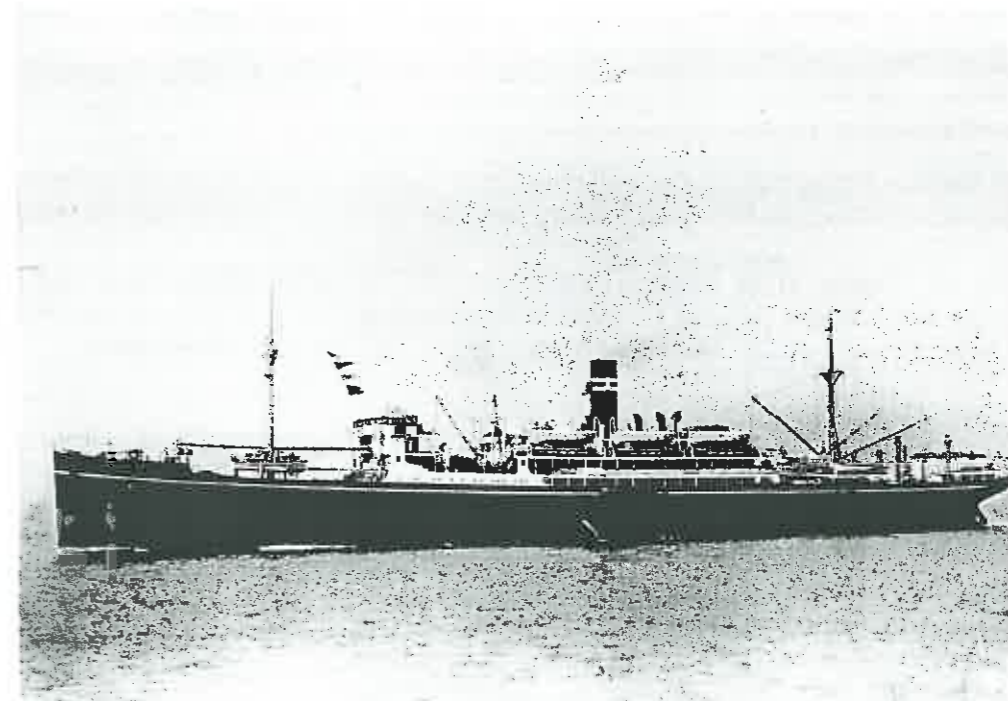
I was Battalion 2 I/C when Lt Colonel Bill Harrington, as a matter of courtesy, told me he had applied for the award of the MBE (Ordinary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for Bill. In part the award preamble stated.....we have thought fit to nominate and appoint you an ordinary member of the military division of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire..... This excellent work covered Bill's work with PNGVR and with the community, and this brings me to say that he was a most humane person in many respects; in the middle of the night the phone would ring at home and one of Bill's soldiers or a P&T employee would say, perchancemy wife has had a baby son and we would like to call him Bill.... Or someone would phone to say that so and so was in jail and would you please do something about it....Bill never hesitated to assist.

He remarked, during one of our infrequent telephone discussions, that the PNGVR motto 'Per Augusta ad Augusta— Through Trials to Triumph—was most fitting. When he thought of the early days in the formation of the unit, and then the great day when the Colours, with NGVR Battle Honours, were presented to the Battalion.

On the evening of Saturday 5th February, I phoned Bill to confirm some details of a story on the PNGVR Colours: We also talked about the mysterious burning down of the Q Store at Murray Barracks. Then he said, words to this effect. "I am going into hospital on Sunday for some exploratory surgery." I said that I would keep in touch through Aileen (Kelly) and see you on ANZAC Day. Bill replied, "I will talk to you by the end of the week and get off the phone as you are paying for it." Bill always told me to get off the phone after about 10 minutes of chin wagging.

Bill's last position with PNGVR was as Support Company Commander, a job which he performed in his usual efficient manner. He was a dedicated CMF soldier.

Well done Major Kelly. You were at the birth of PNGVR in Port Moresby in 1951 and you were in Canberra in 1974 when the Battalion's Colours were handed over for safekeeping to the Board of Trustees of the Australian War Memorial. We will miss you at our AGM's, our Reunions and on ANZAC Day and other times when PNGVR fellows are together.



'MONTEVIDEO MARU'

Built in Nagasaki in 1927 for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Shipping Line's South American service - 7,236 tons. Diesel powered. Commandeered by the Japanese Navy at the outbreak of war and sent to Rabaul in June 1942 to transport Australian and allied soldiers and civilians back to Japan.

The '*Montevideo Maru*', with its POW's on board, sailed from Rabaul late June 1942 and was torpedoed by a US submarine at 0230 hours on the 1 July 1942, off the Luzon coast in the Philippines. The ship quickly sunk with the loss of all 1036 prisoners of war on board. However this is another story.

Rudy and his friend worked for the Japanese for a few months until heavy bombing levelled the area. The constant bombing made the family move to the hills south of and a half-hours walk inland from ^{Ratongor} lapamgor, which is about 20 miles from Rabaul on the north coast. They spent time in their gardens and dodging allied bombs. The Japanese knew they were there and Rudy, with a Malayan boy, had the daily job of collecting the roll from lapamgor, calling the roll in the area and returning it to the Japanese Police. Fortunately no one from Rudy's family was killed or injured in the bombing. Friends and members of other families were not so fortunate.

Left out piece about Rudy's father

Rudy recalls the times they would creep into Japanese tunnels in the area and steel gunpowder. They would make rope from coconut husks and use this with the gunpowder to burn off Japanese rice that was growing in the hills. The trick was to creep into the 2-3 ft high rice fields, place the powder in a good position, and connect it to the fuse of coconut rope, light it, and RUN. By the time the gunpowder fired and burnt the rice crop, they were well gone.

During this period Rudy saw many executions of Australian, American and New Zealand airmen by the Japanese. After the war, a Colonel Horton from War Graves, visited Rabaul and Rudy was able to show him 32 graves of executed airmen. These airmen were either beheaded, shot or bayoneted to death.

Rudy also showed Colonel Horton where the Australians embarked for the '*Montevideo Maru*', the location which was later marked by a suitably inscribed Japanese gun. It was still there when Rudy left for Australia in 1975. Perhaps someone can confirm whether it is still in place.

After the war, Rudy was educated at St Josephs College in Rabaul and later apprenticed with and worked for the Department of Works and Housing and then the Department of Civil Aviation as an electrician. About the time of receiving his Australian Citizenship in 1964, Rudy joined the PNGVR



**RUDY BUCKLEY'S WAR
and the
'MONTEVIDEO MARU'
Rabaul**

RUDY BUCKLEY - PNGVR

Rudy was a 12 year old boy living in Chinatown, Rabaul, when the Japanese invaded on the 22nd January, 1942. The invasion was swift but the situation settled very quickly as the Japanese built up Rabaul as a major base.

Rudy, of Irish and Tolai parentage, was employed with a Chinese friend by the Japanese to look after their cooking fires along the Coral Wharf Road, which was about 3 miles from their home. Their job was to fan the fires to minimise the smoke. They worked from 3.00am through to midday for a weekly payment of a sock full of rice each. Rudy had to speak Japanese, which he had mastered by the end of the war.

One day near the end of June 1942, Rudy and his friend were attracted by Australian soldiers being marched and trucked to the nearby wharf in Rabaul harbour. The Japanese were forcing the soldiers into barges to be taken out to the Japanese Naval Prisonship, 'Montevideo Maru', which was anchored out in the harbour, for transhipment to Japan as slave labour.

The Australian soldiers were subdued as they were being beaten by the Japanese guards with rifle butts and bayonets.

Rudy and his friend moved down to the wharf where the soldiers were standing prior to embarkation. One particular young soldier saw Rudy and his friend, smiled and threw them a handkerchief. Rudy quickly picked it up and kept it. They could not speak with him because of Japanese intimidation. The handkerchief was of a light colour with some dark stains and contained the name of the soldier and his service number, written in indian ink. Details of the soldier may be found at the end of this story.

After the invasion many of the Australian soldiers (NGVR, 2/22nd and attached units) were captured around Rabaul and the south coast of New Britain. They were housed in tunnels on the harbour side of Tunnel Hill. It was from here where the prisoners had marched.

Rudy kept the handkerchief, as it was a valuable memento of the Australian soldiers who had come to Rabaul to protect them from the Japanese. It was not until much later that Rudy spoke about the handkerchief, and, in 2004, presented it to our Association to be part of our historic memorabilia collection. The background of the soldier who owned the handkerchief is being further research to see whether there are surviving relatives. Steps are also being taken to preserve the handkerchief.



Major Bob Harvey-Hall (Rtd), WO 2 Mal Zimmerman (Rtd) & Sgt Gil Harvey-Hall (Rtd) at the funeral service.

A glance at the calendar shows that ANZAC Day is once again approaching as well as our annual Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion. Please don't forget to contact the Secretary and submit your potential "reservation" for the Regimental Dinner on Saturday night the 23 April. We need an indication of numbers s soon as possible so that this annual formal function can proceed.

I would like to commend our Vice President (Media & PR) Phil Ainsworth, who along with Denis Samin and external Associates have been working hard to put together a web site for the Association. When on the "net" keep an eye out for www.pngvr.com The site is still under construction but should be completed in the near future. Well done.

As you know, we have a new committee elected at the last AGM, and I am proud of the integrity, loyalty and efforts of these men who have devoted themselves to the aims of the Association and its members. We have a strong committee who have developed a great team spirit.

As you may know, I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer. I moved from my residence at Coomera for a short stay with daughter Nicola at Cannon Hill. My son Joshua has moved up to the tablelands and is living with Denis and Lisa Samin who are providing parental care. I have now relocated to my other daughter's home in Millaa Millaa also on the tablelands where I shall probably reside for the immediate future. This now gives me access to some of our members in far North Queensland, e.g. Vice-President John Mudge and Denis Samin, and other members on the coast in the Cairns area.

The Committee has shown its confidence in me by asking me to remain as President. Once I have had time to settle down in Millaa Millaa I will be in a better position to evaluate my future, in the meantime its business as usual for the Association.

Congratulations to two of our NGVR members who recently celebrated their 90th birthday— Neville Swanson on 19 th October 2004 and new member Frank Wilson on the 9th December 2004. Well done fellows.

I wish you all good health and a great ANZAC Day—please don't forget to support our annual Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion at the United Services Club.

Harry N Green
PRESIDENT





CHINESE MEMORIAL BELL

On the 13th September, 2004, Joe Fisk attended a function at the Sunnybank Shopping Centre where the Hon. Gary Hardgrave, MP, Federal Member for Moreton and Minister assisting the Prime Minister, presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Cathay Community Association Inc., to erect a Memorial Bell within the precincts of the Fortitude Valley Chinatown Mall.

The Memorial will remind Chinese Australians of the role their forefathers have played in Australia's Armed Forces, both in time of war and in peace, and instill a proud reflection of themselves as Australians and of their Australian Chinese heritage.

Photo: Cheque presentation from left:- Ken Chung; Barry Wright, Peter Chow, Jessie Chee, Cherri Lou, John Holland, Doug Ng, Peter Chow, Ralph Seeto, The Hon. Gary Hardgrave, MP and Joe Fisk.

The Association would like to thank Members of the NGVR / PNGVR Association who attended this important milestone and Joe Fisk for his active support of this project. Our congratulations to all those involved in this Memorial Project.

VALE

It is with regret that we advise that PNGVR member, 860141 W02 Alan BOOTH passed away on Wednesday 23 March 2005 at Southport, after a long illness. Alan's funeral will be held on Thursday 31 March at the Metropolitan Funeral Parlor, Corner Nind and Davenport Streets, Southport at 1.30 pm.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to Alan's brother and PNGVR member, Harvey BOOTH and their family

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 30 th Anniversary of Papua New Guinea Independence | 1975 - 2005 |
| 60 th Anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in New Guinea | 1945 - 2005 |
| 90 th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing | 1915 - 2005 |

ANZAC DAY BRISBANE MARCH Monday 25 April.

Assemble from: 9.30 am
 Assemble point: Left side of George Street facing Queen Street
 March position: NGVR / PNGVR position number 27
 March commences: 10.00 am
 Dress: ANZAC Day dress with full medals
 Civilian with white shirt / jacket / tie and hat & full medals

NGVR Memorial Service: Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square immediately after the march. All requested to attend.

Let's make ANZAC Day 2005 our best turn out yet.



ANZAC DAY RECEPTION Monday 25 April

Venue:- Ground Floor Exchange Hotel
 Crn Edward & Charlotte Streets

Time:- From 11.15 am
 Cost: \$20 pp at the door
exact money at the door please.

Includes: Limited complimentary beer, wine, lollie water, sandwiches and finger food.

Trade Store: For Q Store items and subs will operate from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm

Jeeps: Loading point is in Elizabeth Street.
 Look for John Holland with the NGVR sign.

30TH PAPUA NEW GUINEA INDEPENDENCE DINNER / DANCE

Saturday 10th September 2005 - Queensland Irish Club - Brisbane
 Hosted by the Australia-Papua new Guinea Association Inc.
 Why not mark this in your diary now and join the PNGVR table

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