BORDER BUGLE

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City

Civil War Round Table of Kansas City
4125 NW Willow Drive
Kansas City MO 64116

An IRC 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization
Website- http://cwrtkc.org/
Join us on Facebook!

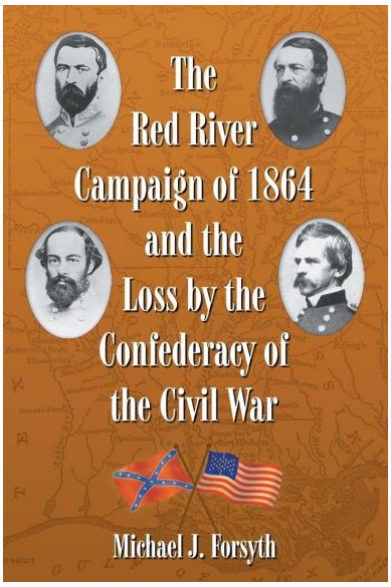
579th Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Milburn Golf and Country Club
7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204
Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a plated dinner at a cost of $35.00 per person.
Reservations are required in order to attend the dinner meeting.

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, October 7th.
To make a dinner reservation, please contact Marlene Natoli:
mailto:marnatoli@att.net
Phone: 913-764-1336

October Program



At our dinner meeting on October 15th, **Dr. Michael J. Forsyth**, associate professor and director of the Department of Command and Leadership at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, will give a program about leadership during the Red River Campaign, which took place in 1864 in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre of the Civil War.

Dr. Forsyth's discussion will focus on how leaders affect the outcome of events through their interactions with each other. While he will cover the events of the Red River Campaign very broadly, Dr. Forsyth will drill down more on the human interaction that led to critical decisions and the ultimate outcome for both sides.

Dinner Meeting Reservations and Payments

- **A reservation is required in order to attend the dinner meeting. All reservations must be submitted to Marlene Natoli by Tuesday, October 7th.** This will ensure that an accurate count can be submitted to the Milburn Country Club on Wednesday, one week ahead of the dinner meeting, as specified in our contract with the Country Club.
- Please e-mail or call Marlene if you are planning on attending. To make a reservation, call Marlene at 913-764-1336 or e-mail her at mailto:marnatoli@att.net If you send Marlene an e-mail and do not get confirmation back, then you do not have a reservation.
- **Please note that the cost of a dinner is $35.00 per person.** If you make a reservation, but are not able to attend the dinner meeting for any reason, you *must* contact Marlene Natoli by either phone or e-mail prior to the reservation deadline to cancel. You are responsible for the cost of your meal if you made a reservation, did not attend, and did not cancel before the deadline.
- You can pay for your meal at the dinner meeting or by mailing a check to **Dick Titterington**. Make check payable to the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Dick's mailing address is: 4125 NW Willow Drive, Kansas City MO 64116.
- You can also pay for your dinner using a credit or debit card. The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City is now accepting digital payments. This process is simple to use and secure. The Round Table uses the Square Digital Payment Processing System. Square charges the Round Table a fee for this service. The Round Table passes this fee on to its members who choose to use this service. The fees are slightly more if you pay online than paying in person at our dinner meetings. For more information or to see a schedule of the processing fees charged, visit our website https://cwrtkc.org/digital_payments/

Dinner Menu

Milburn Golf and Country Club will serve the following meal at the October dinner meeting: Boursin Chicken, green beans, and roasted fingerling potatoes. Dessert will be bread pudding. All dinners are served with house salad and Milburn house dressing, sliced bread, iced tea, water, and coffee.

Gluten free and vegetarian meals are available with advance notice. Please advise **Marlene Natoli** if you require a gluten free or vegetarian meal when making your reservation. Also, if you have a food allergy, Marlene requests that you please be very specific on what items you can't eat on that month's menu when making your dinner reservation.

This Month's Speaker

Dr. Michael J. Forsyth (Colonel, U.S. Army retired) is currently an associate professor and director of the Department of Command and Leadership at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth KS.

His forthcoming book titled *The White House and Pentagon at Odds* from McFarland Publishing is due out in January 2026. He has four previously published books with McFarland Publishing including: *The Red River Campaign of 1864*, *The Camden Expedition of 1864*, *The Great Missouri Raid*, and *A Year in Command in Afghanistan,* he is the editor of *The Confederate Military Forces in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1861-1865: A Study in Command* published by Savas-Beatie, and author of *God Gave Us Dogs to Teach Us,* published by New Harbor Press. In addition, he has published many articles in history and military affairs in several publications. He holds a PhD in war studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.

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Book: *The Red River Campaign of 1864 and the Loss by the Confederacy of the Civil War*

The following is a summary of Dr. Forsyth's book *The Red River Campaign of 1864* from the Amazon Books website:

"The Union Army's Red River Campaign began on March 12, 1864, with a two-pronged attack aimed at gaining control of Shreveport, Louisiana. It lasted until May 22, 1864, when, after suffering significant casualties, the Union army retreated to Simmesport, Louisiana. The campaign was an attempt to prevent Confederate alliance with the French in Mexico, deny supplies to Confederate forces, and secure vast quantities of Louisiana and Texas cotton for Northern mills.

"With this examination of Confederate leadership and how it affected the Red River Campaign, the author argues against the standard assumption that the campaign had no major effect on the outcome of the war. In fact, the South had--and lost--an excellent opportunity to inflict a decisive defeat that might have changed the course of history. With this campaign as an ideal example, the politics of military decision-making in general are also analyzed."

September Speaker - Dr. David Meyers

Last Month's Program

At our dinner meeting on September 17th, Round Table member **Dr. David Meyers** gave an outstanding program on Civil War medicine. Attendance at the dinner meeting was 52.

Dr. Meyers is a retired professor of cardiology and preventive medicine at the KU School of Medicine. He has been interested in Civil War history since childhood. He spent two years in Richmond VA studying the war (and cardiology at the Medical College of Virginia).

Dr. Meyers has published 143 medical research papers, several medical book chapters, a book reviewing 134 Kansas City restaurants (published in 2003 - most have since closed), and is finishing a book on the 17 military hospitals in St. Louis during the Civil War (with help from **Dick Titterington**).

He joined the Omaha Civil War Round Table in 1981 and the Kansas City CWRT in 1995 (with a ten-year hiatus with the St. Louis CWRT). He has been a medical re-enactor since 1990 - innocently declining the lead part in the second scene of the movie "Dances with Wolves" to his regret. Dr. Meyers was a founding member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons and has lectured widely on Civil War Medicine.

Dr. Meyers displaying his Civil War medical instruments.

Upcoming Civil War Round Table Programs

Our monthly dinner meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month except for December which will be the second Wednesday of the month.

- **Novmember 19, 2025: David N. Duncan,** President of the American Battlefield Trust, will be giving a program about Battlefield Preservation.
- **December 10, 2025: David Von Drehle** will be giving a program about his book titled: *Rise to Greatness – Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year*.
- **January 21, 2026: Ralph Monaco** will give a program titled: "Scattered to the Four Winds, General Order No. 11 and Martial Law in Jackson County MO, 1863."
- **February 18, 2026: Eric Smallwood** will be give a program about the Wakarusa War.
- **March 18, 2026: John Hopkins** will give a program about the Battle of Gettysburg 50th Anniversary Reunion in 1913.
- **April 15, 2026: Dr. Chris Mackowski**, Editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War will be our speaker.
- **May 20, 2026: Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan** will be our speaker. His topics are: "Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves" and "More Than an Eagle on the Button: Black Lives beyond the Battlefield."
- **June 17, 2026: Kellie Gormley** will give a program titled: "Cease Firing! Life and Death at Swope Manor (an inn in downtown Gettysburg)."
- **July 15, 2026:** Round Table member **Dick Titterington** will give a program titled "Gunpowder Girls: Tragedy at Civil War Armament Factories."
- **August 19, 2026: James Hessler** will give a program about the dispute between Union Generals George Meade and Daniel Sickles over command of the Union troops at the Peach Orchard during the second day at the Battle of Gettysburg.
- **September 16, 2026: Robert J. Amsler, Jr.** will give a program about railroads during the Civil War and their use as both strategic and tactical assets.
- **October 21, 2026: David Jackson** will give a program titled: "Lockdown: Outlaws, Lawmen, and Frontier Justice in Jackson County MO."

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UMKC Course on Missouri's Civil War

Dick Titterington will be offering a third SPARK course titled: "Missouri's Civil War 1861-1864." The classes will start on Wednesday, September 17th at 1:30 p.m. and run for six weeks. Topics covered include Jennison's Jayhawkers, Grant in Missouri, the Battles of Independence and Lone Jack, Eads' Ironclads, Marmaduke's Cavalry Raids, Quantrill's 1863 Lawrence Raid, Order Number 11, Shelby's Great Raid, Blacks in Blue, the Paw Paw Rebellion, and Enslaved Missourians' Struggle for Freedom. You can sign up by visiting the following website: https://lifelongspark.org/

Member News

Mary Griffin had to have her right leg amputated above the knee on August 23rd. She sent the following e-mail on September 10th, which provides an update regarding her surgery and rehab:

"Dave,

"Just wanted to let you know that my therapy has gone very well, and I am scheduled to go home Friday morning [September 12th]! I actually can't believe I am able to leave rehab this soon.

"I assume Suzee [Oberg] told you exactly what I had done, and I don't mind who knows. They will find out as soon as they see me for sure!!

"If you don't know, I had my right leg amputated right above the knee due to a severe infection in my knee that had the replacement in 2022. There was a process that might have saved my leg, but it was very complicated, long, and required multiple surgeries. My surgeon and my family agreed amputation was the best decision and I feel fine about the choice we made. I have been in good spirits throughout the last three weeks and worked hard at my therapy.

"Phil and I hope to be back to CWRT by the October meeting, and I don't see any reason this would keep me from being CWRT secretary next year.

"Thanks to everyone for their concern, prayers, and cards. Hope to see you soon.

Mary Griffin"

Please keep Mary and her husband Phil in your prayers.

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Battlefield Dispatches #814

Jennison's Jayhawkers

During the Civil War, in the summer of 1861, all of the Union and Confederate States were organizing regiments of soldiers for the ongoing conflict. In Kansas five regiments had been created and the following advertisement was used to recruit soldiers for the First Independent Cavalry Regiment that's nickname was "Jennison's Jayhawkers." This regiment was named after its commanding officer, Charles R. Jennison, and consisted of many abolitionists and free state supporters who despised and hated the citizens of Missouri. As soon as it was mustered in and became part of the military forces of Kansas it went on a continuous rampage and raids of destruction, killing, robbing and plundering in Missouri. This was justified as retribution, retaliation and revenge for the many acts of violence and murder committed by the "Missourians" upon the citizens of Kansas during the era that was known as "Bleeding Kansas" from 1856-1860.

Also included in this column are two brief "after action" reports that describe the "DESTRUCTION" and "BURNING" of the towns of Dayton and Columbus, Missouri by Jennison's Jayhawkers. These reports are located in Vol. 8 of the Official Records of the War of the rebellion on Pages 45 – 47.

"INDEPENDENT
KANSAS
JAYHAWKERS

Volunteers are wanted for the 1st Regiment of Kansas volunteer Cavalry to serve our country

DURING THE WAR.

Horses will be furnished by the government. Good horses will be purchased of the owner who volunteers. Each man will be mounted and armed with a sharp's rifle, a navy Revolver and Saber. The pay will be that of the regular volunteer.

Volunteers from Northern Kansas will rendezvous at Leavenworth. Those from southern Kansas will rendezvous at Mound City. Volunteers singly, parts of Companies and full companies will be mustered into the United States Service as soon as they report themselves to the local recruiting officer at either of the above places. Upon arriving at Mound City volunteers will report themselves to John T. Snoddy, Acting Adjutant. Those who rendezvous at Leavenworth will report themselves to D. R. Anthony, Esq. of that place.

C. R. JENNISON,
Colonel, 1st Regiment Kansas Vol. Cavalry.
MOUND City, August 24, 1861."

Burning of Dayton, Missouri

[To] "Brigadier John Denver,
Commanding Troops in Kansas.
Headquarters First Kansas Cavalry,
Camp Johnson, Morristown, Mo.
January 4, 1862.

Sir:

Information having been received by me on the evening of the 31st ultimo that Captains Fulkerson, Scott and Brity, with 150 to 300 men, were at Dayton, Mo., making preparations, recruiting, and outfitting for Price's Army. At midnight, I took 200 men with the 12-pounder howitzer [cannon] and arrived at Dayton about daylight, but the enemy had run, two companies of Colonel Newgents command having encamped at Austin the night before, a place only six miles distant.

The main body of the Rebels returned to the junction of the Walnut Creek and the Grand River. Small parties were seen of 20 to 30 men each in the woods and on the prairie hills. Detachments were sent out after them. Captain Gregory of Company E had an engagement with one party of 25 men and killed one man. The Captain's horse was shot and one horse was wounded. None of our men were hurt. Some 15 Union families moved into Kansas. We captured a lot of stock belonging to the Rebels, 6 tents, and company utensils.

On the 2nd we moved to Rose Hill and the next day returned to Camp Johnson.

The scouting party which went to Walnut Creek found that Captain Scott had left for the south.

Dayton having been used voluntarily by its inhabitants as a depot for recruiting and supplying the Rebels and there being only one "union" house in town and all the Union men there desiring its destruction, it was burned, except the one belonging to the Union man. Although there were 46 buildings in the town, we found only two men to represent the whole population.

Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,

D. R. ANTHONY, Lieut. Colonel Commanding."

Burning of Columbus, Missouri

[To] "Major General David Hunter,
Commanding Department of Kansas.
Headquarters, Camp Johnson, Morristown, Mo.
January 13, 1862.

Sir:

On the 9th instant Captain Merriman was sent with 50 men to Columbus. The people of Columbus informed him that there was no enemy in that vicinity; but on his return about a half mile south of the town Captain Merriman and his command was fired on from ambush by Colonel Elliot who had secreted his men in the bush and 5 of our men were killed. Captain Merriman was forced to retreat.

Captain Merriman, on the day of the attack on him, BURNED the town of Columbus, having learned that it was the rendezvous of Colonel Elliot and the people of the town having decoyed him into the ambush. Fifty or sixty Union families availed themselves of the opportunity to move out with him. Major Herrick also captured 60 head of horses, mules and cattle and young stock belonging to the men who fired upon Major Hough and those who were with Colonel Elliot and brought them to camp.

Respectfully Yours,

D. R. ANTHONY,
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding First Kansas Cavalry."

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Now then, in March of 1862, all of the Kansas Regiments were reorganized and Jennison's Jayhawkers was re-designated as the 7th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. However, because of its unacceptable method of waging war, it was transferred far away from Missouri and attached to a "Union" command in western Tennessee and Mississippi. There, with new commanding officers, it was trained and operated within the established "Articles of War" and compiled an excellent combat record as the War Went On!

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Battles for Chattanooga TN
Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863

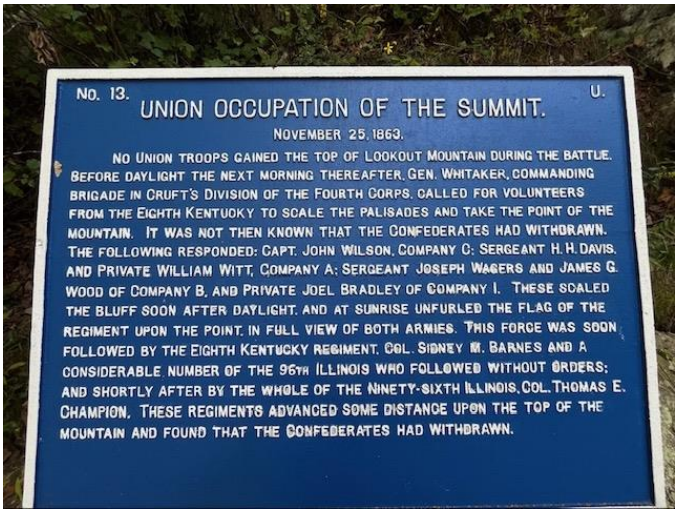
1874 Painting by James Walker of General Hooker's Attack on Confederate Forces at Lookout Mountain

Point Park Entrance Gate on Lookout Mountain

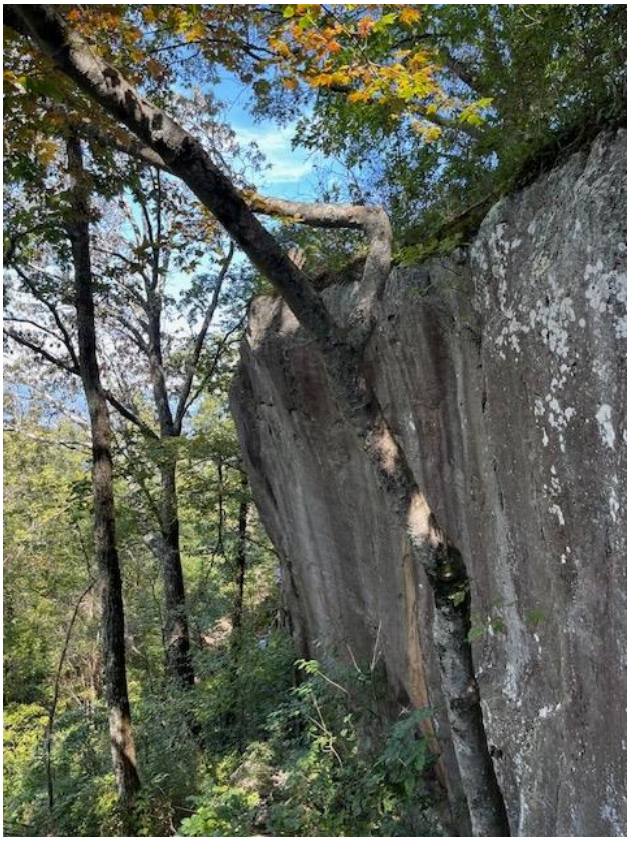
Confederate Artillery overlooking Chattanooga

New York Peace Monument on Lookout Mountain

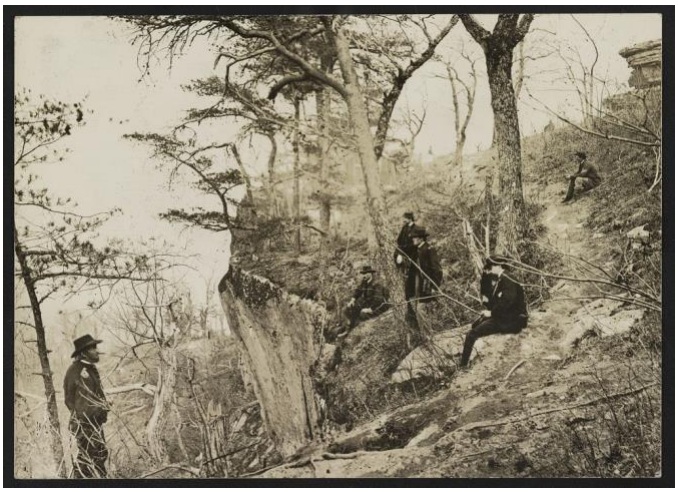
View of Moccasin Bend peninsula and the Tennessee River from Lookout Mountain



Union Occupation Marker on Lookout Mountain



North point of Lookout Mountain



1863 Photo of Union officers on Lookout Mountain (l to r): General Grant, General Rawlins, General Webster, Col. Lagow, and Col. Hillyer (Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Summary of the Battle of Lookout Mountain

From Wikipedia:

"The Battle of Lookout Mountain, also known as the Battle Above the Clouds, was fought November 24, 1863, as part of the Chattanooga Campaign of the American Civil War.

"Union forces under Major General Joseph Hooker assaulted Lookout Mountain, Tennessee and defeated Confederate forces commanded by Major General Carter L. Stevenson. Lookout Mountain was one engagement in the Chattanooga battles between Major General U. S. Grant's Military Division of the Mississippi and the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by General Braxton Bragg. It drove in the Confederate left flank and allowed Hooker's men to assist in the Battle of Missionary Ridge the following day, which routed Bragg's army, lifting the siege of Union forces in Chattanooga, and opening the gateway into the Deep South."

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The following writeups are from the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park literature and the visitor center on top Lookout Mountain:

Why did they Fight Here?

Why did thousands fight for control of Chattanooga, a prosperous but small town of 2,500? Why were President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis so anxious about the outcome? The answer was a matter of geography and transportation.

Situated in a mountain gap, Chattanooga was a railroad transportation hub, a gateway between the North and the Deep South. Rail lines radiated from Chattanooga in every direction – to Nashville, Memphis, Atlanta, and Richmond, and to places beyond those key cities. Much of the Confederacy's military and civilian supplies moved over these railroads. Federal control of Chattanooga would further splinter the Confederacy.

But the federal government didn't merely want to make life more difficult for the Confederacy. It wanted to utterly destroy the Confederacy's capacity to fight. To do so, it had to conquer the Confederate industrial heartland in Georgia and Alabama. To get there, the Union armies had to pass through Chattanooga as a supply base. That was the true strategic importance of the Chattanooga campaign in the fall of 1863.

Siege of the City Begins

[Following the Union's disastrous defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga GA on September 20th] General Rosecran's army withdraws into Chattanooga while Confederates occupy key ground surrounding the city, including Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The stage is set to starve the U.S. Army into submission. Federal soldiers and remaining residents endure a hungry month before General Grant and reinforcements arrive to help open a supply line into the city.

In late October, the U.S. Army uses the cover of darkness to float silently past Confederate troops on Lookout Mountain. In a rate nighttime battle near Wauhatchie, the Federals win control of Lookout Valley and secure their new supply route, the Cracker Line. Chattanooga is still up for grabs.

The Battle Above the Clouds, November 24, 1863

Having broken the siege, Grant prepared to go on the offensive. On November 24th, he ordered General Hooker to attack Lookout Mountain. Eager to redeem his tarnished reputation, Hooker mounted an all-out assault.

Some of Hooker's men cried, "What, does the general expect us to fly?" But the plan was not to attack the mountaintop but to fight along the slopes. Moving over boulders and fallen trees, Union soldiers swept the Confederate defenders from the northwestern slope and around to the south of the Craven's House on the northeastern side. Confederate mountaintop cannon, aimed at the roads and river below, could not defend against this mountainside onslaught.

Grant and other Union officers listened anxiously from the city below, their view to the mountain obscured by fog and clouds. At dawn on November 25th, members of the 8th Kentucky Infantry (Union) scrambled up the mountain's northern tip. As the sun rose, they unfurled the stars and stripes, visible to the armies below.

The fighting at Lookout Mountain later became known and romanticized as "The Battle Above the Clouds." James Walker's painting: "The Battle of Lookout Mountain" depicts this dramatic action.

The War Continues

[Following the Confederates' defeat at Missionary Ridge on November 25th, General Bragg's army retreats south into Georgia.] Chattanooga's rivers, rails, and roads are firmly in U.S. hands. The city is transformed into a communications and supply base for U.S. General William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, which begins in the spring of 1864. The disheartened Confederates wonder: Is the fall of Chattanooga, "the death knell of the Confederacy?"

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