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LEONARD, JOHN W.: Papers, ca. 1890-2006

Accession: A81-15, A82-3, A82-3/1, A84-3, A89-5, A89-5/1, A97-14, A97-14/1, A06-22

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The papers of John W. Leonard were deposited in the Eisenhower Library by Eileen Foster in 1981, 1982, 1984 and 1987 and by John W. Leonard, Jr. in 1997 and 2007.

Linear feet: 5 linear feet

Approximate number of pages: 11,000

Eileen Foster signed an instrument of gift for the papers on August 27, 1981. John W. Leonard, Jr. signed an instrument of gift for the papers on September 23, 2006. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of John W. Leonard in this collection have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

John William Leonard was born on January 25, 1890 in Toledo, Ohio to Dennis and Anastasia Leonard. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1915 and was a classmate of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Following graduation he served with the 6th Infantry Regiment at Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas and took part in the chase of Pancho Villa across the Mexican border. The Regiment was assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in November 1917 and moved to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia for training. It was sent to France where it joined the action (World War I) in July 1918.

Newly promoted to major, Leonard commanded a battalion of the 6th Infantry Regiment during Battle of Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensive. For his bravery on the battlefield near the village of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Major Leonard was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Leonard stayed in Europe for occupation duties until October 1921 when he assumed command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion in Fort Benning, Georgia. From 1923 to 1927 he served in the office of the Chief of Infantry in Washington, DC, attended the advanced infantry course at Fort Benning, and attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1928 to 1933 he instructed ROTC cadets at the Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, Pennsylvania.

From 1933 to 1936 Leonard was assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Tientsin China. Returning to the US in 1936, he was appointed as an instructor for the Maryland National Guard in Frederick, Maryland. In July 1940 he was appointed as an intelligence officer with the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As part of his duties he traveled to Brazil in October 1941 to survey the defenses of Northeastern Brazil.

In December 1941 Leonard was given command of the 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, which was now a part of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He served a short tour with Combat Command "A" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and was promoted to brigadier general on June 20, 1942.

Leonard joined the 9th Armored Division at Fort Riley, Kansas in July 1942 and assumed command of the division in September, 1942. On October 27, 1942 he was promoted to the rank of major general. In September 1944 the division was transferred to the England and was immediately ordered to Normandy. The division took part in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe Campaigns under his command. On March 7, 1945 the elements of the division crossed the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, the first Allied troops to cross the Rhine River. At the end of fighting in Europe, the division on occupation duty in Bayreuth, Germany.

Leonard continued as its commander until July 1945 when he became commander of the 20th Armored Division at Camp Cooke, California. He continued in command of the division until it was deactivated in April 1946.

He briefly assumed command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division at Camp Hood, Texas. In July 1946 he was assigned to command Fort Knox and the armored school located there. In 1948 he was appointed Senior Military Attaché in the United Kingdom. In 1950 he was promoted to lieutenant general and commanded both the V Corps and XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He retired from the army in 1952.

General Leonard passed away on October 26, 1974.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1908-1972

Boxes 1-3

During World War I Leonard corresponded extensively with his new bride, Eileen, whom he referred to by the affectionate nickname "Peg." Occasionally he would include snippets from letters received, with additional annotations, in his outgoing correspondence. World War II correspondence filed under Eileen Leonard is sometimes addressed to his daughter, Eileen, still living at home. After World War II men who had served under him also sometimes wrote to express their thanks and appreciation. Eileen Foster annotated some items to provide additional context to persons, places or events.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by surname of correspondent and chronologically thereunder. This series contains correspondence from family, friends and colleagues spanning the length of Leonard's adult life.

### SERIES II: MILITARY CAREER SERIES, 1911-1952

Boxes 4-8

This series spans the length of Leonard's career from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, through World War I, his post-war stations in China and elsewhere, his command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in World War II, and his post-war commands. Almost all files with documents from March 1945 contain information about taking the Ludendorff Bridge across the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany.

Items within the files include orders, records of military units, personnel files, maps and other related documents. This series contains photocopies of documents obtained by Leonard and his family from the National Archives in Washington, DC, the Library of Congress and other archives. This series is arranged chronologically.

### SERIES III: RETIREMENT SERIES, 1952-1974

Box 8

This series contains documents relating to Leonard's activities after his retirement from the military in 1952. Items include family correspondence, biographical material, desk calendars, documents relating to reunions of the West Point Class of 1915 and other related material. This series is arranged chronologically.

### SERIES IV: FAMILY FILES SERIES, 1974-2006

Box 9-10

This series contains correspondence created or received by family members after General Leonard's death in October 1974. Much of the correspondence is with Leonard's military colleagues, historians or veterans groups and relates to his legacy and career in the army. This

series is further organized into three subseries and documents are arranged alphabetically within each subseries. The subseries are:

Funeral Series  
Eileen Leonard Series  
John W. Leonard, Jr. Series  
Eileen Foster Series

#### **SERIES V: PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS**

Boxes 10-13

This series contain published materials arranged alphabetically into the following categories: books and monographs, journal and magazine articles, newspaper clippings. The books and monographs are arranged alphabetically. The articles and clippings are arranged chronologically.

#### **SERIES VI: MEMORIBILIA**

Boxes 13-14

This series contains travel memorabilia, awards, citations, diplomas and a microfilm copy of the History of the 310<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Box Nos.      Folder Title

1      SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

Aurand, Henry and Betty

Baquero, Anastacio

Bolte, Charles

Bradley, Omar

Braun, Father Albert

Brooker, Robert M.

Butler, Frank D.

Coffin, Tris

Collins, J. Lawton

Conley, Mary Leonard [called "Mamie"]

Crosby, Mrs. Joseph

Crosthwait, Michael and Natalie, 1949-52 [Leonard's daughter and son-in-law]

Crosthwait, Michael, 1966-73

Crosthwait, Natalie, 1967-74

Crosthwait, John, Richard and Elizabeth, 1966-74 [grandchildren]

Davis, Mike

Devers, Jacob L.

Dusty, Ralph M.

Edwards, Basil, Duke

Eisenhower, Dwight and Mamie, 1918-56

Eisenhower, Dwight and Mamie, 1957-72

Esmond, Pat

Foster, David and Eileen, 1945-69

Foster, David and Eileen, 1970-74

Gaines, L. M.

Galloway, Jerry and Jane

Gelling, Louis

Gordon, Walter H.

Greenbaum, Edward S.

Grogan, Stanley J.

Hageman, Clement

Handy, Thomas T.

Hassell, Samuel

Hauck, Catherine

Henkel, Father

Hibbs, Louis E.

Hodges, Courtney H.

Hodgson, P. A.

Hoge, William M.

Holtzworth, Caroline and Bert

Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Dick

Huebner, C. R.

Irwin, Al [131<sup>st</sup> Ordnance Reunion Association]

Keyes, Geoff, 1943

Latham, G. H., 1943

Lawless, Woodford, 1972

Leonard, Charles Joseph, 1914-1951 [includes special orders granting West Point cadets leave for Christmas in 1914, program for 1915 West Point graduation, 1945 U.S. Senate resolution honoring General Leonard's military accomplishments, press releases re: General Leonard]

Leonard, David and Anastasia, 1918-1948 [parents]

Leonard, Eileen, World War I (exact date unknown) [incomplete letters]

Leonard, Eileen, 1917 [anecdotes about Dwight D. Eisenhower]

Leonard, Eileen, January-April 1918 [description of life on troop transport ship, arrival in France]

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Leonard, Eileen, May 1918 (1)-(2)

Leonard, Eileen, June 1918

Leonard, Eileen, July 1918 (1)-(2)

Leonard, Eileen, August 1918 (1)-(2)

Leonard, Eileen, September 1918

Leonard, Eileen, October 1918

Leonard, Eileen, November 1918 [end of the war celebration in Chattanooga]

Leonard, Eileen, December 1918

Leonard, Eileen, January 1919

Leonard, Eileen, February 1919

Leonard, Eileen, March 1919

Leonard, Eileen, April 1919

Leonard, Eileen, May 1919



Leonard, Eileen, June 1919

Leonard, Eileen, July 1919 [London Peace Day celebration]

Leonard, Eileen, August 1919

Leonard, Eileen, 1920s-30s

Leonard, Eileen, 1940-1942

Leonard, Eileen, 1943, unknown date in 1944

Leonard, Eileen, 1943- January 1944

Leonard, Eileen, July-August 1944

Leonard, Eileen, September-December 1944

Leonard, Eileen, January-February 1945

Leonard, Eileen, March-May 1945

Leonard, Eileen, June-July 1945

Leonard, Eileen, WWII, date unknown [letter fragments]

Leonard, J. Alexander

Leonard, Joe and Clara Mae

Leonard, John W., Jr. and Betty

Leonard, Sister Mary Marguerite

Leonard, Natalie

Littleton, Claire

Macguire, E.

March, Tony

McLean, Ross

McCunniff, Dennis

Meyer, Edward Charles

Mills, Nan Horan

Monaghan, Red

Moore, J. E.

Mueller, Margaret [Mrs. Paul J. Mueller]

Munch, Agnes Sheehan

Nakagawa, Yoshisuke

Nease, Stephen G. [re: Dwight D. Eisenhower's West Point roommate, P. A. Hodgson]

O'Brien, Annie

O'Brien, Eileen

O'Brien, Michael J.

O'Brien, Natalie

O'Dwyer, John A.

Parrish, George

Paschal, Paul

Patterson, Robert P.

Peake, Al

Percival, 'Baddie'

Peyton, Mary

Phillips, Wallace B.

Pierce, Dan

Ramey, Rufus, 1943

Rhodes, Charles D. [re: Boxer Rebellion in China, 1900; Great Depression in US]

Rossell, Beatrice

Russomanno, Paul J., 1945

Ryan, Joe and Isabelle and Family

Sawkins, Rev. Arthur J., 1918-1960

Sessums, Cleveland, 1944

Sheahan, Elizabeth, 1918

Sheahan, J. D. and Family, 1908-1946 [description of life at West Point, invitation to Class of 1915 graduation]

Sherwood, Isaac, 1910 [appointment to West Point]

Simpson, William H., 1943-1944

Smith, Carl N.

South Dakota State College, 1921

Sullivan, Bill

Vickers, Edith [Mrs. Fred W.]

Walker, Caroline [Mrs. Walton H.]

Watkins, Armitage, 1944

Unknown Correspondents [letter fragments and/or incomplete names]

#### 4 SERIES II: MILITARY CAREER SERIES

U.S. Military Academy at West Point [notification of appointment as cadet, orders, notes on visit to Gettysburg battlefield]

Military File, 1915-1917

Military File, 1918 [roster of L Co., 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry; orders and operational plans]

World War I Pocket Notebook

Military File, 1919-1921 [orders and awards]

Military File, 1925-1930 [tenth reunion of West Point Class of 1915; report for American Battle Monuments Commission]

Officer's School Notes: U.S. Army Troops in China

Service in Tientsin, China, 1933-1936 (1)-(3) [primarily documents relating to family life, also some picture postcards of Hawaii, China and Philippines]

World War II Correspondence, Orders and Commendations [includes roster of 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division officers]

World War II Pocket Notebook [includes notes by George Ruhlen on notebook entries]

5 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Publicity

History of the Ninth Armored Division (1)-(4)

The 9<sup>th</sup>: The Story of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

Homecoming Celebrations, Toledo, Ohio, August 1945

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Memorabilia [division songs, tourist items from occupation duty, blank service record form]

Photocopies of 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Photograph Album (1)-(2) [annotated information on these pages provided by Dr. Walter E. Reichelt]

Photographs, 1940-1944 [notes on photos by Eileen Foster and George Ruhlen]

Photographs, 1945-1948 [notes on photos by Eileen Foster and George Ruhlen]

Remagen Bridge Publicity [including anniversaries of the battle; article written by former German officer providing the German story of the events]

Remagen Bridge 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, March 1955

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division After Action Reports, October 20-November 30, 1944

6 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division After Action Reports, December 1944

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division After Action Reports, January-February 1945

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division After Action Reports, March 1945

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division After Action Reports, April-May 1945

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division G-2 Periodic Reports, December 11-15, 1944

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Interviews re: *From the Roer to the Rhine*

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Interviews re: *Remagen Bridgehead*

Armor at Bastogne: A Research Report Prepared by Committee 4, Officers' Advanced Course, Armored School 1948-49, Fort Knox, Kentucky (1)-(4)

Combat Command A After Action Report, December 1944

Combat Command A Interviews with Commanders re: the Battle of Ardennes

Combat Command B After Action Report, December 1944

Combat Command B Interviews with Commanders re: the Battle of Ardennes

Combat Command R After Action Report, December 1944

2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Medical Battalion History

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineer Battalion History (1)-(2)

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14<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion History (1)-(2)

27<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion History

52<sup>nd</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion History

89<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron History

131<sup>st</sup> Armored Ordnance Maintenance Battalion History

Interviews with German Officers re: Ardennes Offensive (1)-(10)  
[some interviews include information about later engagements and events]

20<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, Camp Cooke, California, 1945-1946

2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, 1946

Armored School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, 1946-1948 (1)-(2)

8 Military Attaché London, 1948-1950 (1)-(2)

Military Attaché London, Photographs, 1948-1950

Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1950-1952

Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Photographs, 1950-1952

Maps (1)-(3) [primarily World War I maps from Europe, each folder contains a list of specific maps]

### SERIES III: RETIREMENT SERIES

Biographical Information

Correspondence, 1950s

Correspondence, 1960s

Correspondence, 1970s

Desk Calendars (1)-(3)

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Household Inventories and Lists

Reunions of the West Point Class of 1915 (1)-(2) [1925-1965]

Trip to Israel, 1973 (1)-(2)

9 SERIES IV: FAMILY SERIES, FUNERAL SUBSERIES

Death and Funeral Service

Condolence Letters

### SERIES IV: FAMILY SERIES, EILEEN LEONARD SUBSERIES

Bolte, Mrs. Charles L.

Braun, Father Albert

Crayton, Robert and Lila

Crosthwait, Natalie

Cutler, Elliott

Devers, Jacob L.

Eisenhower, Mamie

Harris, Kay and Hugh  
Jones, Leslie and Cay

Lehner, C. R. and Mame

Miller, Maurice and Edna

Pierce, Kate

Simpson, William H.

Smith, Carl N.

U.S. Military Academy Class of 1915 (1)-(2) [West Point Class of 1915 rosters  
and newsletters from 1974-1988]

Walker, Caroline

Diverse Additional Materials

**SERIES IV: FAMILY SERIES, JOHN W. LEONARD, JR. SUBSERIES**

John W. Leonard, Jr. Biographical Information

Reminiscences of Father's Military Colleagues

**SERIES IV: FAMILY SERIES, EILEEN FOSTER SUBSERIES**

Address Book

Braun, Father Albert

Clarke, Bruce C. [General Manteuffel's comments on Battle of the Bulge]

Crosthwait, Natalie

De Boeck, Louis H.

Ellis, E. D.

Engeman, Leonard

Hageman, Father Clem

Hasbrouck, Robert W.

Hoge, William H.

Irwin, Al

Leiker, Victor C.

Leonard, Charles

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Muster, Fort Riley, Kansas, July 13-16, 1982

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Memorials

O'Brien, Natalie

Reichert, Walter E.

Robert, Cecil E.

Rodriquez, Edmundo

Ruhlen, George (1)-(2) [history of various units in 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division]

Serruys, Henry

Shinn, Roger Lincoln

Smith, Carl N.

Terrell, Edgar A., Jr.

U.S. Military Academy Association of Graduates



Van Fleet, James A.

Vickers, Edith Sheahan

Watts, Gene and Katie

Additional Diverse Materials [excerpts from her father's wartime letters; 14<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion Association newsletter, 1982 biography of Leonard]

**SERIES V: PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS SUBSERIES**

American Battle Monuments Commission. *5th Division, Summary of Operations in the World War*

Baird, Philip J. *History of the Second Tank Battalion of the Ninth Armored Division, 1942-1945*

*The Battle of St. Vith, Belgium, 17-23 December, 1944: An Historical Example of Armor in the Defense*

*Biennial Report of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army to the Secretary of War, July 1, 1943 to June 30, 1945*

*The Bridge* [story of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and bridge at Remagen]

*Brief Historical Sketch of the Sixth U.S. Infantry, 1920*

*British-Boer War, 1899-1902*

Delaval, Maurice. *The Battle of the Ardennes: GI Joe Pleads Not Guilty*

Haig, Field Marshall Sir Douglas. "Features of the War", 1919

*History of the Seventh Armored Division and the Seventh Armored Division Association* [includes only the section on the Battle of St. Vith]

History of the 310<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division [microfilm from the New York Public Library]

Houvet, Étienne. *An Illustrated Monograph of Chartres Cathedral*

*Let's See Glen Coe and Loch Leven*

*Lt. General John W. Leonard (An American Infantryman)*

*My Daily Prayer and My Daily Psalm Book*

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*My Sunday Missal (and Manual) and New Testament, Roman Catholic Version*

*Musketry Bulletins, American Expeditionary Forces, 1919*

*The Official Guide to Windsor Castle*

*The Official History of the Fifth Division, USA During the Period of its Organization and of its Operations in the European World War, 1917-1919*  
[pages 97-115 only]

*The Remagen Bridgehead, 7-17 March 1945*

Ruhlen, George. *Origins of the Third Field Artillery*

Ruhlen, George. *The Third Field Artillery in World War II*

Ruhlen, George. *The Third Field Artillery in World War II*, second edition

*Russo-Japanese War*

Sicks, John F. *The 19<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion: A History*

Statistical Study of the Class of 1915, United States Military Academy [third revision, April 1975]

United States Army Special Warfare School. *The Indochina War: Advance Sheet*, July 1963

War Department. General Orders No. 37, March 11, 1919 [awards of distinguished-service cross]

SERIES V: PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, JOURNAL AND  
MAGAZINE ARTICLES SUBSERIES

Magazine Articles, 1918 [ads for washing machines and cars]

*The Lookout*, Vol. XXX, No. 21, Chattanooga, Tennessee, July 14, 1923

"The Development of Tanks" by Major John W. Leonard, *Infantry Journal*, Vol. XXVII, No. 5, November 1925

*The Red Diamond*, Vol. VI, No. 6, September-October 1931 [published by the Society of the Fifth Division]

*The Whispering Wave*, Voyage #41, May 10-23, 1933 [published aboard the USAT *US Grant*]

*The Sentinel*, Vol. XXII, No. 33, August 18, 1934, Tientsin, China

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*The China Journal*, Vol. XXIII, No. 5, November 1935

Magazine Articles, 1944 [news of the war]

Magazine Articles, 1945 (1) [cartoons by soldiers, Battle of the Bulge, paintings of the breakthrough at St. Lô]

Magazine Articles, 1945 (2) [Remagen Bridge, liberated Allied POWs]

Magazine Articles, 1946 [excerpt from *Eisenhower's Six Great Decisions*]

Magazine Articles, 1955 [10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle at Remagen, reunion of the Class of 1915]

Magazine Articles, 1965 [excerpt from *The Last 100 Days* by John Toland,

Magazine Articles, 1966 [John W. Leonard, Jr.]

*Patton Museum Newsletter*, Number One, September 1973

Magazine Articles, 1977 [Bridge at Remagen]

*After The Battle*, Number 16, 1977

*Assembly*, December 1981 [published by the Association of Graduates, U.S. Military Academy]

Magazine Articles, 1982 [General Frederick Funston]

Magazine Articles, 1985 [Bridge at Remagen]

*Assembly*, March 1986

*Assembly*, June 1986

Magazine Articles, 1987 [Bridge at Remagen]

Magazine Articles, 1996 [Bridge at Remagen]

SERIES V: PUBLICATIONS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS  
SUBSERIES

Newspaper Clippings, 1915-1919

Newspaper Clippings, 1920-1929

Newspaper Clippings, 1930-1939

Newspaper Clippings, 1940-1943

Newspaper Clippings, 1944 (1)-(2)

Newspaper Clippings, January-February 1945

Newspaper Clippings, March 1945 (1)-(2)

13 Newspaper Clippings, April-May 1945

Newspaper Clippings, June-August 1945

Newspaper Clippings, September-December 1945

Newspaper Clippings, 1945 (exact date unknown)

Newspaper Clippings, 1946-1949

Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1957

Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1974

Newspaper Clippings, 1982-1985

Newspaper Clippings, n.d.

SERIES VI: MEMORABILIA

Colt Automatic Pistol Manual, ca. World War I

Memorabilia, 1910s-1930s

Memorabilia, 1940s

Memorabilia, Christmas 1957 [40<sup>th</sup> anniversary WWI transport to Europe]

Photographic Postcards, Der Rhein von Mainz bis Köln [Rhine River from Mainz to Cologne]

Retirement Travel Memorabilia (1)-(2) [travel brochures, picture postcards from France, Italy, Spain and Israel]

Items Transferred From the Collection

Diary, May 1924-October 1926

14 Captions from Elliott Service Inc. Photographs [photos not included]

Diplomas, Awards and Certificates (1)-(4)

History of the 310<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division [microfilm from the New York Public Library]

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