

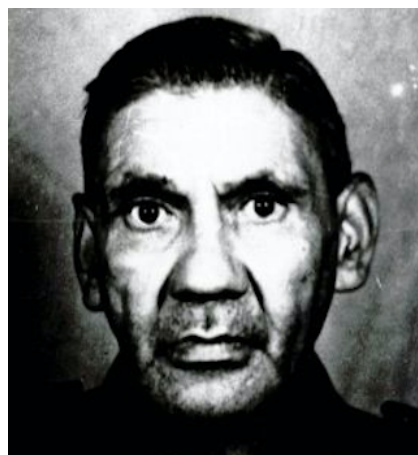
## **RONA TRANBY TRUST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS**

### **RICKY MORRIS**

Grandson of **FREDERICK AMOS LOVETT** (4th Light Horse Regiment)



Ricky Morris



Frederick Lovett

### **About Ricky**

Ricky is a Gunditjmarra man and works as a plumber and gasfitter, running his own business in Melbourne. He speaks at schools about Indigenous culture and his family's story. Ricky also served in the Army with the Royal Australian Engineers and reached the rank of Sergeant. He served in Afghanistan in the 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse, by coincidence the descendant unit of his grandfather's unit – the 4th Light Horse Regiment.

### **A family of warriors and soldiers**

The Lovett family (Fighting Gunditjmaras) from Lake Condah mission in western Victoria have had more men serving in the military than any other Australian family. The Department of Veteran Affairs building, the tallest building in Canberra, is named the Lovett Building in commemoration of the family's meritorious service in the armed forces.

### **Ricky's oral history proposal**

Ricky is a member of the Victorian Indigenous Veteran's Association Remembrance Committee, which organises an annual service at St Kilda on 31st May, to coincide with Reconciliation Week. Ricky is very interested in his family history. He would like to record the stories of two older aunties, daughters of Frederick Lovett and other family members to find out more about his grandfather.

*"A unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of those who fought and died for Australia and the diversity of Australians who put their hands up to answer the call." –Ricky Morris*

## **PETA FLYNN**

Great niece of **CHARLES FITZROY STAFFORD** (12th Light Horse Regiment)



Peta Flynn



Charles Fitzroy Stafford

### **About Peta**

Peta lives in Canberra and works for the public service in the Department of Defence.

### **Family History**

Peta's sister Michelle Flynn has been researching the family history, ever since her grandfather (Charles' brother) gave her a box of family records and papers before he passed away 21 years ago. This gift enabled a reconnection with their Aboriginal heritage, which goes back to Black Kitty (the first Aboriginal child placed in the Parramatta Native Institution in 1814).

### **Charles Stafford – Light Horse Trooper**

Charles Stafford is one of the very few Indigenous Light Horse Troopers who have been identified as taking part in the Charge of the Light Horse at Be'er Sheva on 31st October 1917.

### **Peta's oral history proposal**

Peta feels that her history was lost to her family and to the country. The funding provided through this award would allow her family to continue researching and writing the story of her great uncle Charles Stafford. Peta and her sister Michelle intend to travel to the Coonabarabran/Binaway area to research local records and find community members who may know more of their story. Ultimately, they would like to write a book with the support of AIATSIS senior collections officer Rita Metzenrath about the Stafford family.

Charles had two brothers who served in WW1 (Clyde and John Stafford) and his youngest brother, Alfred George Stafford (Peta's grandfather), was driver to 11 Australian Prime Ministers, a friend and confidante to Sir Robert Menzies and recipient of an MBE.

*"I believe that the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Australians in WW1 needs to be acknowledged and remembered. The Rona Tranby Trust Award will help me honour my Uncle on the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, and ensure our family's history will not be lost to future generations."* – Peta Flynn

## **ADRIAN HEPI**

Son-in-law of Colin Victor Leftwich, the nephew of **HARRY DOYLE** (11th Light Horse Regiment)



Adrian Hepi



Pte. H. Doyle, Cairns.

Harry Doyle

### **About Adrian**

Adrian is based in Queensland and is of Ngapuhi descent from his father's whanau - Hepi-Titaha Ngati Rahiri and his mother's whanau Stewart family from the Bundjalung/Darug People of NSW. He is a registered nurse and mental health education practitioner with a special interest in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in members of the armed services. Adrian was nominated for a Commonwealth Public Service Medal and awarded a National Emergency Medal for his work in disaster management. This work included the Ash Wednesday fires 1982, Newcastle earthquake 1989, Cyclone Larry 2006, Queensland Floods and Cyclone Yasi 2011-2014. He has served on the Boards of several National, State and Regional bodies involved in health and education.

### **Adrian's oral history proposal**

Adrian's father-in-law is Grandad Colin Victor Leftwich, a Butchula man from Fraser Island Kukulanji from Cooktown and nephew of Harry Doyle.

In Adrian's words "I started doing a research project with the young people I was working with, to honour the Black Diggers of WW1. I asked Grandad Colin Victor Leftwich about his uncle Harry Doyle, he gave me his blessing to do it and was very honoured to see what the young people did for this project. For the oral history project I will take Grandad to meet other family members of the Yarrabah Community in Queensland". Harry Doyle was a member of the Yarrabah Brass Band.

Adrian is committed to passing on the family history and stories to his children and grandchildren. He believes that this is foundational for their sense of identity and strength of spirit.

## **TERRY HUTCHINSON**

Great nephew of brothers **ERNEST JAMES FIRTH** (1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment) &

**FRANCIS WALTER BERTIE FIRTH** (2nd Light Horse Regiment)

**ERNEST JAMES FIRTH** (1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment) is buried at Be'er Sheva.



Terry Hutchinson



Francis Walter Bertie Firth



Ernest James Firth

### **About Terry**

Terry grew up in Walgett and Coonamble and now lives in Gunnedah with his wife, Coral. He worked with ANZ for 30 years and was CEO of a disability service for 4 years.

### **Family history**

Terry himself served in the army and didn't know about his Aboriginal heritage until 5 years ago. He remembers being told that the family next door to his grandfather Joseph Bernard Firth, had their children taken away (as part of the Stolen Generations), but he was never told they were his cousins. It turns out that 2 of his cousins also worked as managers at the ANZ bank, including the daughter of one of the stolen generation kids from Pilliga. Terry spoke to her over the years never knowing they were related.

### **Terry's three great uncles served in the Middle East**

Terry is a great nephew of the Firth Brothers - Ernest James, Francis Walter Bertie (known as Bertie) and Charles Allen, from Pilliga, NSW. The three brothers served with the Light Horse, Machine Gun and Transport units in the Middle East. Ernest Firth was killed on November 3rd, 1917, at Tel Khuweilfeh and is buried at Be'er Sheva. Every Anzac Day the extended family of Firth descendants, approximately 50 people, return to Pilliga to honour and commemorate Ernest, Francis and Charles.

### **Terry's oral history proposal**

Terry wants to travel to Israel to visit the grave of his great Uncle Ernest James Firth. His wife, Coral, is very interested in family history and has encouraged his interest. Terry is planning to interview family members to learn more about the story of his great Uncle and the other Firth Brothers. Terry's sons, Gabe and Nathan are interested in their family history and have experience in IT and editing, will work with Terry to record the interviews and digitise them so they can be shared via the internet.

*"I feel excited and honoured to be part of this project. It means I will be the only member of my family to visit Ernie's grave. I will pay my respects and gratitude."* – Terry Hutchinson



## **DORIS PATON**

Great granddaughter of **DAVID MULLETT** (1st Remount Unit, No.2 Squadron, ALH)



Doris Paton



David Mullett

### **About Doris**

Doris lives at Churchill, Victoria. She is a secondary school teacher and also gives lectures on Aboriginal culture and speaks at local ANZAC Day ceremonies about her great grandfather, David Mullett. There are many teachers in the family, including David.

### **David's family history**

David Mullett was born to James Mullett and Ellen Dutton at Lake Condah Aboriginal Reserve. As a boy, he excelled at the Lake Condah mission school and for a time taught at the school. Family recollect that he later attended the Napier St Teachers College in Melbourne and passed his teaching exam with flying colours. He applied for a job at a school in the Melbourne suburbs but was rejected on the grounds that he was Aboriginal. This was a real blow to David and an end to his teaching aspirations. David and his wife Maud Stephens sought an independent life outside of Aboriginal reserves.

### **World War 1 - service and prejudice**

David enlisted with the AIF in November 1915 and served until July 1919. David and Maud experienced prejudice and difficulties not uncommon for Aboriginal people at that time. While David was deployed in military action overseas, his war income was denied to his wife, his family were removed from Lake Tyers Mission and his children were also taken away. When David returned, his application for a soldier settlement was rejected. Later, he wrote to ask about his pension and to seek a uniform to wear in the ANZAC parades, both of which were denied.

### **Doris's oral history proposal**

Doris grew up learning about her great grandfather from her father, who was passionate about David's story and wanted to write a book about him. Doris plans to continue to research her great grandfather's story and interview older relatives who still know some of his story. She would eventually like to put the story into a book. David Mullett's story shows a tenacious and fighting spirit, while dealing with hardship and disappointment because of prejudice and harsh government policies. This spirit, Doris says, carries on through the family today.

*"The story of our great-grandfather, in the Remount Unit of the Australian Light Horse, his accomplishments in education, and his life after returning has remained in the memories of my father and aunty and shared in the family. His fighting spirit as a Gunditjmara man lives on in the family."*

- Doris Paton

## **MISCHA FISHER and daughter ELSIE AMAMOO**

Granddaughter and great granddaughter of **FRANK FISHER** (11th Light Horse Regiment)



Elsie Amamoo



Mischa Fisher



Frank Fisher

### **About Mischa and Elsie**

Elsie was born in Cherbourg, Queensland. She grew up on the York Peninsula in South Australia and is now based in Sydney working as a childcare worker at UNSW. Mischa lives at Murgon, Queensland and works in Cherbourg as a Health worker at her grandfather's community.

### **Frank Fisher – soldier and rugby league star**

Frank Fisher was in the 11th Light Horse Regiment, a regiment with a large number of Indigenous soldiers also known as the "Black Watchmen". After the war, Frank Fisher was a well-known rugby league player. 'King' Fisher played at five-eighth in representative teams for Wide Bay and in 1932 and 1936 against touring teams from Great Britain. The coach from the British team was keen to sign him up to play in Britain but the Cherbourg mission manager wouldn't allow Frank to go. Frank Fisher is also the great grandfather of the Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman.

### **Mischa and Elsie's oral history proposal**

Elsie's husband Damian Amamoo, a filmmaker, will work with Mischa and Elsie to create a website about Frank Fisher. Elsie's niece Miranda Fisher, who works at the US MOB radio station at Cherbourg, will interview Frank Fisher's granddaughters Mischa Fisher and Lillian Gray and these interviews will make up part of the website. Archival footage will be used from the Ration Shed Museum, Cherbourg.

*"It's an exciting opportunity to share our family history with all Australians and preserve it for future generations, but to do so while "galloping" in my Great Grandfather, Frank Fisher's footsteps in Israel where he served 100 years ago is remarkable. I am ecstatic by the prospect of more descendants joining us to raise the awareness of Indigenous military service. This experience also allows us acknowledge Community members before us, standing with those beside us, and creating a future for the next generation."*

– Elsie Amamoo



Ray Minniecon



James Lingwoodock

### **About Ray**

Ray is a descendant of the Kabi Kabi nation and the Gurang Gurang nation of South-East Queensland. Ray is also a descendant of the South Sea Islander people with deep and abiding connections to the people of Ambrym Island.

Pastor Ray Minniecon has a BA in Theology from Murdoch University in Western Australia. His community work is extensive in the areas of support for disadvantaged communities and the stolen generations, Christian and Indigenous theology and support for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander diggers. Ray has been instrumental in organising the "Coloured Diggers March" in Redfern every Anzac Day, since it began 11 years ago.

### **Private James Lingwoodock and the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment**

A deteriorating tactical situation late on the first day of the Battle of Beersheba (31<sup>st</sup> October, 1917) caused the 11th's sister regiments - the 4th and the 12th - to be unleashed on Beersheba at the gallop, an action which has gone down in history as the charge of Beersheba. The 11th, engaged on flank protection duties was too widely scattered to take part. Another charge was mounted by the 11th and 12th regiments against Turkish positions at Sheria on 7 November, but, confronted with heavy fire, the troopers were forced to dismount and eventually withdraw. After Gaza fell on 7 November 1917, Turkish resistance in southern Palestine collapsed. The 11th Light Horse participated in the pursuit that followed, and then spent the first months of 1918 resting and training. It moved into the Jordan Valley in time to participate in the Es Salt raid between 29 April and 4 May.

### **Ray's oral history proposal**

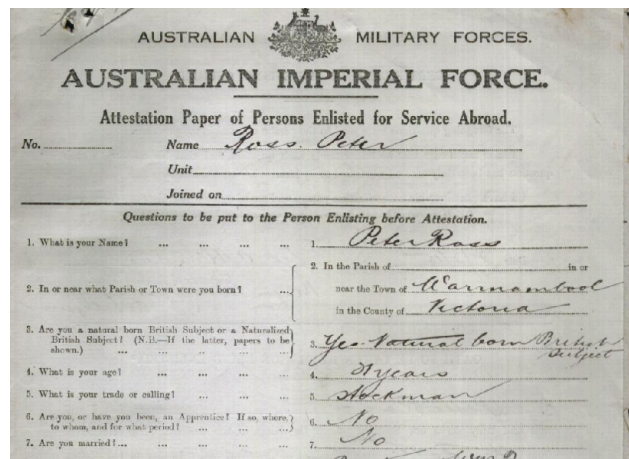
Ray is planning to visit several communities in Queensland to interview family members who still know the stories of James Lingwoodock. He would like to make a documentary about his grandfather's story.

*"The only way I can get to know him [his grandfather] in some intimate way is to walk in his shoes and follow his path and journey. In the end, I want to tell his story, not only to my family, but also to this nation. I want this nation to give recognition, respect and honour to a number of brave and courageous soldiers who had to battle racism and prejudice to get into the army, show their true Warrior spirit when they were given the opportunity, and yet return home to a nation who did not recognise their bravery, acknowledge their contribution and respect and honour their military service." – Ray Minniecon*

## JOHN PATTEN Great nephew of PETER ROSS (13th Light Horse Regiment)



John Patten



AUSTRIAN MILITARY FORCES.  
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.  
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Name Peter Ross  
Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Joined on \_\_\_\_\_

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>Peter Ross</u>
2. In or near which Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of <u>Warrnambool</u> in or near the Town of <u>Warrnambool</u> in the County of <u>Victoria</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <u>Yes natural born British Subject</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>27 years</u>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>Stockman</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married?	7. <u>No</u>

Peter Ross' enlistment papers. John hopes to find a photo of Peter Ross during his research.

### About John

John Patten is a Yorta Yorta and Bundjalung educator, multi-disciplinary artist and historian who works at Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum. John has lectured on Aboriginal history and cultural practices at La Trobe University and Melbourne University. He has also delivered cultural workshops relating to traditional wood carving art practices in locations across New South Wales and Victoria. Much of the content of his website [koorihistory.com](http://koorihistory.com) is based on John's own knowledge and research, and stories shared with him via his family, utilising their somewhat unique perspective as participants in key narratives within the history of Koori peoples in South Eastern Australia.

### John's oral history proposal

John has been researching his great uncle, Peter Ross, for several years now. Peter Ross was a Koori man born in Warrnambool, in the Western District of Victoria. He is a fairly unknown member of a family with many well-known people, including Margaret Tucker, Geraldine Briggs, George Patten, Bill Onus, Cec Patten and John's very well-known grandfather Jack Patten.

John wants to continue to find out Peter Ross's story, to visit and document the places that his Great Uncle Peter served during WWI, and where Peter's younger brothers including John's grandfather Jack Patten and his uncle George Patten served during WWII. John says, "It would be an amazing and sacred experience, which would serve future generations". He would use the opportunity to document the journey, building toward a potential book, website or documentary, or combination of the three. John has experience as a graphic artist, filmmaker and historian.

*"Knowing the stories of our ancestors and understanding their journeys is a means to help us come to terms with our own way forward. We can learn from our ancestors and Elders. History, warts and all, without the tidy narratives we sometimes employ is one of the important driving forces that gets me up in the morning and informs my work. This project looking into Uncle Peter's story is a central part to what really is a life-long passion for documenting the stories of my family and community"* – John Patten



## **LANCE WATERS and EMILY ROBERTS**

Grandson and granddaughter of **JACK STACEY** (12th Light Horse Regiment)



Lance Waters



Emily Roberts



Jack Stacey

### **About Lance and Emily**

Brother and sister Lance Waters and Emily Roberts are part of the Gamilaraay nation. Lance now lives in Villawood, Sydney. Emily's husband is also a descendant of an Indigenous Light Horse soldier, Sid Roberts.

### **Jack Stacey rode in the Charge of the Light Horse**

Jack Stacey is one of the few Indigenous Light Horse Troopers who have been identified as taking part in the Charge of the Light Horse at Be'er Sheva on 31st October 1917.

### **Emily and Lance's oral history proposal**

Jack Stacey was born at Boomi in Nth West NSW to Jack and Ida Cubby. Jack was the paternal and maternal grandson of Charlie "King" Cubby and Lucy Ann.

In Lance's words "Jack Stacy was a Kamilaroi man from the Gamilaraay nation born in 1897. Even though he had rights within the Nation as being King, he still decided to leave his wife and family to represent and serve Australia and the Commonwealth in dangerous military action overseas. Even though he was not given civil rights as an Indigenous man in Australia, he was still compelled to protect the interests of Australia, because whether white Australia acknowledged it or not, it was his land and people to protect."

"Jack Stacy served at the Charge of Beersheba. This so far has proven to be very unique. It is well documented that there were Indigenous troopers in the 11th Regiment who took flank reinforcement duties during the Charge, but Jack Stacy was in the 12th during the Charge. The 4th and 12th Regiments were both involved in the Charge. As we do our research we will extrapolate on how this came to be. We will also include stories of what Jack encountered when he returned from his military service to broken promises of the country he fought for. Jack had 3 children, 18 grandchildren, and now his descendants numbered in the hundreds. We will also discuss what it means to us and his other descendants that he did this, and left us this legacy, in the face of great adversity."

Lance and Emily have several older family members at Toomelah and Bogabilla in NSW, and they would travel there to record their family stories and make a DVD about their grandfather, with the help of their nephews Sebastien and Henry Skrinsky. Sebastien is currently studying at Eora TAFE and has access to cameras and recording equipment. Henry is an IT expert with experience in editing.



## **JUDITH AHMAT**

Great niece of **ALLAN MCDONALD** (8th Light Horse regiment)



Judith Ahmat



Allan McDonald

### **About Judith**

Judith is a proud Gunditjmara woman who grew up in Western Victoria. She moved to Wodonga in 1991 and runs her own consultant business, specialising in cultural competence training for mainstream organisations, and social research projects. Judith is actively involved in the local Aboriginal community.

She was inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2015 and has made an important contribution to the Wodonga Aboriginal community in the fields of health, justice, education and community services. Judith was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Letters from La Trobe University in 2017 for her long-standing community leadership and service. She has also received a Masters of Social Work – Research by studying the intergenerational impact of government policies and administrations on a Gunditjmara family (loss and grief).

### **Family History**

Judith has been researching her family history for many years. Judith is a descendant of Susannah McDonald, a Gunditjmara woman, whom raised two children through changing and traumatic times for Victorian Aboriginal people during the 1850's. One of the children was Judith's great grandfather Alfred. Judith became more aware of her Uncle Allan's story when she was involved last year in a Victorian state government project researching WW1 Aboriginal soldiers.

### **Allan McDonald and the 8th Light Horse Brigade**

Prior to Uncle Allan enlisting in World War 1, he was a farm hand around the southwestern Victorian district, learning his craft of a stockman from his father Alfred who was known as a fine stockman. Judith believes that Uncle Allan's skills, knowledge and bush experience assisted with his survival in the 8th Light Horse Brigade. Uncle Allan married late in life and had no children and no direct descendants, therefore his legacy needs to be preserved and his story needs to be told.

### **Judith's oral history proposal**

Judith would like to research Uncle Allan's story further and to understand the influences on him and his influence on others. She has a strong network of people and family who may be able to assist with capturing Uncle Allan's story. Judith would like to interview family members, community members at Framlingham and gather information from the

government records. An oral history of Uncle Allan's story will be captured on a DVD and Judith hopes this could become a combined family project. Prior to launching Uncle Allan's story, it will be presented to the Gunditj Mirring Aboriginal Traditional Owners full group meeting for endorsement.

*Participant traveling in 2018 to attend the Centenary of the Battle of Samakh.*

### **ANGELA STANLEY**

Granddaughter of **ALEXANDER STANLEY** (11th Light Horse Regiment)



Angela Stanley



Alexander Stanley

### **About Angela**

Angela is a Gamilaraay woman from Mungindi in North-West NSW and grew up in Mungindi and Gunnedah. Her mother Kitty Stanley, and grandmother Madge Warren, along with several other Indigenous women, started the first Aboriginal Corporation in Gunnedah, called the Min Min Aboriginal Corporation. Today the Corporation is a busy housing Co-Op for the local Aboriginal community.

Angela has volunteered her time in many community roles. These include the International Network of Churches, Christian Outreach Centre in Armidale, Wirringa Baiyia Aboriginal Women's Legal Resource Centre in Marrickville, BIGhART Advisory Committee and Koori Radio in Armidale, the Armidale Community Drug Action Team, and the Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council in Gunnedah. She is a singer/keyboard player and amateur filmmaker. Angela says "My personal experience, and my family's origins, have prepared me for a life of service for the betterment of my people."

### **Alexander Stanley served his country in two World Wars**

Alexander Stanley was in the 11th Light Horse Regiment, a regiment with a large number of Indigenous soldiers. Records indicate that Alexander had four deep distinctive scars on his right and left arms, believed to be tribal initiation markings. Alexander was attached to the remount depot at Moascar before being posted to the 11th Light Horse regiment. The

commanding officer of the Moascar depot at that time was the late major AB ("Banjo") Paterson, Australia's famous writer of bush ballads.

Alexander Stanley also served in WW2 and has his name erected in the NSW Garden of Remembrance, adjacent to the War Cemetery at Rookwood, Sydney. Stanley Village at Moree, NSW, was named after Alexander, and his name is on a plaque at the entrance to the Moree RSL Club because of his contribution to both World Wars. Alexander was a proud ANZAC and was involved in ANZAC events and talks in Moree for many years. At one of these talks at the local Aboriginal mission school, he was quoted in a local newspaper - "Anzac Day represents the greatest day in Australia's history. Men laid down their lives on that first Anzac Day, and children, you should appreciate what that means. These men were from all walks of life and I am here to represent those men of Anzac ... Children, always remember you are the sons and daughters of Anzacs and can hold up your heads wherever you go."

### **Angela's oral history proposal**

Angela has wanted to tell her grandfather's story for some time for both the Indigenous and wider communities. Her uncle, Robert Stanley, Alexander's son, worked at Tranby for more than 20 years from the 1980s with Kevin Cook, one of the founders of the Rona Tranby Trust. Robert gave Angela several records about Alexander before he passed away. Angela plans to work with the Moree Library and the local Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place, which has oral history recording facilities. She wants to create a photographic/film record of Alexander Stanley's story.

*"I deeply appreciate the opportunity to have my grandfather, Alexander Stanley's story told – family history is very important to me, and I aim to compile the information I have in my personal possession to be put into some objective form, so that other members of my family, and indeed, members of the public, would learn of Alexander's important and historical contribution to Australia." - Angela Stanley*

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