

William Edward McInnes

4 August, 1924 - 11 October 2002

SN PA/3191



Figure 1: William Edward McInnes

Acknowledgement Of Service

Premier's ANZAC Spirit Prize

Maria LaMontagna Year 10

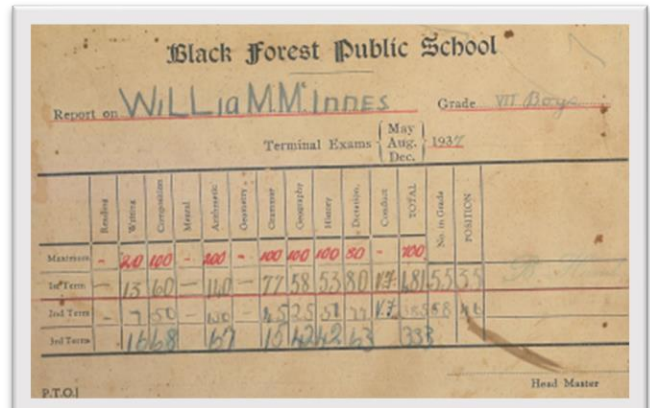
Part A:

Echoes of screams and artillery blasts go un-forgotten. Memories of millions of bodies lying by the water's edge, causing sorrow, sadness, and rage around the world are unforgettable. William Edward McInnes, an Able Seaman in the Royal Australian Navy, was stationed on H.M.A.S. Kanimbla I. William was one of 3,546,179 individuals who were compelled to enlist in World War II, risking their lives and futures for the safety of their country without knowing what was in store.

William Edward McInnes born August 4th, 1924, in Medindie, South Australia at McBride Maternity Hospital. Born to his parents Charles Joseph McInnes and Doris Maud McInnes, whom were both born and raised in South Australia. As a young child, William grew up at his family home on Semaphore Road alongside his parents and grandparents. William was the eldest child and had a younger sister Elizabeth Alison McInnes.

Growing up, William and his family moved around and lived throughout many different suburbs of Adelaide including, Woodville, Mile End, Black Forest, Adelaide City, Torrensville, Hilton, and Seaton. William and his family regularly moved, therefore his schooling was impacted and enrolled in five different schools. He didn't enjoy school, only completing primary education. Black Forest was Williams last school (see Figure 2), as once he left, he worked at his grandmother's deli, where he lived with his family until 1942. William spent most of his young teenage life working at the deli, whilst also assisting with the newspaper run.

William dedicated his time to his family's business, until the 25th of September 1942 when he enlisted for World War II. Charles enlisted into World War II one year prior to William on September 30th, 1941. William commenced training on December 15th, as part of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).



Black Forest Public School
Report on WILLIAM McINNES Grade VI Boys
Terminal Exams (May, Aug., Dec.) 1937

	Reading	Writing	Composition	Arithmetic	Algebra	Geometry	Science	History	Division	Conduct	SPM	POPAL	No. in Grade	POSITION
Maximum	-	200	100	-	200	-	100	100	100	50	-	100		
1st Term	-	15	60	-	110	-	77	58	53	80	17	181	55	55
2nd Term	-	7	50	-	60	-	45	25	51	77	17	155	58	46
3rd Term	-	16	68	-	67	-	10	62	42	63	13	138		

P.T.O. Head Master

Figure 2: William Edward McInnes Black Forest Public School Examination



Figure 3: H.M.A.S Kanimbla. Australian Naval Personnel's.

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With 470,000 miles steamed during the H.M.A.S. Kanimbla's War service, and 22 enemy ships captured, William was well aware of the dangers he faced. On June 1st, 1942, Japanese midget submarines attacking in Sydney Harbour fired on the H.M.A.S. Kanimbla, which would later be William's home and place of service.

William had Navy training in Flinders Victoria after joining the Royal Australian Navy, moving on to Balmoral Sydney and finally Port Stevens Newcastle. He trained in the removal of explosive naval mines and ocean mine sweeping. By December 1943 William had completed his training and was assigned to the H.M.A.S Kanimbla. The H.M.A.S Kanimbla was part of 6 major operations: the Liberation of Papua New Guinea from Japanese forces (Port Moresby, Lae, Finch Haven, Buna, and Mortai), all South-West Pacific areas, the invasion of Borneo, and the liberation of the Philippines.

1921 TO 1942 INC. D.O. and Pay Card No. 47829

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL RESERVE.
RECORD OF MOBILIZED SERVICE.

NAME (in full) **McINNES, William Edward** official message **PA/3191**
Date of Birth **4 August 1924** Place of Birth **Adelaide, S.A.** Religion **Roman Catholic** Home Port or Port Division **Adelaide**
Street of Res. (including postal address) **2201/10th St., 2201/10th St., Adelaide, S.A.** Resided in Larger Port No. **5**
Signature of Commanding Officer **[Signature]** 15/11/43

The above-named member has been mobilized for service by proclamation. He reported for duty on **15 December 1942** and was discharged on **15 September 1943**.
Special Qualifications or Special Duties **Adm. Officer**
Particulars of Mobilization **Adm. Officer**

SHIP		CLASS		MARKS, GRADES, AND RANKS	
No.	Name	No.	Name	Mark	Grade and Rank
5	Bruner	Bruner	Subst	N11	

Signature of Member **William Edward McInnes** Date **15 December 1942**
Signature of Officer **[Signature]** Date **15 December 1942**

WAR GRATUITY
CLA No. **14013**
AMOUNT **6/22**
INITIALS **[Signature]**

Figure 4: Royal Australian Naval Reserve- Record Of Mobilized Service.

As the third naval group tasked with taking the Philippines back from the Japanese, the Kanimbla played a critical role in the allied victory in the Pacific theatre of war. At 0200 on October 20th, the Panaon attack group broke away from main forces and moved down a swept channel of Leyte Island in the Philippines. At 0715 hours "Hands to Breakfast" sounded, however, a lone Japanese dive bomber exploded from the clouds, dropping a bomb that narrowly missed the last ship in the convoy. Despite their best efforts the gun-screw of the Kanimbla did not score a hit and the dive bomber left the convoy. At 0912 "Away all boats" sounded and within 14 minutes, 5 landing crafts hit the water with troops onboard. The first wave of ships to come ashore on Green 1 were seen a success and the Kanimbla's beach party began shortly after. A roaring fire was set alight, complete with billy tea. An approaching group of locals caused A.B Jarvis Smith to bail up the assembly with his rifle. His concerns were unfounded, and William's troop soon welcomed the group with food. A roaring trade soon began with most members coming away with some sort of souvenir of the liberation.

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This peace soon ended, and William was recalled to the reality of war. At 1700 hours, flak and puffs of black smoke filled the air. Action stations were sounded, and the convoy weighed anchor as a Japanese twin engine torpedo bomber attempted to penetrate the destroyer screen. Rushing to the 4 inch gun on the 'Poop Deck' the crew leapt to the defence of the convoy (see Appendix 15). Like the 3 inch guns on board, they were outdated and not suitable for the war. Many sailors like William experienced hearing damage from these weapons, however, was preferable to losing your life and ship.

In addition to being an Able Seaman, William also held a Helmsman certificate. With such skills came a lot of duties and responsibilities. William was assigned to the role of Coxswain (Chief Petty Officer 1st Class- CPO1) for the Assault Beach Landing

during the same Philippines Campaign. The main objective was to deliver troops from transport ships to enemy coastlines that were under attack. In addition to keeping a steady course, William was also expected to operate equipment and provide clear instructions. William's job entailed him to supervise and help with the training of junior sailors, and he filled in as their Chief Petty Officer whilst the incumbent was absent. In this capacity, William displayed assurance, an excellent sense of judgement, ensured the safety of the crew and the equipment, and most importantly set a good example for other coxswains as well as his fellow crew members.

While on board the H.M.A.S Kanimbla, William was exposed to a great deal of trauma. The war was difficult for everyone involved and William was not immune to this trauma. His witnessing of a fellow sailor's suicide by gun, was traumatic given he then was required to clean up after the event. William was deeply affected by this experience and suffered from many nightmares because of this occurrence. His family believe his war experiences resulted in undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, but he managed to shield his family from this and was a loving father, husband, and grandfather to 7. Although life at war was difficult, there was a glimpse of hope for William. His father, Charles, who was a Combat Soldier in the Australian Army, crossed paths with William in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea). After a long time apart, they were finally able to meet one other face to face. Seeing your loved one after being unable to contact them would have been an overwhelming experience.

Name of Ship or Depot	Rank or Rating	From	To	Character	Efficiency	Date Awarded	Remarks
Gard Sea		15-12-43	16-1-45	V.S.	1st	21-12-43	
Penguin		15-1-45	15-2-45				
Kanimbla		15-2-45	15-8-45				
		15-8-45	11-9-45				
		12-9-45	30-9-45				
		1-10-45	31-10-45				

Figure 5: Royal Australian Naval Reserve-Sea Service List.

Fortunately, William returned home safely in 1946, where he was discharged from the Navy. After returning to Adelaide, William was introduced to his sister's best friend, Maureen. His mother attempted to play cupid and it paid off, as William married Maureen on the 8th of April 1950 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. Post war, William worked as a labourer for various South Australian businesses including Union Engineering, Perry Engineering and West End Brewery. He later went on to work at the Advertiser as a storeman for over 33 years, until he retired in his early 60's. During his early years at the Advertiser, he also took on bartending at the Freemasons Tavern to further provide for his growing family. William had four children, Sharyn, Paul (deceased), Mark (deceased), and Jayne. Sadly, William died on the 11th of October 2002, at age 78. William was cremated and placed at Cheltenham cemetery in his family plot, alongside his grandmother, mother, and father. Devastatingly, his wife Maureen passed away not long after on March 9th, 2003.

William embodied the ANZAC spirit through mateship and perseverance. In his role as Able Seaman and Helmsman, William committed himself to fellow shipmates through his considerate leadership and dedication. William was fastidious in his record-keeping and had great attention to detail, especially when documenting important records such as training logs and journal entries. This perfectly displays his devotion to preserving history and holding onto important memories with his shipmates. His personal photo albums provide further evidence of how deeply he valued his shipmates (see Appendix 6 and 7).

William remained just as dedicated to his co-workers as he was to his shipmates, proudly becoming a Union Representative at the Advertiser and advocating for workers' rights. This role required perseverance and patience, but like in the war, William remained true to his values and championed for those beside him.



For William, the effects of the war were long-lasting. What he saw and experienced would continue to haunt him throughout his life. Sadly, William's father committed suicide in 1954. This was the harsh consequence and reality of life after returning from the war. William responded to his trauma by putting others first, a true example of mateship and perseverance.

William was actively involved in the lives of his children and grandchildren, calling his own children his 'best mates'. As the years passed, William and his youngest son Mark worked diligently to document and preserve his memories of the war.

Throughout his life, William remained a quiet achiever, and was proudly awarded with the Philippine Liberation Medal for his contribution in WWII on October 6, 1995.(See Figure 7)

Figure 7: William Edward McInnes- Receiving Philippine Liberation Medal- 1995

His family remember him as a quiet, yet warm and welcoming man. He remained a proud veteran, attending each ANZAC Day and Kanimbla reunion alongside his

Navy brothers, enjoying an annual catch up and reminiscing about their shared experiences (Appendix 18). As years passed, William always honoured his shipmates who passed away. William was one of the last surviving H.M.A.S. Kanimbla naval officers in Adelaide, and like other fallen service personnel, The Last Post played as he was laid to rest.



Figure 6: McInnes Family Photo - McInnes Children and Grandchildren.

Part B:

Prior to the Premiers ANZAC spirit information being released, I was approached by a staff member at my school (Kassandra Ladas), who had the untold story of her Poppa, who served in World War II. I was immediately intrigued by this opportunity and took it upon myself to help bring light to the story of her Poppa, William Edward McInnes. I instantly attended a meeting on the ANZAC spirit so I could familiarise myself with the information I would need to gather.

Trying to gather all the necessary information was sometimes difficult as, there was not much online information about the H.M.A.S Kanimbla nor William and his journey. Therefore, I spent most of my time with Kassandra, who kindly brought in the original copies of Mr McInnes's service records, photos/albums, and the original H.M.A.S Kanimbla II, III, IV books. The photo albums had many original images that were taken whilst on the H.M.A.S Kanimbla, that helped me, and Kassandra put together William's journey and route whilst serving. William's third child, Mark McInnes, assisted in putting together the original photo album and assorting all the documents. Before William passed away, Marks daughter, Katie Wesley (Nee. McInnes) completed an amazing honour of Williams service throughout the war which helped, with details of what William enjoyed, schools he attended, careers, life at war, and finally Williams post life. Although I had most of the information needed, there was still missing aspects of the journey Mr McInnes went on while enlisted into World War II.

I instantly began looking through the *Australian Virtual War Memorial Website* to see if I could identify any connections of other naval personnel who were enlisted in WWII on the same ship. I only found small aspects of the route the H.M.A.S Kanimbla took, I continued to search for additional information. Continuously, looking through the service documents was a major part in finding the exact depots, bases and ships William was on. Once there was a clear understanding of the route it became much easier in researching the exact journey the ship went on. Whilst looking through the documents of the depots, bases and ships I had to pay attention to the dates of 'From-To' (refer to figure 4-5) as once I knew the periods, I could clearly track the movement of William.

While having these documents played a major role in tracking William's movement, I got in contact with the Naval Historical Society of Australia and the Royal Australian

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Navy Heritage Centre, for some extra information on what happened whilst in service as a Naval Personnel.

While finding the information was a difficult task, once I had everything, I started thoroughly planning out the essay and the structure. Whilst working on this essay I have taken the time to reflect and appreciate that while we celebrate Remembrance Day and ANZAC day, we can certainly not pay our respects to each and every soldier, nurse or pilot that fought for Australia. However, we can keep their immense courage alive through writing these essays and bring light to their stories. I am delighted to have taken a small part in telling Mr McInnes's story and ensuring his enduring legacy.

Part A Wordcount: 1,594 Words

Part B Wordcount: 529 Words

Total Wordcount: 2,123Words

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Reference List:

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McInnes), K. W. (., 2023. *Poppas WWII Story* [Interview] (4-20 May 2023).

Images:

Figure 1: *McInnes, S. (1942) William Edward McInnes Acknowledgement Of Service. URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 4 May 2023)*

Figure 2: *Unknown. (1937) William Edward McInnes Black Forest Public School Examination. URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 4 May 2023)*

Figure 3: *Unknown. (1943) H.M.A.S Kanimbla. Australian Naval Personnel's.* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 10 May 2023)

Figure 4: *Unknown. (1942) Royal Australian Naval Reserve-Record Of Mobilized Service.* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 19 May 2023)

Figure 5: *Unknown. (1942) Royal Australian Naval Reserve- Sea Service List. .* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 19 May 2023)

Figure 6: *McInnes, S. (1991) McInnes Family Photo - McInnes Children and Grandchildren.* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Figure 7: *McInnes, S. (1995) William Edward McInnes- Receiving Philippine Liberation Medal- 1995.* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 1: *William Edward McInnes Young Child 1926:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 2: *William Edward McInnes, Doris Maud McInnes (Nee. Winter), and Elizabeth Alison McInnes. 1941:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 3: *H.M.A.S Kanimbla Leaving Dock 1944:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 4: *H.M.A.S Kanimbla in Dock- Sydney(Unknown):* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 5: *: H.M.A.S Kanimbla Aground in Finschhafen(Unknown):* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 6: *William with Shipmate Curly 1942-45:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 7: *William (left) With Other Fellow Shipmates-"ME AND THE BOYS" 1942-45:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 8: *Newspaper Article- "DUMBO CAUGHT GIANT STINGRAY" On Board H.M.A.S. Kanimbla.:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 9: *Telegram Sent To William From His Mother and Sister On His 21st Birthday. (1945):* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 10: *Raid On Board The H.M.A.S Kanimbla During The Night (Unknown):* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 11: *H.M.A.S Kanimbla In Dock at Brunei 1945:* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 12: *On Board H.M.A.S Kanimbla In Morotai (Unknown):* URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)

Appendix 13: *Pill Box Destroyed in Battle (Unknown): URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 14: *Ships part of the convoy, during the Liberation of the Philippines 1944: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 15: *"Poop Deck" 4 inch gun 1944: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 16: *William Coin Collection From Around The World (Unknown): URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 17: *"Navy Divers At Work"- Battle of Hollandia (Unknown): URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 18: *William and Maureen McInnes 1996: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 19: *Reunion Kanimbla Book 1995: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 20: *William McInnes with Philippine Liberation Medal 1994: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 21: *William McInnes Tombstone shared with other family 2002: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 22: *William and Maureen McInnes wedding image 1950: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 23: *19 Minn Street West, Seaton 1989: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 24: *William and Maureen McInnes with their 4 children 1996: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendix 25: *William and Maureen McInnes 50th wedding anniversary 2000: URL Unavailable: Personal Photo Album (Accessed: 11 May 2023)*

Appendices:

Appendix 1: *William Edward McInnes Young Child (1926)*



Appendix 2: *William Edward McInnes, Doris Maud McInnes (Nee. Winter), and Elizabeth Alison McInnes. (1941)*



Appendix 3: *H.M.A.S Kanimbla Leaving Dock (1944)*



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Appendix 5: *H.M.A.S Kanimbla Aground in Finschhafen*

Appendix 6: William with Shipmate Curly (1942-45)



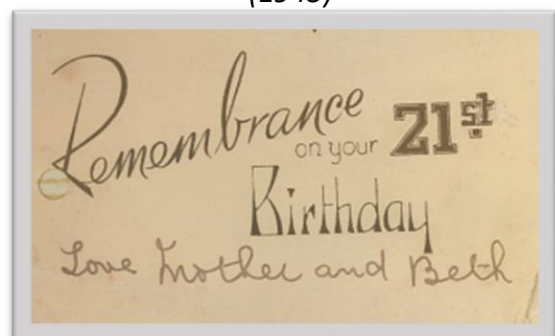
Appendix 8: Newspaper Article- "DUMBO CAUGHT GIANT STINGRAY" On Board H.M.A.S. Kanimbla.



Appendix 7: William (left) With Other Fellow Shipmates- "ME AND THE BOYS" (1942-45)



Appendix 9: Telegram Sent To William From His Mother and Sister On His 21st Birthday. (1945)



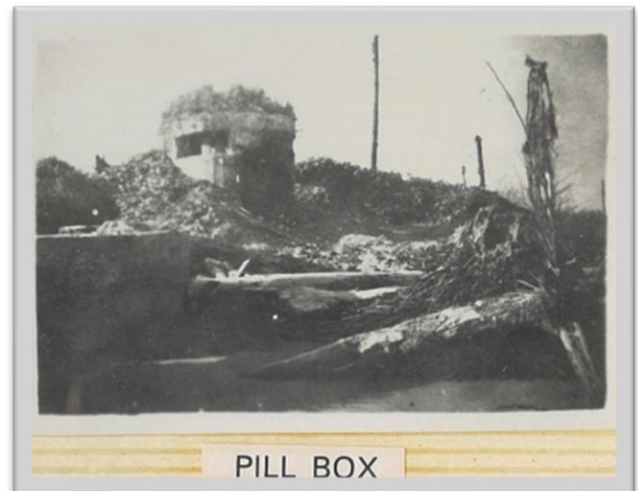
Appendix 11: H.M.A.S Kanimbla In Dock at Brunei. (1945)

Appendix 10: Raid On Board The H.M.A.S Kanimbla During The Night.



Appendix 13: Pill Box Destroyed in Battle

Appendix 12: On Board H.M.A.S Kanimbla In Morotai.



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Appendix 14: Ships part of the convoy, during the Liberation of the Philippines

Appendix 16: William Coin Collection From Around The World.

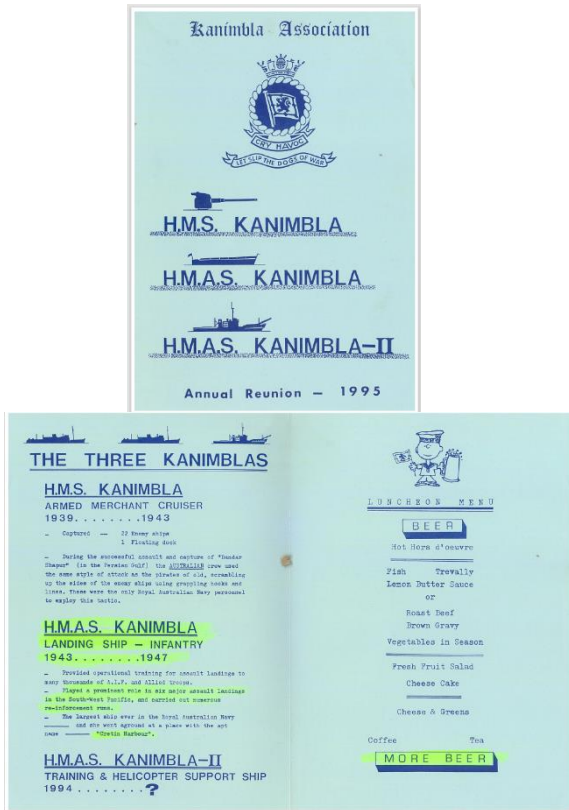


Appendix 15: "Poop Deck" 4 inch gun.



Appendix 17: "Navy Divers At Work"- Battle of Hollandia.

Appendix 19: Reunion Kanimbla Book
(1995)



Appendix 18: William and Maureen McInnes



Appendix 20: William McInnes with Philippine Liberation Medal



Appendix 21: William McInnes Tombstone shared with other family



Appendix 22: *William and Maureen McInnes wedding image*



Appendix 23: *19 Minn Street West, Seaton 1989*

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