AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

I. GENERAL

II. OW	N AIRCRAF	T OFFICI	ALLY COV	ERED BY II	HIS KEPC	JKI.					
TYPE	SQUADRON	TAKING	NUMBER ENGAGING ENEMY A/C	ATTACKING		BOMBS AN	(PER PLANE)			FUZE, SETTING	
(a)	(b)	OFF (c)	(d)	(e)			(f)				
BM-3	VT-45	8	0	8	Twel	re 100	# G.P.			Nose	
BM-3	VT-45	1	0	1	Ten	100	# G.P.		.025	Nose	
III. O	THER U. S.	OR ALLIE	D AIRCRAF	T EMPLOYE	DINTH	iIS OPERA	ATION.	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		BASE	
TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	minutes arrive arrive	BASE		TYPE	SQUADRON	NUMBER	U.S.S	. LEXD	GTON
6P-5	VE-45 VT-9	13	U.S.S.	LEXINGI	'OI	202					
B2C	NEMY AIRC	DAET OPS	CEDVED OR	ENGAGED	P. C. Parker	Aircraft	Listed in 11	Only).			
(a) TYPE		NO. ENGAGII	NG TIME		(e) ATION OF COUNTER		BOMBS, TORPE GUNS O	DOES CARRIE	ED;	CAMOUFLA MARKI	GE AND NG
TOTE			(Z	ONE)							
			(2	ONE)							
			(2	ZONE)							
12.5 N											
Did A Encou Time of Su	rent Enemy Any Part of Inter(s) Occurrent of Day and Bon or Moon —	rilliance	(YES OR N	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)		(k) V	Only).	HS OF COVER)	(d)
Did A Encou	ny Part of Inter(s) Occurrence (s) O	rilliance CRAFT DES	(YES OR NOTED O	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)		(k) V	isibility	(MILE	
Did A Encou Time of Su V. E	ny Part of Inter(s) Occurrence (s) O	rilliance CRAFT DES	(YES OR NOTED O	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)	Aircraft L	(k) V	Only).	(MILE	(d) DAMA
Did A Encou Time of Su V. E	ny Part of Inter(s) Occurrence (s) O	rilliance CRAFT DES	(YES OR NOTED O	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)	Aircraft L	(k) V	Only).	(MILE	(d) DAMA
Did A Encou Time of Su V. E	ny Part of Inter(s) Occurrence (s) O	rilliance CRAFT DES	(YES OR NOTED O	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)	Aircraft L	(k) V	Only).	(MILE	(d) DAMA
Did A Encou Time of Su V. E	ny Part of Inter(s) Occurrence (s) O	rilliance CRAFT DES	(YES OR NOTED O	RIGHT MOON; D	AY, OVERCA	ST; ETC.)	Aircraft L	(k) V	Only).	(MILE	(d) DAMA

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AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

144 1 00				REPORT No
VI. LOS	S OR DAM	AAGE, COMBAT OR OPERATIONA	L, OF OWN AIRCRAFT (of the	hose listed in II only).
(a) TYPE OWN A/C	(b) SQUADRON	CAUSE: TYPE ENEMY A/C, TYPE GUN, OR OPERATIONAL CAUSE	(d) WHERE HIT, ANGLE (List armor, self-sealing tanks, equipment hit)	(e) EXTENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE, (Give Bureau serial number of planes destroyed)
1 TBM-3	VT-A5	One 100# G.P. bomb		Plane lost -
2		hung up on bonb		intentional water
3		shackles - plane		landing.
4		not allowed to land		
5		aboard with it -		
6		made water landing	•	
7		near Destroyer.		
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

VII. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES (in aircraft listed in II only; identify with planes listed in VI by Nos. at left). (a) (b) (d) (e) SQUADRON NAME, RANK OR RATING CAUSE CONDITION OR STATUS VI-45 Ensign John L. Mason Intentional mater Picked up by Destroyer landing. and reported "in good shape". Intentional water Picked up by Destroyer VI-45 Melvyn G. Brackett, and reported"in good landing. shape." Intentional water Picked up by Destroyer and reported "in spod landing shape."

VIII. RANGE, FUEL, AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR PLANES RETURNING

(a) TYPE	(b) MILES	(c) MILES	(d) AV. HOURS	(e) AV. FUEL	(f) AV. FUEL			UNITION EXPEN	NDED	(h)
A/C	OUT	RETURN	IN AIR	LOADED	CONSUMED	.30	.50	20MM	MM	NO. OF PLANES RETURNING
TEM-3	150	155	3Hrs.30	300	192					8

IX. ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED (Check one block on each line).

CALIBER	NONE	MEAGER	MODERATE	INTENSE
HEAVY — Time-fused shells, 75mm and over		T		
MEDIUM — Impact-fused shells, 20mm-50mm		*	*	
LIGHT — Machine gun bullets, 6.5mm-13.2mm				

X. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, OWN AND ENEMY AIRCRAFT (use check list at left).

SPEED, CLIMB,
at various altitudes

TURNS
DIVES
CEILINGS
RANGE
PROTECTION
ARMAMENT

Barracks area

l lugger 150'

7 off shore east

barracks area

8 Warehouses and

pier west end

1500 * east of

Koniya

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

RESTRICTED (Reclassify when filled out)

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only). Koniya, Amami O Shima Military Installations -10 (b) Time Over Target(s) 1540 (a) Target(s) and Location(s). Zone) (c) Clouds Over Target None (BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER) (d) Visibility of Target_ (e) Visibility_ (CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (f) Bombing Tactics: Type Glide Bombing Bomb Sight Used. (LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE) Bombs Dropped per Run 10 or 12 Altitude of Bomb Release 3500-4000 Spacing___ (g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed______ Probably Destroyed______None Damaged None DIMENSIONS OR (m) (i) NO. A/C ATTACKING (h) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION DAMAGE (None, slight, NO. HITS On AIMING POINT (k) SQUADRON EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT serious, destroyed or sunk) TONNAGE Aiming Point Barracks-storage 600 * X barracks area north side 600 VT-45 32 30 destroyed 2 or of Koniya. more damaged. Barracks and 500' X 2 buildings 1200 Bldgs. NE edge 30 destroyed . VT-45 30 4 of Koniya. blew up - 4 or

Kon i ya base of pier (O) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

32

VT-45

VT-45

VT-45

1 lugger 250 off shorefront 50 - 60 Ft. VT-45 of Koniya.

500° X

400 *

100 Ft X

150 Ft.

Near miss probably none.

Sunk

more damaged.

destroyed - 2

or more damaged

Direct hits on

warehouses at

1 barracks

32

Three planes hit barracks storage area north of Koniya. One building about 35' by 60' was seen to be directly hit by at least two bombs and two others were in area covered by smoke and debris from exploding bombs. Thirty bombs fell right in this area and more damage was undoubtedly done but results could not be seen as the explosions occurred and no fighter photo plane followed this strike for damage assessment. This area is encircled and marked "A" on the attached K-20 photographs, but they do not give satisfactory coverage of this area. One of these three planes retained four of its bombs and dropped them on the warehouse area at base of pier. The explosion of these bombs is shown on attached photographs in circle "B". Exact damage cannot be assessed as the smoke of the explosion still hung over area.

Three planes hit the barracks and administration area NE of Koniya accurately with thirty bombs. This area was heavily damaged as the attached photographs show. This area is encircled and labelled "C". At

(p) Were Photographs Taken?_____Photographs of Damage, WhenTaken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (CONT'D.)

least six buildings in this area were directly hit - one of them blew up when hit and another burned vigorously. As the photograph shows smoke resulting from the bomb explosions and fire made it impossible to determine full extent of damage. One of these planes retained four of its bombs and dropped them on a lugger about 60 feet long laying 250° off the shore front of Koniya. The lugger was not hit, but one of the bombs was a near miss.

Three of the planes attacked the barracks area on the waterfront 1500 feet east of Koniya. One barracks about 30 feet by 120 feet was directly hit by several bombs and appeared to disintegrate. Another one the same size and one about 200 feet long were hit with unobserved results. Further damage may have been done as thirty two bombs were dropped in this concentration. One of these planes, retained three of its bombs and dropped them on a lugger about 70 feet long laying 150 feet off in front of this barracks area. The lugger was hit and sunk.

SECRET

REPORT No 21

XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack and
Their Effectiveness
Distance of Opening Fire
Defense Tactics and
Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance Disposition Altitudes Speeds Approach Tactics Use of Cover, Deception Angles of Attack Distance of Opening Fire Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Use of Radar

Night Fighting

Recognition, Aircraft

Own Weaknesses
Enemy Weaknesses
Offensive Tactics, Own
" , Enemy
Defensive Tactics, Own
" , Enemy
Flexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction

ATTACK OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target
Approach to Target
Altitudes, Speeds
Approach
Dive
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics
Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics
Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics
Torpedo Tactics
Effectiveness of
Bombs, Torpedoes
Selection of Targets
Fuzing
Strafing Tactics
Defensive Tactics
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

Navigation
Homing
Rendezvous
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

The pilots participating in this strike were Lieutenants Osborne and Riley, Lieutenants (j.g.) Robinson and Laughlin, and Ensigns Mason, Lennox, Sharp, Robertson and Nickell. The planes set out with Air Group 9 planes for the purpose of attacking military installations in the Amemi Gunto. planes proceeded first to Kikni Jima and, finding nothing worthy of attack, proceeded to Amemi O Shime. The Air Group 9 planes attacked a seaplane base and the Air Group 45 planes were directed to attack military installations in and around Koniya, the second largest city on Amami O Shima, which is located on the southern end of the island on the shore of o Shima Kaikyo. Each three plane division was assigned a separate concentration of military installations and made its attacks independently though all three divisions attacked simultaneously, approaching from the north-east. The bombing of all areas was accurate and bomb explosions were observed on and among the buildings in each of the areas. In the area NE of Koniya one building blew up when hit indicating that it probably was used for ammunition storage.

A moderate amount of medium A/A fire was directed at the planes during the attack and some heavy A/A was fired at them during retirement, especially from area west of seaplane base and from central part of Kakeroma Shima.

One plane in each division retained a few bombs and dropped

(j.g.) Laughlin obtained several direct hits on warehouses

Robinson sank a lugger about 70 feet long.

them on other targets as it retired. In so doing Lieutenant

at the base of the main pier in Koniya and Lieutenant (j.g.)

one 100 % G.P. bomb hung up in Ensign Mason's plane and could not be disloded by use of the emergency release or by violent maneuvers of the plane. The bomb was not assed. On return to base he reported the situation by radio in accordance with standing instructions and was informed that he could not land aboard with the bomb. He was given his choice of bailing out or of making a water landing. He chose the latter course and made a very skillful water landing about 1000 yards ahead of a destroyer in the screen. The bomb did not explode and Ensign Mason and his crew got out of the plane safely before it sank. They were picked up by the destroyer almost immediately and were reported by the destroyer to be "in good shape". They have not yet been returned to the SAN JACINTO.

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

Guns, Gunsights Turrets Ammunition Bombs, Torpedoes Bomb Sights Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar Homing Devices Visual Signals Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

IFF Signals Battle Lights Procedures

PROTECTION

Armor; Points and Angles of Fire Needing Further Protection Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes Life Belts, Life Rafts Safety Belts Emergency Kits Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Compasses Driftsights Octants Automatic Pilots Charts Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

Flight Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

CAMOUFLAGE AND DECEPTION DEVICES

STRUCTURE

Airframe Control Surfaces Control System Dive Flaps Landing Gear Heating System Flight Characteristics At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines Engine Accessories Propellers Lubricating System Starters Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment Personnel Facilities.

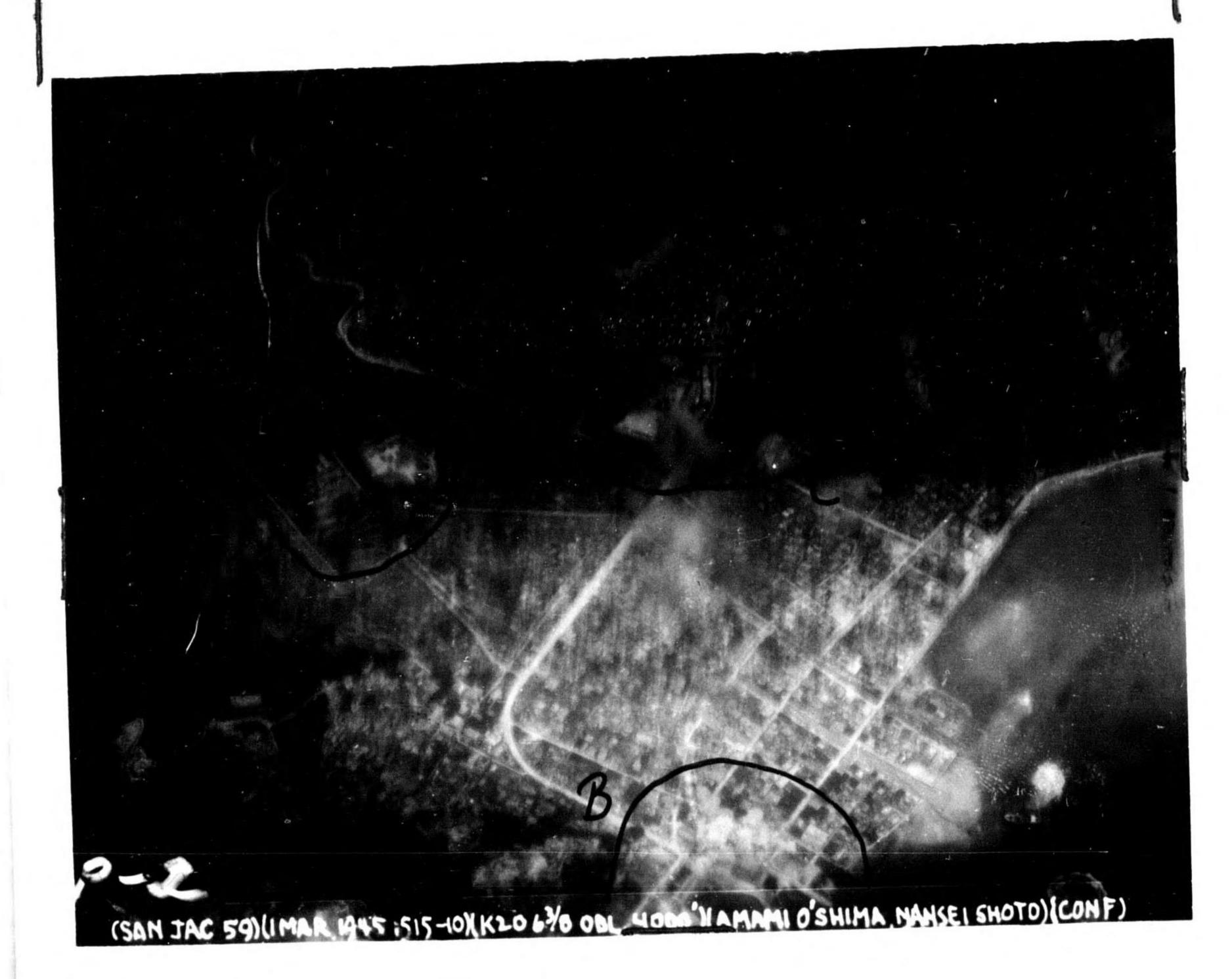
REPORT PREPARED BY:

The reason for the failure of one of the twelve bombs in Ensign Mason's plane to release is not known, but difficulty has been experienced continually with the Mark 4 bomb release shackle which is installed in this squadron's TRM-3 planes.

In view of the fact that a single hung bomb can result in mater landing dangerous to the pilot and his two cremmen and in the loss of an operational torpedo bomber which is otherwise in perfect condition, it is highly recommended that an emergency bomb release for TBM's be devised and installed that will guarantee a successful jettisoning of hung bombs. This is not the first time that bombs have been hung up in VT-45 planes, nor is it the first time that every emergency release mechanism and maneuvering has failed to work. But the problem has become much more serious since some carriers have adopted the rule of refusing to take planes aboard with bombs hung up, whether safe or armed.

APPROVED BY:

(SAN TAC 59)(IMAR IGNY 1515-10)(K20 2% OBL. 4000')(AMAMI O'SHIMA, NANSEI SHOTD)(CONP)



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