

SM7/DOWN 45:1

BRIGHT: Jones House  
'Cedar Bright'

## COUNTY DOWN

127

castles, a considerable height from the ground. The only artificially-shaped stone to be seen in the donjon is in the front, a small corbelled machicolation high over the door, apparently a later insertion. The great surrounding wall seems for the most part contemporary with the donjon but apparently the fortified gateway, now nearly gone, was of a later period. The late Mr. J. J. Philips in an excellent monograph on the castle attributes the stone castle to John De Courcy, but it may be more accurately ascribed to 1230-1240, a few years before Greencastle and Carlingford. The gatehouse and drum towers defending it were probably erected by the Red Earl of Ulster about 1300. The castle was constantly garrisoned as one of the strongholds of the Earldom of Ulster, but after the murder of Earl William in 1333 it seems to have been abandoned and fell into the hands of the Magennis family. Janico Dartas apparently was nominal owner of the manor and castle of Dundrum, which, with his other possessions, passed to the Kildares some time late in the 15th century, but the Magennises retained actual possession under a nominal rent of 24 cows a year if it could be collected (1534). In returns of 1540 Arthur MacPhelim Magennis was the tenant at £6 13s. 4d. per annum and was three years in arrear. According to the same authority, "Arthur unjustly holds the castle which he keeps in sufficient repair". When Lord Mountjoy in 1601 led an expedition into Down against the O'Neills, Phelimy MacEvir Magennis surrendered his castle of Dundrum to the Queen by whom, or by whose successor James I, the castle and the seven townlands pertaining thereto were granted to Edward, Lord Cromwell, Magennis being compensated by other lands. Thomas, Lord Cromwell, sold the castle and estate in 1636 to Sir Francis Blundell. In 1641 the castle was seized by the Magennises who were driven out by Sir James Montgomery; it was then apparently in good order; it was afterwards garrisoned by the Cromwellian troops. The castle's destruction to its present desolation is due to the artillery of the Cromwellian forces in 1652. The Blundell family built the Jacobean house lower down the hill below the old castle, about 1660, probably procuring its material from the shattered massive gatehouse and drum towers of the old castle. From the Blundells the estate passed to the Hills, and the Blundell mansion fell into ruins. I can find no evidence whatever for the statement that Dundrum Castle was built by John De Courcy for the Knights Templars (*Hill, Montgomery MSS*, p. 31), and the castle was always nominally at least a fortress of the earldom of Ulster. The ascription of the castle to Henry III's time finds support in a comparison of its plan with Henry III's tower at Windsor, the two being similar. The reason for the circular design of Dundrum seems the very simple one that it was built on a rock table-land already carved into a circular mote. Under Ministry of Finance surveillance (see note on p. 3). Plate 29. H.C.L.

D. B. Quinn, *Anglo-Irish Ulster in the early sixteenth century*, P.B.N.H.P.S., 1933-4. J. J. Phillips, *Annals and Archaeology of Dundrum Fortress*.

**Bright td, Castle Bright**

At a road fork by school and church, 3 m. W. of Ardglass. Down, Sh. 45, Plan 1, Tr. 5. This was on Janico Dartas' estate and fell into the 9th Earl of Kildare's hands in 1515. Leonard, Lord Gray, captured all the castles in Lecale in 1538, and its destruction is probably due to him. The E. half remains complete, being about 45 ft. high, but the W. half is entirely gone. Whether it had square abutting turrets on the corners protecting the door on the W. front cannot now be told. As the apex of the vaulting of the first floor ran N. and S., it probably had, as in Margaret's Castle, Ardglass (p. 129). The castle is locally believed to have been built or



at any rate occupied by a branch of the Anglo-Norman De Roisel or Russe and its date may be 15th or early 16th century, but architectural features of which the names of the owners are now missing.

#### Ardtole td, Remains of Church

On a hill overlooking the sea,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the N.E. of Ardglass town. Down, Sh. 45, Plan 3, Tr. 6. Formerly the parish church of Ardglass, being dedicated apparently to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors. The townland was apparently between two nationalities, the south part being called English Ardtole and the north Irish Ardtole, the church lying just midway. This isolated situation was inconvenient and dangerous when the inhabitants of the port came to be at war with the neighbouring clans. According to tradition, some men of Ardglass, the chieftain of the MacCartans in a drunken slumber on the grass, fastened their long hair to the briars around, an affront which was bloodily avenged by a MacCartan surprise and massacre of the townsmen gathered together at Mass in Ardtole. The disaster led to the abandonment of the building as a place of worship for Ardglass.

These occurrences probably took place between 1400 and 1550, for the date of the ruins indicates construction at approximately that period. They are built of very little ornament of any kind, the most noticeable feature being the doorway—*not* only for the charming vision of land and sea which they frame, but for the low flattened arch composed of rather small stones by which each is supported. This represents a relieving arch over the tracery, which has gone. The doorway is very simple—a plain oblong, which is not a perfect rectangle, since the top is measured on the inside, is 68 ft. 3 ins., being 6 ins. longer than the S. wall. The width at the W. end is 19 ft. 8 ins., 2 ins. longer than at the E. end. At the W. end beyond the doorway is an addition. The walls vary in thickness from 4½ ft. to 4½ ft. There were 3 doors and 5 windows. The well-proportioned E. wall is larger than those in the N. and S. walls, having an aperture of 8 ft. It was filled with coloured glass, some fragments of which were found in 1915. In 1915 the Ministry of Finance.

*A.M.N.I.S.C.*, (1928) p. 23.

#### Ardtole td, "Cross of Ardtole"

Less than 100 yds. E. of the road junction, which is 650 yds. N. of Ardtole Old Church, Down, Sh. 45, Plan 3, Tr. 6. Alt. 120. An oval mound 10 yds. by 5 yds. is composed of earth with some large stones (apparently loose) at the surface. The highest point (8 ft.) N.W. of the centre, is a flat slab (3 ft. by 2 ft.) resting on a line of walling of small stones which extends for 6 ft. along the main axis of the mound and more of which may still be buried. It is not clear how the place gets its name or what its purpose was, but it is obviously artificial and of some antiquity.

M.G.

#### Ardglass Castle

In town of same name. Down, Sh. 45, Plan 7, Tr. 6. The present castle was built about 1790 by Lord Charles Fitzgerald (created in 1800 Baron Lecale), a younger son of the Duke of Leinster, the then proprietor of the estate. In the rear of the castle the builder incorporated two ancient buildings known as the New Watermill and Horn Castle. The former is supposed to have been erected about the year 1600 by a company of London traders as an emporium for goods sent by the merchants to the port of Ardglass for storage and sale. The building was originally divided

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

## Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch DOENI

SMR DOW 45:1	Td BRIGHT	Type Tower House	
A No.	Site Name Castle Bright	Parish BRIGHT	Alt 100'OD
IG 241	GR J 50663822	Barony LECALE UPPER	DC Down

OS

All edns "Castle Bright (in ruins)"

NB

Condition Good	Threat Owner wants to build clubhouse	Check/Action	Schedule Yes
Land use Golf Course		Field boundaries	
Site description		Photos? Black and White	

Prominently situated at the edge of a ridge commanding extensive views in all directions. over the coastal plain to the Irish Sea and west to the Mourne Mountains.

A three storey tower house stands complete on its E wall only, along a roadside while the N and S walls project 2.0 and 3.0 m respectively to the W. The remainder of the building collapsed long ago and it was in ruins at the time of the first OS edition.

The E wall is 6.4 m long externally and 1.15 m thick while the other walls are 1.3 m wide at ground level but only 1.0 m wide at first floor level and above. The ground floor was covered with a barrel vault still visible in the side walls and gable. Three small hour-glass windows provided ground floor light.

The first and ~~second~~ storeys were lit with larger windows in the E wall. A parapet walk remains around the top of the standing structure.

Drains from the parapet run out to a drip-moulding on the outer face of the E elevation.

\* There is a sandstone-dressed window type at 2nd storey level in far E. wall (over with an timber framed shed in 3rd block) - Quoins rubbed from NE corner to 1.5m above bedrock - an narrow slot. and to about 1m high in SE corner.

01

Visited by BS Williams	Date of visit 24 July 1992	SM2	Ir
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KILLBOUGH WARD

241-8 SE

CO DOWN



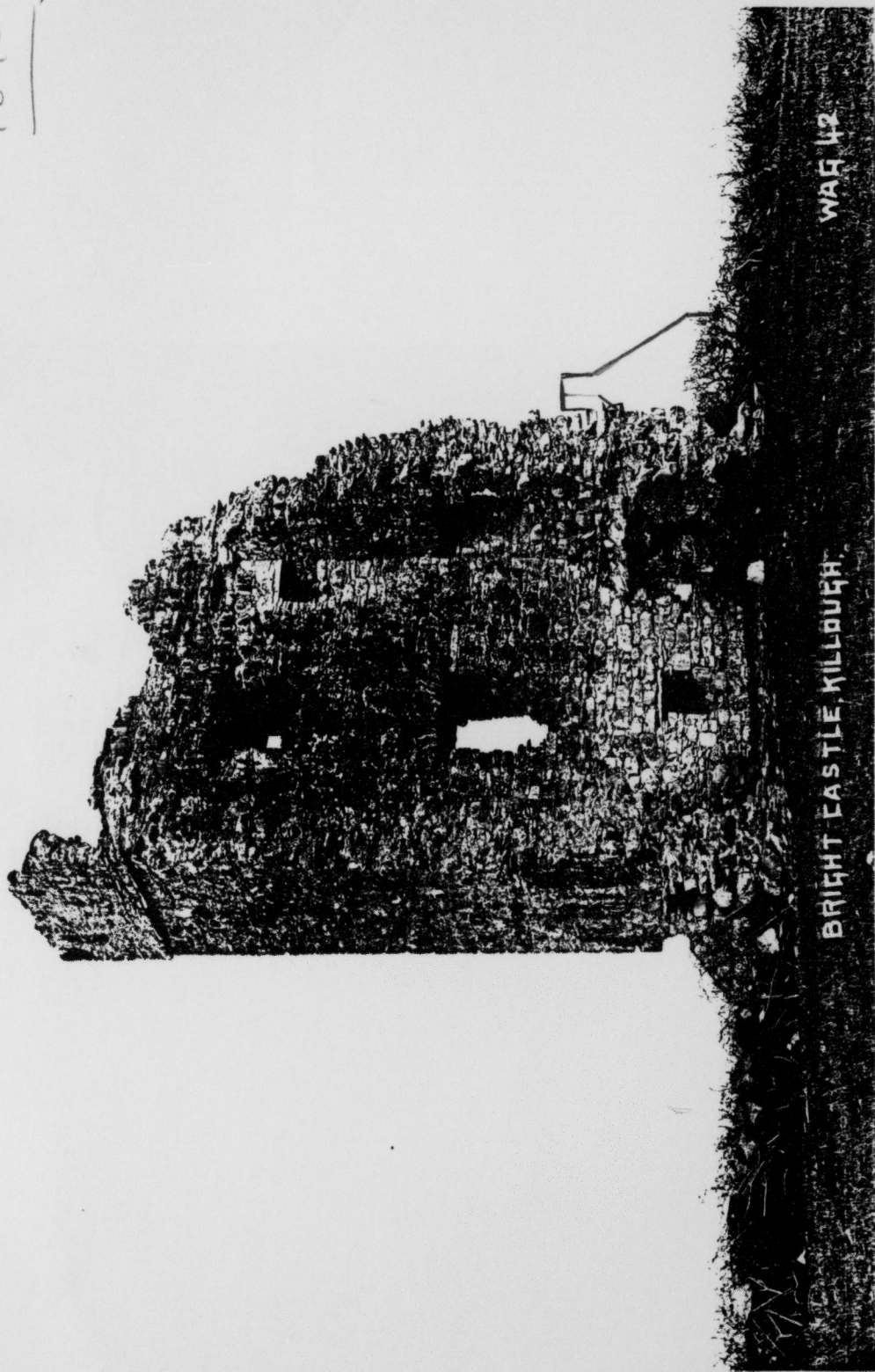
CO DOWN

504	505 Bright Castle Golf Course 506	507	508	509
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1890



WAF 42

BRIGHT CASTLE, KILLOUGH

TD BRIGHT	CO DOWN	PARISH	O.S. 45 : 1
Fortification : Tower House		O.D. 100' +	507 383

Three storey building or L 15 or E 16. Only about half the structure survives, the W. part having completely disappeared.

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> → 4<sup>th</sup>

"CASTLE BRIGHT  
IN RUINS"

Field Visits			Files B92/67: 6 257/79: SM.7 : SM11/1:
			Plans
Scheduled	Listed	State Care	Photos

R Bt 67016 4,000 1/76 TP  
BL

COUNTY DOWN SURVEY P. 230 -1  
PRELIM. SURVEY P. 127





# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch DOENI

SMR DOWN 45:1	Td BRIGHT	Type TOWER HOUSE	
A No.	Site Name CASTLE BRIGHT	Parish	Alt 100' +
IG	GR SD7 383	Barony	DC
OS 1-4 'Castle Bright' in ruins			
NB			
Condition	Threat	Check/Action	Schedule
Land use		Field boundaries	
Site description		Photos?	
<div>OVER</div>			
Visited by		Date of visit	SM.2    Input



Castle Bright, Co. Down      Dow 045:001

Visited 16.6.50

Half of this castle remains to practically full height, the other half entirely missing, but its plan could probably be recovered by a small excavation, which should be done to make the County Down Survey Record. It is a small tower probably originally square in plan of 3 storeys. The ground floor was vaulted and has doubled splayed slits. The door was possibly in the South side, where there are remains of a timber slot and arch spinger(?). The first floor has windows with the characteristic "windows-seat" construction with stone arched heads and on the North a small square ended loop. The second floor has a window with the space for a timber lintel. The corners are corbelled in slightly at parapet level, over the second floor. ? possibly vaulted over under a high pitched roof.

The castle is of a split stone construction, with smaller stones on the interstices. The slits have single slab lintels.

Note that the vault over ground floor must have been very flat if it did in fact cover the span.

Detailed plans and elevations were prepared and photographs taken and are now in the Archaeological survey files.

N.B. This monument should certainly placed under Ministry Surveillance

E.M. Jope  
Field Notebook

In 1602, the Lord Deputy addressing the Privy Council concerning the fortification of towns and harbours against the threat of Spanish invasion, suggested at Carlingford 'a fort to be cast up in the bay in the island there', for if the enemy 'gets in past the island he can capture Carlingford and Newry.' (*Cal. State Papers: Ireland, 1601-3*, p. 378). This implies the absence of existing fortifications and the fort referred to may be that subsequently built on the rock near the Hawlbowl line light. This fort, however, is in style remarkably like Brownsea Castle, in Poole Harbour, built in the 1540s (B. H. St. J. O'Neill, *Castles and Cannon* (1960), plate 14c) and the surviving gun-port on the Carlingford building is of very antiquated design for the early 17th century.

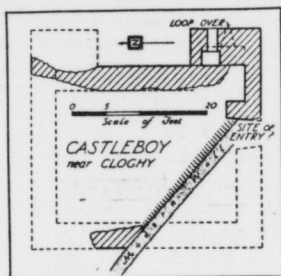


FIG. 148 (No. 848.1).

## 848.1. CASTLEBOY: CASTLEBOY Td (fig. 148)

o.s. 25. Grid ref. 625557

Fragmentary remains of a tower-house, possibly 15th century in date, situated in low-lying ground about 275 ft. S.E. of the church (No. 848.2; p. 301); it has been suggested that the building is contiguous to an earthwork which occupied a slight rise immediately to the S.W., but no confirmation of this can be obtained either by ground inspection or from air photographs. The tower was rectangular on plan, measuring  $34\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $26\frac{1}{2}$  ft. externally, with turrets, which project only towards the E., at the N.E. and S.E. angles. The main block is now represented only by the foundation of the E. wall and by fragments on S. and W.; the N.E. turret, the existence of which is implied only by the projection of the N. wall in advance of the E. wall of the main block, is entirely ruined above ground level. Only the S.E. turret, with a projection of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft., stands in part to a height of three storeys; it is constructed of split-stone rubble of small size and presumably had wrought quoins, all the stones of which have been removed. The turret is solid at the base and encloses a latrine pit discharging through an outlet at the base of the E. wall. The upper storeys contained latrine chambers; that at first floor was lighted by

splayed loops on S. and E. and was covered in part by a segmental barrel vault, the soffit of which retains traces of wicker centering. The N. portion of the chamber contained the privy and was presumably lintelled over, above which the shaft serving the second floor chamber can be seen; the upper storey is ruined above floor level. The entrance to the tower was apparently on the S. a little E. of the mid-point of the wall; a built return indicates the ingoing of the opening, although the jamb does not survive.

## 849. CASTLE BRIGHT: BRIGHT Td (fig. 149)

o.s. 45. Grid ref. 507383

Tower-house of three storeys; the building was probably constructed during the late 15th or early 16th century. Only about half the structure survives; the E. wall, 20 ft. in length externally and the returns of the N. and S. walls stand to roof level but the W. portion of the building has completely disappeared. The tower is built of split-stone rubble, the walls slightly battered throughout their height, rising to an oversailing parapet, much decayed, which has a number of rain-water outlets at the base. The ground floor has double-splayed loops in all surviving walls and was apparently intended to be vaulted in stone; above the head of the loops, the inner faces of the N. and S. walls spring inwards before breaking back raggedly to an offset at first floor level. It is uncertain if the vault was ever completed or whether the first storey was simply floored in timber; the height of the offset would necessitate an exceedingly flat vault. The first floor is lighted by windows, set in embrasures with seats, on S. and E. and by a single pistol loop on the N. The windows, originally square-headed with relieving arch above, have lost their jambs; the embrasures had timber lintels beneath a flat masonry arch. The second floor was of timber, carried on heavy beams, the sockets for which remain on N. and S.; at this stage there is a central window and a cupboard in the E. wall; the window, set in a lintelled embrasure, is square headed, with chamfered

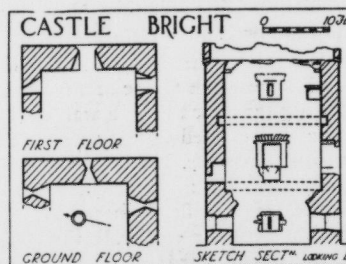


FIG. 149 (No. 849).



jambes in wrought stone. The N. and S. walls, just below roof level, spring inwards, as at the ground floor; at this point this feature was probably intended to increase the width of the parapet work in order to accommodate the gables of the roof.

850. CASTLE ISLAND TD: CASTLE (fig. 150)  
o.s. 31. Grid ref. 516486

The remnant of a small rectangular stone tower, 24 ft. across inside, stands right beside the water edge on the S.E. end of Castle Island. The wall on the seaward side is entirely destroyed. The surviving walls stand to only a few feet, and are about 5 ft. 6 in. thick, of fair sized rather irregular blocks with small split stones in the interstices. There are traces of two slit splay in the W. wall and another in the N. Some brick 2 in. thick is among the debris.

Castle Island is referred to in depositions of 1642-3 (*Ulster J. Archaeol.* 12 (1906), 73). The castle is probably to be identified with Balentogher Castle, mentioned in a deposition of Lieut. Edward Davies concerning the massacre at Downpatrick in 1641 (*Montgomery MSS.*, ed. G. Hill (1869), 317, note 54). Ballintogher Td lies on the mainland contiguous to Castle Island.

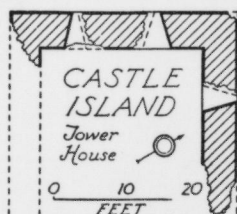


FIG. 150 (No. 850).

516.2. CASTLESKREEN (fig. 100; plate 38)  
o.s. 37. Grid ref. 466400

This fragment of a tower-house lies on the edge of a rath (No. 516.1). No foundations were recovered by excavation; the original plan was probably similar to Margaret's Castle, Ardglass (No. 401.3).

The surviving masonry consists of a square tower, just over 12 ft. by 11 ft., from which at the N.W. angle and the N. side two walls project at right angles, indicating that the existing remains represent only part of what was originally a much larger structure. The tower is built of split stone rubble and boulders, with pinings. On the E. the original base batter extends downwards to the level of the pond formed beside the tower on this side, and there are traces of a similar batter on the W. It appears likely that the tower was built with a base batter on all sides save on the N., but excepting this side the lower parts of the tower have been refaced

externally within recent times, and rebuilt to a pronounced batter which, to the height above ground it now rises (i.e., to about first floor level), is clearly not original. The tower stands to a height of 19 ft. above ground level on the N. and comprises a basement and upper floor. The basement consists merely of a shaft, about 4 ft. square, tapering inwards at the bottom, which is clearly to be identified as a latrine-pit; at the base of the shaft, there is a square opening in the E. wall, with an outlet through the base batter on this side. At first floor level of the tower was a latrine chamber, entered from the main (destroyed) building by a door in the N. wall, which is here reduced to less than half the width at basement level; the walls at first floor level vary from 2½ to 2¾ ft. thick. The latrine chamber is lighted on the E. by a small square opening with internally splayed ingoings, and there are indications of the wooden seat of the privy, which was about 1 foot wide rebated into the E. and W. walls, spanning the centre of the latrine pit. The N. portion of the chamber was corbelled over, the corbelling, now almost entirely destroyed, being supported by a narrow wall, presumably carried by an arch, above the privy. The fact that the corbelled vault did not extend over the S. part of the chamber suggests that a second floor chamber once existed, also designed as a latrine, and that a second privy was sited at this level to discharge vertically over the latrine pit. The fragmentary length of wall abutting the tower at the N.W. angle is about 4 ft. thick, and preserves the E. jamb of an opening provided with a rebate for a door at ground floor level; above this door, at first floor level, is also preserved the E. ingoing, slightly concave in plan, of a window opening. The walling survives to about the same height as the tower with which it is of one build.

851. CASTLE WARD TD: CASTLE WARD (fig. 151;  
plates 50, 51, 54) o.s. 31. Grid ref. 574498

Tower-house, of the late 16th or early 17th century, situated in the yard of the home farm formerly attached to Castle Ward House, some 60 yards from the W. shore of Strangford Bay, an inlet of Strangford Lough. The building, now in charge of the National Trust, is built of split-stone rubble with quoins and some dressings of sandstone (some red); it is 28 ft. by 25½ ft. externally and three storeys and an attic in height.

There is no direct evidence for the date of its construction; it was probably built by Nicholas Ward, who was already married when his father Bernard, who had the estate here, died in 1584. Nicholas was Surveyor of Ordnance 1599-1602, and the tower was most probably built before then.



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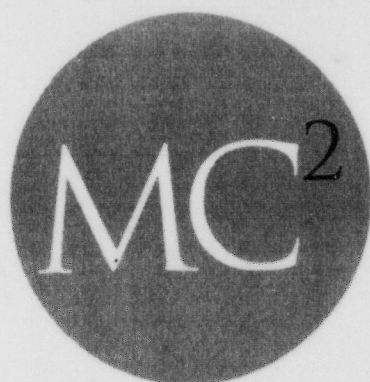
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