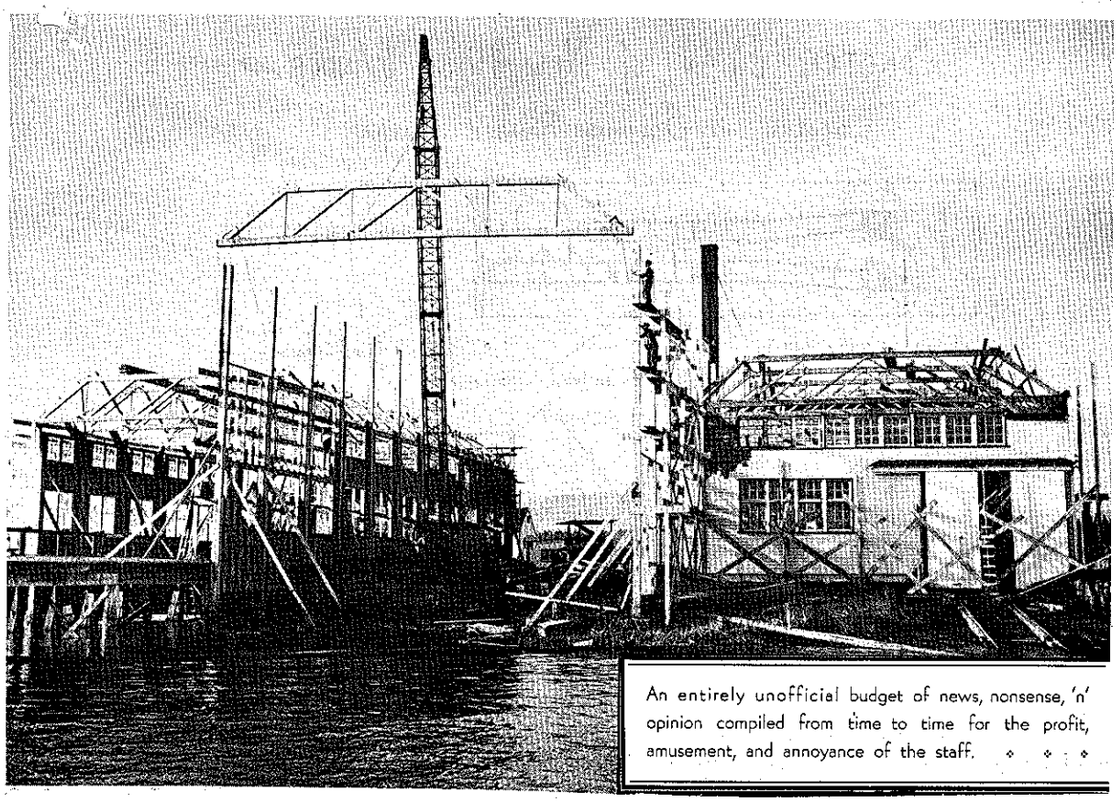
FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff. ◆ ◆ ◆

NO. 75 VICTORIA, B. C. October, 1949. 08581

DID YOU EVER?

By J. B. Stretton,
Dispatcher, Squamish, B. C.

Did you ever spend countless hours of untold agony flattening and winding those seemingly endless lengths of ash-coated, slimy, linen hose? Don't use Snap for those grimy hands -- don't take Dodd's Kidney Pills for that aching back -- don't take Alka Seltzer for that splitting head -- don't use Bluejay corn plasters for those burning, flattened feet -- get yourself a "Stretton Automatic Hose Winder"!! Awake, Komrads! "Stretton's Automatic Hose Winder" does not only wind hose!! Just run the kiddie's hand through "Stretton"s Automatic Hose Winder", and the "little darling" will run like mad to the corner store for that loaf of bread or tin of snoose.

Like apple or carrot juice? Just use "Stretton's Automatic Hose Winder"-- feed your apples or carrots in one end and out will come pure vegetable or fruit juices, delicately flavored with linen hose-drippings.

With a few minor attachments, this wonder machine may be converted into a printing press, counterfeit money printer, or even a "used tooth-paste tube squeezer"-- available at a discount for Scotchmen.

Like to train your dog? Just run his tail through "Stretton's Automatic Hose Winder" disregarding all the blood-curdling howls -- this will show him who's the boss!! Now what could be handier for wringing out those undies or your gold chain and watch after you dropped it in the dishwater? This marvellous machine is available with numerous torture attachments, for the use of Rangers in getting Despatchers up in the morning. The Super Motor Driven Model N.G.D.G. also may be used for yarding and loading. The Pee Wee model doubles as an automatic fishing reel for arthritic or lazy fishermen. Can also be used for cracking walnuts and opening beer bottles at that party. Had an accident with the car or truck lately? Just tell the office it was tangled up with "Stretton's Automatic Hose Winder" -- fill out form F.B. 18 (Property Loss) and they will immediately ship you a new one. And no embarrassing questions asked. This also applies to any piece of equipment or article you don't like or desire renewed. The luxury model also rolls cigarettes and pre-chews snoose.

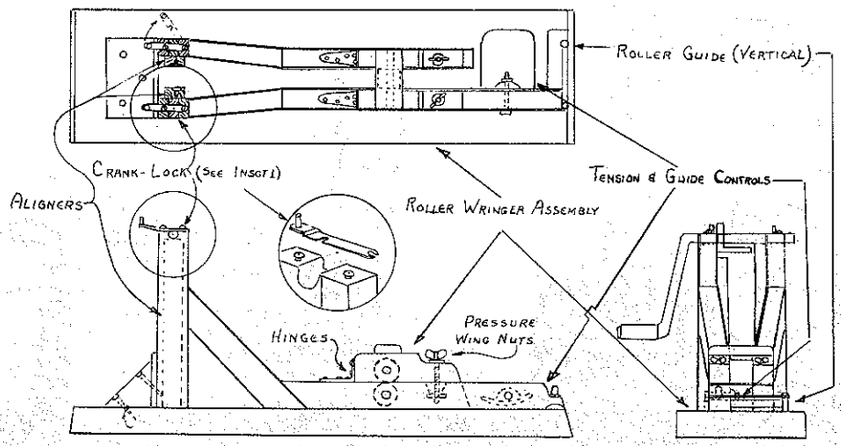
"Stretton's Automatic Hose Winder" may also be used in conjunction with Mr. Collins'pet Duplicator for drying and mangling map prints. Eliminates necessity of Forest Service Grinder Unit for sharpening fire tools. Unit comes complete with Workman's Compensation Accident forms.

Seriously, though, this unit has been tested and has so far given satisfactory service. The advantages of this winder may readily be seen. No flattening previous to winding is necessary as this is facilitated by the "Tension and Roller-Wringer Assembly". Feed the length of hose through to the crank-hook, then commence winding after applying desired tension and pressure.

There is no limit to the winding speed as the alignment of the hose is done by the "aligners" as it is being wound. Quick release "crank-locks" were designed so that the original crank could be used. The hose is flattened and aligned by vertical and horizontal rollers and guides. This produces a tightly wound, smooth-sided reel of hose which is removed and tied.

Did You Ever? (Continued).

Sketch Plan of New Hose Winder
Located at Squamish Ranger Station



J.B. Stretton
Dispatcher R.D 4-1949

The complete unit was made from scraps of wood and metal (found around most workshops). The original crank -- an old washing machine wringer, a pair of hinges, and a few assorted bolts and screws. Further specifications and details may be had upon request.

Special Note to Purchasing Commission: "IF ITS WINDERS YOU'RE GETTIN'.... BE SURE IT'S A STRETTON!!!"

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So Sorry! Excuse Please.

Our story in the last edition on Charlie Haddon's presentation dinner (No. 74, P. 7, Paragraph 6, Lines 4 and 5) contained various and sundry errors. To our regret, we were not at the dinner, so we cannot blame "the cup that cheers" for the flight of imagination that produced , and we quote, "an overnight travelling clock"; and perhaps it was a case of unconsciously awarding credit where credit is due that prompted us to present the cheque for $250.00 to Mrs. Haddon. Or mayhap, as the Vancouver District Office has magnanimously suggested, their report was in error. Be that as it may, the story should have read ".....to Mrs. Haddon an overnight travelling case, and to Charlie a travelling clock, pocket book and wallet containing a cheque for $250.00".

We now go out into the garden and eat worms.

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Just a Little Pill.

With the number of men driving cars throughout the Province and herding boats up and down the Coast, we inevitably have a certain small proportion who suffer from car sickness and sea sickness. The numbers may be small but the agonies they suffer are so far out of proportion to their numbers that this peculiar disability is of more than casual importance. Now science tells us that a new and reasonably sure relief has been discovered. All these individuals have to do is swallow a little pill of Beta-dimethylaminoethyl-benzohydryl-ether-8-chlorotheophyllinate(Ed: Good Heavens!) just prior to embarking on a cruise or a tour and chances of complete relief are about nineteen in twenty. If you would like to check up on our spelling you are referred to Page 83 of the August issue of the Reader's Digest where, incidentally, interested parties will find some further details.

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ECONOMICS.

Forest Surveys.

The summer of 1949 has been a good season for forest surveys. Four main survey parties were sent into the field with a total of sixty temporarily employed students taking part in the work.

The Sechelt party, with W. G. Hughes in charge, sailed on the launch "B. C. Forester", and working in conjunction with this group was a sub-party, under W. Young, which used a "Jeep" for transportation.

The North Coast party, with G. W. Allison in charge, worked from the launch, "Forest Surveyor". Two sub-parties operated under this party, with one in charge of A. J. Scholefield, using a small boat equipped with an outboard, and the other in charge of B. Ford and using a half-ton truck for transportation.

The Upper Fraser survey, under the direction of R. M. Malcolm, was based

Forest Surveys (Continued).

at the Areza Lake Forest Experiment Station. This party also kept L. A. de Grace, the Station forester, well supplied with cruisers and compassmen.

At Whiteswan Lake, two crews under the direction of A. R. McMinn, were doing an extensive cruise on their own.

The Princeton-Merritt survey started out under the direction of H. N.Cliff who was later succeeded by E. H. Lyons (not to be confused with C. P. Lyons of Parks). Transportation methods varied on this party, consisting of two half-ton trucks, three pack-horses, and one rowboat at various stages of the "game".

Moanings and groanings were listened to patiently by H. M. Pogue as he made the rounds to all parties and sub-parties. As he visited each party three times, this little chore took him all summer.

George Silburn spent his first complete summer in the office mainly answering "screams" for help from the field parties, via radio, telegram, and letters.

Davis M. Carey and Harold N. Cliff also languished in the office most of this summer struggling to cope with the never-ending E. and N. survey.

At this date, however, all field parties have returned to the fold. In this connection, we wish to welcome to the office as Foresters-in-Training: I. R. Burrows, C. J. Calder, B. Ford, J. H. Frey, W. H. Mulholland, R. G. Steele, W. M. Stiell, and W. Young.

Growth and Yield.

The mensuration field work started on March 28, when the permanent staff spent three weeks remeasuring seventeen of the permanent growth and yield plots due for their periodic examination. These plots were only accessible by boat but, happily, the sea was calm and the weather perfect. The remaining five plots accessible by car were measured in late September.

Owing to lack of temporary assistants, only one party was in the field for three months duration on permanent plot work. This party worked in the evenaged larch, Douglas fir, spruce, and lodgepole pine types at the higher elevations, south and east of Vernon. They established nine series of growth and yield plots totalling one hundred and forty-two sub-plots, and, in addition,worked on stem analysis and increment studies. A plantation of Norway spruce, set out on an Island in Beaver Lake by the late Ranger J. Woods, was tagged and reserved as a permanent plot.

The staff determined the site-quality and timber productive capacity of an area in the lodgepole pine-aspen type near Kamloops scheduled to be burned by the grazing officers. The object of this study is to determine the relative value of the area for timber production, grazing, wild-life, and so forth.

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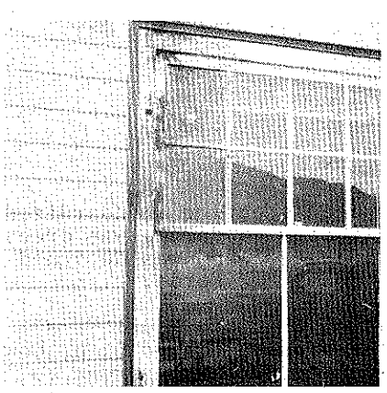
WHAM!!

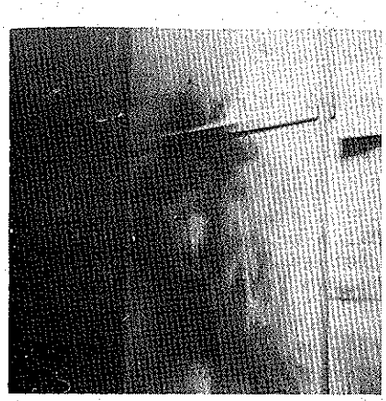
Things seemed to be just about normal for a hot, dry, July around the Invermere District. Ranger Joe Johnson turned the key in the door of his spic and span new station, frowned at the darkening sky, and headed for home prepared to start out at any time to tackle any lightning strikes up or down the beautiful Windermere Valley.

The common complaint about lightning strikes and resulting fires is that they are always "fifty miles from nowhere". Joe changed his mind that night when the most accessible strike on record slammed through the window of the radio room of his station, danced across his S.P.F. and bounced off the wall.

The accompanying pictures, although no examples of expert photography, do give an idea of what can happen.



--slammed through the window.



--bounced off the wall.

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NEWSLETTER

1949 -- WORSE BUT NOT BAD.

The last of this year's weekly fire "Sitreps", issued by Operations and dated for the week ending October 1, showed that throughout the five Districts there were more than twice as many fires this year than in '48 and a 25% increase over the number recorded in 1947. It also showed that there were 23 fires still burning as of October 1. The costs for fire-fighting were up over 100% from 1948.

In order to estimate just how bad, or good, a season we had this year, however, we should remember that in 1948 there were only 803 fires during the whole season and, therefore, the percentages of increase don't, in fact, mean as much as it would first appear. Also, '48 was the wettest and most fire-free season on record, while, according to the books, '49 was just about average for the last 15 years.

For the information of all, the following tables show, by Districts, the number of fires, estimated costs in fire-fighting, and the average cost per fire for the last two years.

	1949			1948		
District	No. of Fires	Est. Cost	Av. Cost	No. of Fires	Est. Cost	Av. Cost
VANCOUVER	491	$11,406	$24.	202	$ 2,931	$15
PRINCE RUPERT	44	642	15	56	1,434	26
FORT GEORGE	158	20,351	129	169	26,191	155
KAMLOOPS	501	23,855	48	187	5,809	31
NELSON	486	31,524	65	189	3,452	18
	1,680	$87,778	$56	803	$39,817	$49

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ONE "JACK CARSON"= 6'4".

The accompanying photograph was taken by Assistant Ranger R. E. Robinson, in 1946. Acting at that time as student assistant, he was dispatched with a crew to the Swan Fire, a lightning spot on Swan Creek about sixty-five miles north of Golden, on the Big Bend Highway. Returning from the fire, Robinson and his companion in the picture, Jack Carson, ran onto thirty or forty acres of Douglas fir, measuring four to ten feet in diameter. Robinson reports that he reckoned a lot of those "high binders" on the Coast would not believe that such timber existed east of the Cascades, but reckoned he would have the picture taken anyway.

The diameter is authenticated by what any reasonable judge would deem to be correct scientific measurement. Jack Carson is 6'4" top to toe. He was stretched out on the ground, feet coinciding with one side of the tree, and the diameter measured from his feet. The resulting diameter equalled -- one Jack Carson, (that is, 6'4") plus one axe-handle, plus something to spare. The speciman in the picture, therefore, is over nine feet D.B.H.

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---coastal "high binders" wouldn't believe.

SUBSTANDARD STANDARD.

Even 29 years ago, the accent was being placed on erecting standardized Forest Service buildings. In 1920, the first standard Forest Service garage was erected on a city lot at 343 Victoria Avenue, Fernie. It measured 18' x 20' and was designed to accommodate two "standard" Forest Service vehicles -- i.e., Model "T" Fords.

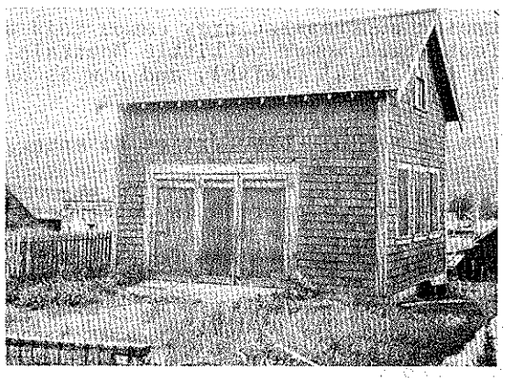
The Fernie Ranger of that day, however, insisted that two Model "T's" would not fit in the newly erected edifice. This constituted a challenge to C. S. Cowan, then Forester-in-Charge of Operations, who made a special trip to Fernie in order to demonstrate that as the garage was designed for two Fords, two Fords just had to go in! History records that Mr. Cowan's forceful demonstration to prove his point failed -- but not quite utterly.

The solution to the burning question and the burning faces lay in jacking one vehicle to the side of the garage, thus permitting the second machine to be driven in. Which all goes to prove that there is "more than one way to skin a cat".

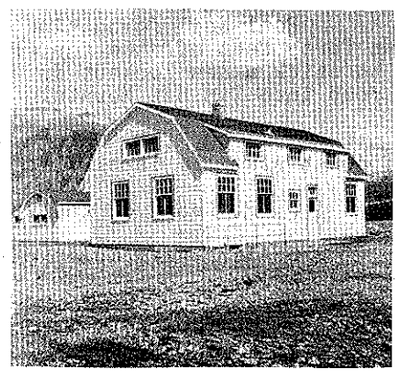
Any roving historians, in the neighbourhood of Fernie should make the

Substandard Standard (Continued).

supreme effort to see this proud relic of the past, which was the centre of a "raging controversy" 29 years ago.



Standard garage, 1920 ---- problems.



Standard R.S. and Garage, 1949 ---- problems.

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OUR MASTHEAD STORY.

In the last Newsletter, we published a photograph showing part of the damage done by fire to the Marine Station on May 17. The masthead picture on this Newsletter shows what Operations have done in rebuilding the plant.

As usual, Operations Division carried on with all necessary repair work despite the handicaps, and, in addition, have made extensive improvements at the Marine Station. A building for the manufacture of pre-fab buildings has almost been completed and the huge new machine-shop is in the final stage of construction.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICT.

Dear Editor:--

Mr. Holmes is really to blame because he generally gets something ready for the paper, but here he's just phoned in and told me to do it.

Twenty-four hours past the dead-line for "copy" and nothing ready! People on holidays, people sick, people out on field-work, fires, slash burning, atom bombs, devaluation, Yankees vs. Dodgers sweepstake, and the big changes in our office make it so that one hardly knows where to start.

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Regulated Chaos.

It all began with George Anderson letting his draughting table get so piled up with MTI files and weather charts that he couldn't spread out a cover map. We moved the stationery downstairs and that gave the draughtsmen a brand new home with their name on the door. Then we moved the remaining furniture all around because the District Forester ordered it -- aided and abetted by Mr. Fox -- while Mr. Taylor lined up the desks as though he were back on a parade-ground with his platoon.

You ought to have heard the "oohs" and "aahs" when the girls arrived next morning! Nobody had their right waste paper basket it seemed, (where were they going to put their "things"?)and everybody had the wrong chair. The District Forester went away on the "Syrene" for a ten-day field examination, and when he returned, everybody was quietened down and things were running smoothly.

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Developments, Gadgets, etc.

Just one word to let you see that we really are trying to follow your wishes about reporting developments, gadgets, etc. produced by the staff, and also show that in efficiency our office is not so far behind other places. The circumstances I have in mind were as follows:

One day Miss Johns thought it would be a good idea to invent something to keep her eraser from falling on the floor or losing itself in the waste-paper basket and mentioned the matter to me. I immediately got a piece of string and tied the eraser to the space bar of Miss John's typewriter, but it didn't work because the string was too short and Miss Johns had to use Miss Harris' eraser until I came along with my knife. The problem has been referred back to me for further consideration.

There's not much else happened except Arthur Waddington is on duty again after a spell of sickness, and also Ruth Milburn is back although still using a cane.

Vancouver District (continued).

Jim Atkins came back today with a suntan he picked up in the Cariboo and Seattle.

Ted Young is getting married on the 29th of October, even after he had been cleaned out at a poker party given in his honour by Larry Cuthbertson.

Paul Neil found time in between running suppression crew camps this summer to cut forty feet off the top of the eighty foot steel tower on Little Mountain Lookout, to stick a new lookout on Spider Mountain (14' x 14' prefab), and now is bulldozing a road into Tin Hat Mountain for another lookout.

Scalers D. F. DeMuth and C. W. Lemon, have left the Service to enter employ of coast sawmills in similar work.

J. P. Leary of the temporary scaling staff was married in September.

Scaler Larry Coles passed around cigars recently -- the fourth, "Coles minor" -- all girls.

-- and now I've taken my "MESSAGE TO GARCIA" for today.

Yrs. Resp'y,

"BOSWELL"

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Open Letter to Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Haddon.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Haddon,
730 No. 3 Road,
Lulu Island, B. C.

We are all pleased to hear that you have acquired a new home among spacious surroundings.

It will be nice to have a garden, and perhaps a spot of digging for Charles -- moderate amount of course -- will be just what the doctor ordered to bring back memories of good old Somerset.

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Our sincere condolences are extended to George H. Birkenhead in the loss of his wife. Mrs. Birkenhead, who had been in failing health for some time passed away on October 1, 1949.

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AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION.

September 16 officially marked the end of an era in the life of Ranger School students when the new "Academy" on the Trans-Canada Highway east of New Westminster was formally opened by the Honourable E. T. Kenney and Chief Forester Orchard.

It was a truly gala affair attended by a large and representative group from the industries, the press, the educational institutions, and federal and provincial government organizations.

In a brief chat, Mr. Kenney expressed pleasure at the interest shown in the new addition to Forest Service facilities and forecast that the training which the Rangers will receive will be returned many times over in improved protection methods and forest development. The Chief Forester pointed out that the new buildings should really be regarded as an accolade to Doug Greggor and Jim Pedley for it was the success they had achieved during the first three years of operation, in makeshift quarters, that had justified the construction of the new school.

Credit for the outstanding success of the "do" goes, in the final analysis, to "the ladies". The Kitchen staff, which had reported for duty the previous evening, celebrated their arrival "not wisely but too well" and were evicted -- forcefully and adequately, we are informed -- by Assistant Dean Pedley early the next morning before they laid hand to skillet. Whereupon Mrs. Greggor took command, assisted by wives, daughters, and a flunkey staff of be-aproned and blushing husbands and produced an array of refreshments that would have done credit to a Royal Garden Party. (Gordon Levy at the throttle of a coffee percolator and enveloped in one of Jarvis' aprons, had to be seen to be believed). Mrs. John Burke (of the B.C. Loggers' Association Burkes) and Mrs. Don MacKenzie (of the Peace Arch Park Mackenzies) officiated at the urns.

All in all, it was a very good show indeed and an auspicious send-off for the new venture.

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