

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

## le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

### An Annie Jane (1)

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 712. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 408 corresponds to Litir 712.*

Anns an Lùnastal ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a trì (1853), sheòl an *Annie Jane* à Liverpool le ceithir cheud duine air bòrd. 'S e soitheach ùr trì-chrannach a bh' innte. Chaidh a togail ann an Quebec agus bha i a' seòladh 'dhachaigh' à Liverpool. B' e Uilleam Mason an sgiobair oirre. Bha e air a bhith na sheòladair fad trithead 's a sia bliadhna, agus bha sgioba aige de cheathrad. Cha robh dùil ach gum biodh turas-mara math aca.

Bha an *Annie Jane* a' giùlain **luchd de dh'iarainn** – ochd ceud tonna dheth – airson rathaidean-iarainn, am measg eile, air an taobh thall. Bha trì cheud tonna ann cuideachd de bhathar eile. Agus bha i làn daoine.

Chaidh an *Annie Jane* gu tuath, seachad air ceann an iar-thuath na h-Èireann agus a-steach don Chuan Siar. Dh'èirich a' ghaoth agus thòisich an long air luasgadh gu dona. Dh'fhàs an t-sìde na bu mhiosa. Bhris na crainn-mhullaich. Ach rinn an sgioba obair-càraidh oirre agus lean iad orra air an slighe a Chanada.

Bha eagal mòr air an luchd-siubhail, ge-tà. Dh'iarr iad air an sgiobair an soitheach a thoirt air ais a Liverpool. Chaidh an Caiptean Mason fo-rùm airson faicinn mar a bha gnothaichean don luchd-siubhail. Bha an suidheachadh cho dona 's gun do dh'aontaich e tilleadh. Chaidh iad timcheall costa deas na h-Èireann. Às dèidh ochd latha aig muir, bha iad air ais ann an cala Liverpool.

Dhiùlt cuid dhen luchd-siubhail a dhol air an *Annie Jane* tuilleadh. Bha iad dhen bheachd nach e soitheach comasach a bh' innte, agus bha iad a' gearain gun robh cus dhaoine air bòrd, 's iad gun bhiadh gu leòr. Ach ghabh daoine eile an àiteachan air bòrd. Às dèidh obair-càraidh a mhair seachdain, bha an long air ais aig muir.

Thachair an aon rud a-rithist. Anns a' chuan mhòr, thòisich i air luasgadh gu dona. Chaidh a toiseach a mhilleadh. Bha i a' dol gu tuath, air falbh bhon t-slighe cheart.

Bhruidhinn cuid dhen luchd-siubhail ris a' chiad mheit gu h-os ìosal. Dh'inns esan dhaibh gun robh e dhen bheachd nach ruigeadh iad Quebec. Chuir an luchd-siubhail athchuinge chun an sgiobair, ag iarraidh air tilleadh a Liverpool. An turas seo, reub e an athchuinge ann am pìosan. Thug e gunna-làimhe a-mach agus thuirt e gun cleachdadh e e nam biodh ar-a-mach ann.

**Chaidh cùisean am miosad.** Dh'èirich gailleann. Chaidh crainn a bhriseadh. Chaidh cuid de na siùil a reubadh às a chèile. Às dèidh ceala-deug aig muir, bha an *Annie Jane* dà cheud mìle a-mach bho Hiort agus ann an droch staid.

Shocraich a' ghaoth an uair sin, agus rinn an Caiptean Mason an co-dhùnadh gun dèanadh iad air Èirinn, agus sàbhailteachd. Ach, nuair a bha iad faisg air Beàrnaraigh, deas air Barraigh, far a bheil taigh-solais, dh'èirich a' ghaoth às ùr.

Bha fios aig an sgiobair, nan rachadh iad air creagan àrda Bheàrnaraigh, gum faigheadh a h-uile duine bàs. Thionndaidh Mason an long. Bha e air a chur roimhe an *Annie Jane* a chur air tìr ann am bàgh ghainmhich – am Bàgh Siar – ann am Bhatarsaigh. Leis a' ghaoth a-nise air an cùlaibh, bhiodh e furasta gu leòr sin a dhèanamh. Bha Mason an dòchas gum faigheadh daoine gu tìr ann am Bhatarsaigh. Ach cha bhiodh a' chùis buileach cho soirbh sin, mar a chì sinn an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** an Lùnastal: *August*; rathaidean-iarainn: *railway tracks*; reub: *ripped*; gunna-làimhe: *pistol*; Hiort: *St Kilda*; taigh-solais: *lighthouse*;

**Abairtean na Litreach:** 'S e soitheach ùr trì-chrannach a bh' innte: *she was a new three-masted vessel*; b' e Uilleam Mason an sgiobair oirre: *William Mason was the captain (on her)*; bha e air a bhith na sheòladair fad trithead 's a sia bliadhna: *he had been a sailor for 36 years*; air an taobh thall: *on the other side*; trì cheud tonna de bhathar eile: *three hundred tons of other goods*; a-steach don Chuan Siar: *into the Atlantic*; thòisich an long air luasgadh gu dona: *the ship started to roll badly*; bhris na crainn-mhullaich: *the topmasts broke*; rinn an sgioba obair-càraidh oirre: *the crew repaired it*; bha eagal mòr air an luchd-siubhail: *the passengers were very scared*; fo-rùm airson faicinn mar a bha gnothaichean: *below decks to see how matters were*; cho dona 's gun do dh'aontaich e tilleadh: *so bad that he agreed to return*; costa deas na h-Èireann: *the south coast of Ireland*; nach e soitheach comasach a bh' innte: *that she was not a seaworthy vessel*; cus dhaoine air bòrd, 's iad gun bhìadh gu leòr: *too many people on board, without enough food*; chaidh a toiseach a mhilleadh: *her bow was damaged*; bhruidhinn X ris a' chiad mheit gu h-os ìosal: *X spoke secretly to the first mate*; nach ruigeadh iad Quebec: *that they wouldn't reach Quebec*; athchuinge chun an sgiobair: *a petition to the captain*; dh'èirich gailleann: *a terrible storm arose*; chaidh crainn a bhriseadh: *masts were broken*; ceala-deug aig muir: *a fortnight at sea*; shocraich a' ghaoth: *the wind weakened*; faisg air Beàrnaraigh, deas air Barraigh: *near Berneray, south of Barra*; nan rachadh iad air creagan àrda Bheàrnaraigh: *if they went onto the cliffs of Berneray*; gum faigheadh a h-uile duine bàs: *that everyone would die*; air an cùlaibh: *behind them*; an dòchas gum faigheadh daoine gu tìr ann am Bhatarsaigh: *hoping that people would get to land on Vatersay*; buileach cho soirbh sin: *quite as easy as that*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** a' giùlain luchd de dh'iarainn: *carrying a load of iron*. Note that the word *luchd* for 'load' and *luchd* for 'people' are different and of different origin. A ship usually carries both type of 'luchd'. Commonly, where people (and particularly professions) are concerned, we follow *luchd* with a hyphen eg *luchd-siubhail* 'travellers', *luchd-teagaisg* 'teachers'. But notice also the unhyphenated *luchd na Beurla* 'English-speakers' (with the genitive article)

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** Chaidh cùisean am mìosad: *matters took a turn for the worse*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA