

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Uamh na h-Armachd agus Fionnghal NicDhòmhnaill

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.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 722. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 418 corresponds to Litir 722.

Ann an dùthaich dhan do bhuin mo shinnsirean – Comraich Ma-Ruibhe ann an Ros an Iar – tha uamh faisg air a’ chladach ris an canar *Uamh na h-Armachd*. Tha i faisg air Salachar, gu tuath air Sannd, ma tha sibh eòlach air a’ chosta gu tuath air Clachan Ma-Ruibhe.

Tha ainm na h-uamha – *Uamh na h-Armachd* – a’ ciallachadh ‘*the cave of the armaments*’. An robh armachd air a stòradh innte uaireigin? Tha smuain ann, ge-tà, gun do chlàir an Suirbhidh Òrdanais an t-ainm le mearachd, agus gur e *Uamh an Ar-a-mach* ‘*the cave of the rebellion*’ a bu chòir a bhith oirre.

Dè an t-ar-a-mach a bhiodh ann, ma-thà? Dè ach fear nan Seumasach anns an ochdamh linn deug. Air a’ cheathramh latha deug dhen Iuchar, seachd ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a sia (1746), fhuair an riaghaltas fios gun robh saighdearan a’ Phrionnsa am falach ann an uamh air a’ Chomraich. Bha HMS Furnace ann an Geàrr Loch, agus chuireadh bàtaichean beaga a-mach le seòladairean is saighdearan annta. Cha deach na daoine a lorg ach fhuair eadhon lorg air **deich-ràmhach**.

Dà latha roimhe sin, bha tachartas eachdraidheil air a bhith ann air bòrd HMS Furnace, agus i air acair far cladach na Comraich. ’S ann air an latha sin a dh’innis Fionnghal NicDhòmhnaill do na h-ùghdarrasan mar a chuidich i Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart ann a bhith a’ faighinn air falbh bho na h-Eileanan Siar ann an riochd a tè-fhrithéalaidh Èireannaich, Betty Burke.

’S e an Seanalair Iain Caimbeul, am fear a bha os cionn an rannsachaidh airson Theàrlach Òig, a cheasnaich Fionnghal. Bha sin na fàbhar oir bha esan air a ràdh gu feumte dèiligeadh rithe le meas is modh. Dh’innis i an stòiridh dha mu mar a thèich am Prionnsa na cuideachd gu ruige an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, agus mar a chumadh am falach e bho shaighdearan an riaghaltais.

Mas ann le meas is modh a chaidh dèiligeadh ri Fionnghal, cha robh sin fìor mun a h-uile prìosanach Seumasach a chaidh air bòrd HMS Furnace. B’ e an Cairtean Iain Fearghasdan à Inbhir Uaraidh a bha na sgiobair air an t-soitheach, agus bha e ainmeil airson a bhith an-ìochdmhor.

Rinn oifigear Seumasach, Felix O’ Neill, iomradh air Fearghasdan. Began làithean mus robh Fionnghal NicDhòmhnaill an grèim aige, dh’òrdaich Fearghasdan gum biodh O’ Neill air a chur air racais agus **gum biodh e air a chuipadh** – airson faighinn a-mach cà’ robh am Prionnsa. Bha am peanas an impis tòiseachadh nuair a tharraing ceannard nan saighdearan air bòrd – an Lieutenant McGaghan – a

chleidheamh. Thuir e ris a' chaithean gum b' fheàrr leis gum faigheadh e fhèin bàs seach gum biodh a leithid air a dèanamh air oifigear.

Ach bha cothroman eile aig Fearghasdan fiosrachadh fhaighinn le ciùrradh. Chleachd e inneal uabhasach a lorgadh ann an Taigh Bhàrrasdail ann an Cnòideart. Bhiodh MacDhòmhnaill Bhàrrasdail ga chleachdadh airson 's gun aidicheadh daoine gun robh iad ciontach de rudeigin air choreigin. 'S e 'Barisdale' a chanadh daoine ris an inneal ann am Beurla. Bhiodh duine air a ghlasadh ann, gun chomas gluasaid, le bior iarainn a' stobadh a-steach air amhaich. Bhiodh e ag aideachadh ri casaid sam bith.

An fheadhainn a thèich à Uamh na h-Armachd air a' Chomraich, tha mi an dòchas nach do choinnich iad riamh ris a' Chaithean Fearghasdan no ris a' Bharisdale.

* * * * *

Faclan na Litreach: Comraich Ma-Ruibhe/A' Chomraich: *Applecross*; Clachan Ma-Ruibhe: *Clachan of Applecross [of Maol Rubha]*; Inbhir Uaraidh: *Inverurie*; an-ìochdmhor: *merciless*; ciùrradh: *torture*.

Abairtean na Litreach: dhan do bhuin mo shinnsirean: *to which my ancestors belonged*; an robh armachd air a stòradh innte?: *were armaments stored in it?*; gun do chlàir an Suirbhidh Òrdanais an t-ainm le mearachd: *that the Ordnance Survey mistakenly recorded it*; fear nan Seumasach: *the Jacobite one*; gun robh saighdearan a' Phrionnsa am falach ann an uamh air a' Chomraich: *that soldiers of the Prince were hiding in a cave in Applecross*; dà latha roimhe sin, bha tachartas eachdraidheil air a bhith ann: *two days before that, there had been a historic event*; air acair far cladach na Comraich: *at anchor off the shore of Applecross*; mar a chuidich i Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart: *how she helped Bonnie Prince Charlie*; ann an riochd a tè-fhrithéalaidh Èireannaich: *disguised as her Irish maidservant*; a cheasnaich Fionnghal: *who interrogated Flora*; bha sin na fàbhar: *that was in her favour*; gu feumte dèiligeadh rithe le meas is modh: *that she would have to be treated with respect and politeness*; an grèim aige: *in his custody*; air a chur air racais: *put on a rack*; bha am peanas an impis tòiseachadh: *the punishment was about to begin*; seach gum biodh a leithid air a dèanamh air oifigear: *rather than such a thing be done to an officer*; Taigh Bhàrrasdail ann an Cnòideart: *Barrisdale House in Knoydart*; airson 's gun aidicheadh daoine gun robh iad ciontach de rudeigin air choreigin: *so that people would admit they were guilty of something or other*; gun chomas gluasaid: *unable to move*; le bior iarainn a' stobadh a-steach air amhaich: *with an iron spike sticking into his neck*; bhiodh e ag aideachadh ri casaid sam bith: *he would admit to any accusation*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: fhuair e lorg air **deich-ràmhach**: *a ten-oared boat was found. When talking about traditional boats, powered by oar, there is no need to use a word like 'bàta' or 'soitheach', as 'ràmhach' does the job. Here are some examples: dà-ràmhach 'a two-oared boat'; ceithir-ràmhach 'a four-oared boat'; sia-ràmhach or sè-ràmhach 'a six-oared boat', ochd-ràmhach 'an eight-oared boat'; deich-ràmhach 'a ten-oared boat'. Once you reached 12 oars, you were getting into the realm of the birlinn.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: gum biodh e air a chuipheadh: *that he would be whipped.*

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