

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Seachdnar Chnòideirt (2)

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. This is Litir 730. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 426 corresponds to Litir 730.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Sheachdnar Chnòideirt, agus **mar a rinn iad agairt air fearann** ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a h-ochd (1948), an aghaidh toil an uachdarain, am Morair Brocket. Bha airgead mòr aig Brocket, a bh' air a bhith na bhall-pàrlamaid Tòraidheach, a' riochdachadh pàirt de Liverpool, mus deach inbhe morair a bhuileachadh air anns na tritheadan. Bha droch chliù aige oir bha e taiceil do na Natsaich anns a' Ghearmailt agus bha e na charaid do dh'Adolf Hitler. Chaidh e gu pàrtaidh airson an caogadamh ceann-bliadhna aig Hitler a chomharrachadh, agus bha e thall sa Ghearmailt airson Co-chruinneachadh mòr Nuremberg anns a' bhliadhna trithead 's a h-ochd (1938).

Deich bliadhna an dèidh Nuremberg bha Brocket a' strì anns a' chùirt an aghaidh feadhainn a bh' air a bhith a' sabaid an aghaidh Hitler – feadhainn a bhuineadh don oighreachd aige ann an Cnòideart. Agus cha robh na reudairean **gun taic**. Bha an sagairt, Mgr Cailean Mac a' Phearsain, a bhuineadh do dh'Uibhist a Deas, gu math taiceil dhaibh. Agus bha an riaghaltas air aontachadh, aig àm a' chogaidh, nach robh Brocket a' dèanamh gu leòr leis an fhearann aige. Ach, aig deireadh a' chogaidh, lean Brocket air leis na poileasaidhean a bh' aige ron chogadh. Chuir e cuid mhath de luchd-obrach na h-oighreachd a-mach às na taighean aca.

Bha na reudairean dhen bheachd gun robh iad a' leantainn ann an cas-cheumannan ghaisgeach ann am Bhatarsaigh, san Eilean Sgitheanach, ann an Leòdhas is àiteachan eile, far an do sheas na daoine an còraichean a bhith a' fuireach air fearann an sinnsirean. Agus dè rinn an t-uachdaran? Mar a chuir Seumas MacEanraig na faclan ann am beul Bhrocket *'You're a shower of tartan bolshies, but I'll soon have you licked, I'll write to the Court of Session for an interim interdict...'*

Agus 's e sin a thachair. A rèir *'The Men of Knoydart': Then spoke the men of Knoydart, 'You have no earthly right, for this is the land of Alba and no the Isle of Wight. When Scotland's proud young Fianna are assembled in the van, we'll show the world that Highlanders have a right to Scottish land'*. Uill, 's dòcha gun robh còraichean moralta aca, ach cha d' fhuair iad taic na cùirte. Ged a bhuannaich e sa chùirt, ge-tà, dh'fhàs Brocket sgìth dhen strì, agus reic e an oighreachd ann an caogad 's a dhà (1952).

Eadar a' bhliadhna sin agus naochad 's a naoi (1999), bha Cnòideart ann an làmhnan sreath dhaoine eile – An Coirneal Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Major Nigel Chamberlayne-Macdonald, Philip Rhodes, Reg Brealey agus Stephen Hinchcliffe. Bha aon rud sa chumantas thar nam bliadhnaichean sin. Bha sluagh na h-oighreachd a'

dol an lughad, agus cha robh cothrom aig muinntir an àite leasachaidhean mòra a dhèanamh.

An uair sin, ann an naoi ceud deug, naochad 's a naoi (1999), ghabh Bunait Chnòideirt – buidheann anns an robh muinntir an àite air an riochdachadh – smachd air an oighreachd le bhith ga ceannach. A-nise, tha barrachd dhaoine òg' a' fuireach ann an Cnòideart na bha airson ùine mhòr, agus tha leasachaidhean eaconamach a' dol air adhart. Cha do bhuannaich an Seachdnar Reudairean san strì aca, ach 's dòcha gun do bhuannaich an spiorad a bha iad a' riochdachadh aig an àm sin, seasgad 's a còig bliadhna air ais.

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Faclan na Litreach: Seachdnar Chnòideirt: *The Seven Men of Knoydart*; am Morair Brocket: *Lord Brocket*; Natsaich: *Nazis*; sagairt: *priest*; Mgr Cailean Mac a' Phearsain: *Fr Colin MacPherson*; Seumas MacEanraig: *Hamish Henderson*; Bunait Chnòideirt: *Knoydart Foundation*; leasachaidhean: *developments*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a bh' air a bhith na bhall-pàrlamaid Tòraidheach, a' riochdachadh pàirt de Liverpool: *who had been a Conservative member of Parliament, representing part of Liverpool*; mus deach inbhe morair a bhuileachadh air anns na tritheadan: *before he was awarded a peerage in the thirties*; airson an caogadamh ceann-bliadhna aig Hitler a chomharrachadh: *to celebrate Hitler's 50th birthday*; Co-chruinneachadh mòr Nuremberg: *The Nuremberg Rally*; an aghaidh feadhainn a bh' air a bhith a' sabaid an aghaidh Hitler: *against some people who had been fighting Hitler*; bha an riaghaltas air aontachadh nach robh Brocket a' dèanamh gu leòr leis an fhearann aige: *the government had agreed that Brocket was not doing enough with his land*; chuir e cuid mhath de luchd-obrach na h-oighreachd a-mach às na taighean aca: *he expelled many of the estate workers from their houses*; ann an cas-cheumannan ghaisgeach: *in the footsteps of heroes*; far an do sheas na daoine an còraichean: *where the people stood up for their rights*; a bhith a' fuireach air fearann an sinnsirean: *to live on their ancestors' land*; 's dòcha gun robh còraichean moralta aca: *perhaps they had moral rights*; ged a bhuannaich e sa chùirt, ge-tà: *although he won in the court, however*; reic e an oighreachd: *he sold the estate*; sa chumantas thar nam bliadhnaichean sin: *in common during those years*; a' dol an lughad: *decreasing*; smachd air an oighreachd le bhith ga ceannach: *control of the estate by buying it*; 's dòcha gun do bhuannaich an spiorad a bha iad a' riochdachadh: *that the spirit that they were representing won*; seasgad 's a còig bliadhna air ais: *sixty-five years ago*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: cha robh na reudairean **gun taic**: *the raiders weren't without support*. Gun is here a preposition. It normally incurs lenition of the following noun eg gun bhrògan 'without shoes', gun fheadil 'without meat'. However, when the initial consonant of the noun is a 'd', 't' or sometimes 's', the lenition is 'blocked' by the fact that the final consonant in gun is an 'n'. Thus we get gun duine beò, gun taigh, gun saighdear na chois. This lenition blocking by an 'n' of dental consonants is a common occurrence.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: mar a rinn iad agairt air fearann: *how they made a claim for land*.

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