

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Ruairidh Mòr agus an Dà-shealladh**

*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 813. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 509 corresponds to Litir 813.*

A bheil Gàidheil ann a tha fhathast a’ creidsinn anns an dà-shealladh, **anns an aonamh linn air fhichead**? Saoilidh mi gu bheil. Thar nam bliadhnaichean, tha mi air tachairt ri feadhainn a bha gun teagamh dhen bheachd gun robh a leithid de chomas aig cuid. Bha sin fìor ann an Alba, Èirinn agus Alba Nuadh. Thuirt fear rium turas gun robh cuid ann an Sasainn a’ creidsinn anns an dà-shealladh ach gun robh diofar ann eadar Alba agus Sasainn, agus eadar Gàidheil is Goill. Mar a thuirt e fhèin, tha an dà-shealladh nas *mainstream* am measg nan Gàidheal. Bidh beachd agaibh fhèin co-dhiù bha e ceart gus nach robh.

Nuair a bha mi anns an Eilean Sgitheanach as t-samhradh sa chaidh, chuala mi naidheachd mun dà-shealladh. Bha i air a h-aithris ann an Gàidhlig, aig cèilidh far an robh an cànan aig a h-uile duine, agus cha robh neach-èisteachd sam bith ann a bha a’ coimhead teagmhach mu a deidhinn. Bha an naidheachd co-cheangailte ri tubaist-adhair ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a còig (1945).

Bha poileas stèidhichte ann an Ùig, ann an ceann a tuath an Eilein Sgitheanaich. ’S e Uibhisteach a bh’ ann. B’ e Ruairidh Dòmhnallach, no Ruairidh Mòr, ainm an duine. Chaidh e a dh’fhuireach ann an Ùig ann an naoi ceud deug, fichead ’s a sia (1926).

Cha robh càr aig Ruairidh, dìreach motar-baidhsagal. Bha e air leth measail air sealg agus, gu tric, chitheadh muinntir an àite Ruairidh Mòr air a mhotar-baidhg le raidhfil no gunna-froise air a dhruim. Tha e a’ toirt dhuinn sealladh ùr air an deasbad a bh’ ann an-uiridh mu dheidhinn oifigearan poilis air a’ Ghàidhealtachd a bhith a’ giùlain ghunnaichean leotha!

Bhiodh Ruairidh a’ sealg nan coineanach air Druim Thròndairnis. Latha a bha seo, tràth san Fhaoilleach ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a còig (1945), chaidh e gu Beinn Eadra, tè de na beanntan as àirde anns an sgìre. Gu tric bhiodh e a’ toirt nan coineanach do dhaoine bochda. An turas seo, ge-tà, bha e am beachd an toirt do dh’Inspectair nam Poileas ann am Port Rìgh.

Gu h-obann bha brag tàirneanaich. Thàinig dealanaich agus clachan-meallain. Thug sin air Ruairidh fasnadh a lorg fo chreag ann an gil fon bheinn. Bha gailleann gharbh ann. Fhad ’s a bha an stoirm a’ dol, dh’fhairich Ruairidh fuaim mar gun robh cuideigin ag èigheachd, agus e ann an èiginn.

Nuair a shocraich a’ ghaoth beagan, thug Ruairidh sùil gheur air feadh an àite. Ach cha do lorg e dad. Chaidh e a Phort Rìgh leis na coineanaich agus dh’inns e mar a

thachair don inspeactair. Cha do rinn am fear eile cus dhen ghnothach, ach bha dragh air Ruairidh.

Dà mhìos an dèidh sin, **dh'fhairich nighean Ruairidh fuaim** coltach ri tàirneanaich, ach lean e na b' fhaide na bhiodh tàirneanaich. Bha e a' tighinn bho thaobh Dhruim Thròndairnis. Goirid an dèidh sin chunnaic i a h-athair a' dèanamh air Stafainn aig astar air a mhotar-baidhg. Bha itealan Ameireaganach – *Flying Fortress* – air bualadh ann am Beinn Eadra faisg air a' mhullach.

Chaidh sgioba-theasairginn a chur air dòigh ach cha robh duine beò air a' bheinn. Bha a h-uile duine air bòrd – naoinear dhiubh – marbh. Thathar dhen bheachd gun d' fhairich Ruairidh Mòr taibhs na tubaist dà mhìos mus do thachair i.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** an dà-shealladh: *the second sight [lit. the two sights]*; coineanach: *rabbit*; Druim Thròndairnis: *The Trotternish Ridge*; gailleann: *storm*; sgioba-theasairginn: *rescue squad*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** gun robh a leithid de chomas aig cuid: *that some people had that ability*; chuala mi naidheachd: *I heard an anecdote*; air a h-aithris ann an Gàidhlig: *told in Gaelic*; air leth measail air sealg: *extremely fond of hunting*; chitheadh muinntir an àite X air a mhotar-baidhg: *the local people would see X on his motorbike*; le raidhfil no gunna-froise air a dhruim: *with a rifle or shotgun on his back*; sealladh ùr air an deasbad a bh' ann an-uiridh: *a new perspective on last year's debate*; a' giùlain ghunnaichean leotha: *carrying guns (with them)*; latha a bha seo, tràth san Fhaoilleach: *one day, in early January*; tè de na beanntan as àirde anns an sgìre: *one of the highest mountains in the area*; gu h-obann bha brag tàirneanaich: *suddenly there was a peal of thunder*; thàinig dealanaich agus clachan-meallain: *lightning and hailstones came*; thug sin air Ruairidh fasnachadh a lorg fo chreag ann an gil: *that made Roderick find shelter under a rock in a gully*; mar gun robh cuideigin ag èigheachd, agus e ann an èiginn: *as if somebody in extremis were shouting*; nuair a shocraich a' ghaoth beagan: *when the subsided a bit*; thug Ruairidh sùil gheur air feadh an àite: *Roderick looked carefully everywhere*; cha do rinn am fear eile cus dhen ghnothach: *the other man didn't make too much of the matter*; lean e na b' fhaide na bhiodh tàirneanaich: *it lasted longer than thunder would*; bha itealan Ameireaganach air bualadh ann an X: *an American plane had hit X*; taibhs na tubaist: *the ghost (premonition) of the accident*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** anns an aonamh linn air fhichead: *in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. You will occasionally hear people use *ciad* for 'first' in this situation ie a' chiad linn air fhichead but it is not common. *Ciad* is normally used only for the very first eg fhuair mi a' chiad shealladh dheth an-dè 'I got my first view of it yesterday'. Aonamh is often shortened to *aona* although that can be confused with *aon* 'one'. Other examples: 's e an t-aonamh cluicheadair deug a thagh mi 'he is the eleventh player I chose'; seo an t-aonamh turas deug air fhichead a choisinn iad an duais 'this is the 31<sup>st</sup> time they [have] won the prize (vigesimal system).

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** dh'fhairich nighean Ruairidh fuaim coltach ri tàirneanaich: *Roderick's daughter (unexpectedly) heard a noise like thunder*.

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