

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Radio Caledonia (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 965. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 661 corresponds to Litir 965.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Dhòmhnall Grannd, a bhuineadh do dh’Alanais, agus a bha na chraoladair Natsach anns an Dàrna Cogadh. Dh’fhàg e Breatainn air an t-seachdamh latha dhen Iuchar, naoi ceud deug, trithead ’s a naoi (1939) airson a dhol don Ghearmailt.

Bha na bu lugha na mìos ann mus tòisicheadh an cogadh. Bhiodh na Breatannaich amharasach gun robh e a’ taobhadh leis na Natsaich. Bhiodh na Gearmailtich dhen bheachd, ’s dòcha, gun robh e na bhrathadair Breatannach.

Seachdain an dèidh toiseach a’ chogaidh, chuir na Gearmailtich don phrìosan e. Cha robh e ann fada, ge-tà. An dèidh beagan mhìosan, fhuair e cothrom stèisean craolaidh propaganda a thòiseachadh fo sgèith Ministreachd a’ Phropaganda aig Joseph Goebbels. Ruith Radio Caledonia eadar an t-Ògmhios naoi ceud deug is ceathrad (1940) agus an Lùnastal naoi ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a dhà (1942).

Bha na prògraman dìreach deich mionaidean a dh’fhaid. Bha na sgrìobtaichean air an sgrìobhadh ’s air an libhrigeadh le Dòmhnall Grannd le taic bho fheadhainn eile. ’S e Dòmhnall Palmer no Jock Palmer a bha Dòmhnall a’ gabhail air fhèin. Bha e a’ cumail a-mach gun robh e a’ craoladh às Alba, seach à Berlin. Ach, aig amannan, cha robh an sioghal ach truagh. Chan eil fios cia mheud duine a bhiodh ag èisteachd ris.

Bha Radio Caledonia ag amas air muinntir na h-Alba agus muinntir Shasainn a chur **an uganann a chèile**. Bha an Granndach a’ brosnachadh muinntir na h-Alba sìth fa leth a dhèanamh le Hitler. Thuirt e gur iad na Sasannaich a bu choireach ris an droch shuidheachadh anns an robh Alba. Nuair nach do dh’obraich sin, dh’fheuch e ri sgaradh a dhèanamh eadar Glaschu is Dùn Èideann!

Anns a’ Chèitean naoi ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a h-aon (1941), thachair fear de na gnothaichean a b’ annasaiche anns an Dàrna Cogadh. Thàinig an dàrna fear a bu chumhachdaiche ann an Riaghaltas na Gearmailt – Rudolf Hess – a dh’Alba leis fhèin ann an itealan.

Dè bh’ aig Dòmhnall Grannd ri aithris mu dheidhinn a’ ghnòthaich? Uill, cha robh dad. Chaidh Radio Caledonia far an èadhair aig an àm sin, ag ràdh gun robh an t-uidheam-craolaidh aca feumach air càradh. **Aidh, ceart, mar a thuirt am fear eile!**

Ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a dhà (1942) bha Dòmhnall dhen bheachd nach robh na craolaidhean aige gu feum agus dh’iarr e air na h-ùghdarrasan Natsach leigeil leis sguir dhen obair aige. Dh’aontaich iad agus, airson a’ chòrr dhen chogadh, bha e ag obair ann an tasglann co-cheangailte ri craoladh phropaganda.

An dèidh a' chogaidh, dh'fhalbh Dòmhnall à fianais airson bliadhna. Bha e air a chur an grèim anns a' Ghearmailt anns an Dàmhair naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a sia (1946) agus fhuair e sia mìosan sa phrìosan. Bha sin eucoltach ris a' Mhorair Haw-Haw, Uilleam Joyce, a fhuair bàs air a' chroich.

Fhad 's as fiosrach leam, chaidh Dòmhnall Grannd air ais a dh'Alanais nuair a fhuair e a-mach às a' phrìosan. Ach bu shuarach an fhàilte a fhuair e agus dh'fhalbh e a Lunnainn. Chaidh e a dh'fhuireach ann an Afraga a Deas nuair a bha an dùthaich sin a' tighinn fo apartheid. Thathar a' smaoinichadh gun do thill e a Lunnainn agus gun do chaochail e an sin anns na h-ochdadan.

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Faclan na Litreach: Dòmhnall Grannd: *Donald Grant*; tasglann: *archive*; Afraga a Deas: *South Africa*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a bhuineadh do dh'Alanais: *who belonged to Alness*; a bha na chraoladair Natsach: *who was a Nazi broadcaster*; air an t-seachdamh latha dhen Iuchar: *on the 7th of July*; bha na bu lugha na mìos ann mus tòisichadh an cogadh: *there was less than a month before the war began [would begin]*; gun robh e na bhrathadair Breatannach: *that he was a British spy*; fhuair e cothrom stèisean craolaidh propaganda a thòiseachadh: *he got an opportunity to begin a propaganda broadcasting station*; fo sgèith Ministreachd a' Phropaganda: *under the auspices of the Propaganda Ministry*; bha na sgrìobtaichean air an sgrìobhadh 's air an libhrigeadh: *the scripts were written and delivered [broadcast]*; 'S e Dòmhnall Palmer a bha Dòmhnall a' gabhail air fhèin: *Donald was calling himself Donald Palmer*; cha robh an sioghal ach truagh: *the signal was only poor*; gur iad na Sasannaich a bu choireach ris an droch shuidheachadh: *that the English were responsible for the bad situation*; dh'fheuch ri sgaradh a dhèanamh eadar Glaschu is Dùn Èideann: *he tried to set Glasgow and Edinburgh at odds*; fear de na gnothaichean a b' annasaiche: *one of the most unusual matters*; far an èadhair: *off air*; gun robh an t-uidheam-craolaidh aca feumach air càradh: *that their broadcasting equipment was needing fixed*; leigeil leis sguir dhen obair aige: *to allow him to stop his work*; dh'fhalbh Dòmhnall à fianais: *Donald disappeared*; a fhuair bàs air a' chroich: *who was hanged [who died on the gibbet]*; bu shuarach an fhàilte a fhuair e: *the welcome he got was poor*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Aidh, ceart, mar a thuir am fear eile:** *Aye, right, as the other guy said. This is the Gaelic equivalent to the Scots double negative 'Aye, right'. The 'fear eile' or sometimes 'bodach eile' is often used in this Gaelic expression, which doesn't really have a direct English equivalent.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: ag amas air muinntir na h-Alba agus muinntir Shasainn a chur **an ugannan a chèile:** *aiming to set the people of Scotland and the people of England at loggerheads with each other.*

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