

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Cath Ghlinn Freòin (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.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,053. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 749 corresponds to Litir 1,053.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun chath eadar na Griogaraich agus Clann a’ Chombaich ann an Gleann Freòin taobh Loch Laomainn anns a’ bhliadhna sia ceud deug ’s a trì (1603). Rinn an ceann-cinnidh, Sir Umfra Mac a’ Chombaich à Lus, cinnteach gun robh an dithis mharsantach Ghriogarach marbh air a’ chroich. An uair sin, chuir e cinn nan gillean air stuib faisg air an taigh mhòr aige. Bha sin tàmailteach do Chloinn ’ic Ghriogair.

Chuir ceann-cinnidh nan Griogarach ann an Gleann Sratha – Alasdair Dubh – roimhe a chùis a rèiteach le Sir Umfra. Bha coinneamh eadar an dithis aig ceann Ghlinn Freòin. Bheireadh gach duine ceud fear-cinnidh leis.

Cha robh duine seach duine aca onarach. Thug Alasdair Dubh **ceud duine** leis. Bha ceud eile aig a bhràthair, Iain Dubh, pìos beag shìos an rathad ann an àite ris an canar Allt a’ Chlèith. Bha ceud duine aig Sir Umfra cuideachd. Ach chum esan trì cheud am falach, deiseil airson feall-fhalach an aghaidh nan Griogarach.

Bha an t-uabhas dhaoine air a dhol ann airson sùil a thoirt air a’ ghnothach. Nam measg bha oileanaich agus an ceannard à oilthigh ann an Dùn Breatann. Bha gu leòr air a’ Ghalltachd dhen bheachd gun robh na Griogaraich borb, agus bha iad an dùil gum biodh sabaid ann.

Thàinig an dà fheachd còmhla. Sheas Sir Umfra air thoiseach air an fheadhainn aige fhèin. Thàinig Alasdair Dubh air adhart, le fheachd fhèin air a chùlaibh. Bha còmhradh ann greis eadar an dithis. Chan eil fios le cinnt dè dh’aontaich iad, ach bha coltas air Alasdair Dubh gun robh e sàsaichte. Thill e do na daoine aige agus thuir e nach biodh cath ann.

Air an rathad air ais, dh’èirich na trì cheud saighdear aig Clann a’ Chombaich agus **thug iad ionnsaigh air** na Griogaraich. Ruith na Griogaraich air ais nan deann gu ruige Allt a’ Chlèith. Air taobh thall an uillt, thionndaidh iad, deiseil airson sabaid. Bha smachd aca air an dà àth ann.

Nuair a ràinig Clann a’ Chombaich an t-allt, dh’fheuch iad ri faighinn tarsainn, ach cha deach leotha. Bha seachdnar bhràithrean ann a dh’fheuch ri smachd a ghabhail air fear de na h-àthan. Bha iad uile air am marbhadh. ’S e Ath nam Bràithrean a chanadh daoine ris an àite sin bhon latha sin a-mach.

Nuair a bha mòran de mhuinntir Luis ann am meadhan an uillt, dh’èirich feachd Iain Duibh bho air cùl cnuic far an robh iad am falach. Loisg iad saighdean air Cloinn a’ Chombaich agus rinn iad cron mòr orra. Theich Clann a’ Chombaich don mhonadh ach chaidh na Griogaraich air thoiseach orra.

Loisg fir-bhogha Ghriogarach bho chreag os cionn bealach agus mharbh iad tòrr de shaighdearan Luis. 'S e Creag a' Bhogha a chanar ris an àite sin. Agus 's e Bealach na Dunach 'the pass of the disaster' a th' air a' bhealach.

Bha an gnothach cho trom air Clann a' Chombaich 's gun do theich iad. Lean na Griogaraich orra. Faisg air ceann Ghlinn Freòin, sheas gille òg de Chloinn GhillFhionntaig an aghaidh Iain Dubh, agus mharbh e an Griogarach.

Ach lean na Griogaraich orra. Aig àite ris an canar Caibeal thachair iad ri ceannard Oilthigh Dhùn Bhreatann agus a chuid oileanach. Dè rinn iad leotha? Innsidh mi dhuibh anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Umfra Mac a' Chombaich à Lus: *Humphrey Colquhoun from Luss*; Gleann Sratha: *Glen Strae*; sàsaichte: *satisfied*; seachdnar bhràithrean: *seven brothers*.

Abairtean na Litreach: mun chath eadar na Griogaraich agus Clann a' Chombaich ann an Gleann Freòin taobh Loch Laomainn: *about the battle between the MacGregors and the Colquhouns in Glen Fruin near Loch Lomond*; gun robh an dithis mharsantach Ghriogarach marbh air a' chroich: *that the two MacGregor merchants were dead on the gibbet*; chuir e cinn nan gillean air stuib: *he put the lads' heads on posts*; chuir X roimhe a chùis a rèiteach: *X decided to settle the issue*; cha robh duine seach duine aca onarach: *neither man was honest*; chùm esan trì cheud am falach: *he kept three hundred [men] hidden*; deiseil airson feall-fhalach an aghaidh nan Griogarach: *ready for an ambush against the MacGregors*; bha an t-uabhas dhaoine air a dhol ann: *many people had gone there*; oileanaich agus an ceannard à oilthigh ann an Dùn Breatann: *students and their head from a university in Dumbarton*; ruith X air ais nan deann gu ruige: *X ran back in a hurry to*; bha smachd aca air an dà àth ann: *they controlled the two fords there*; 's e Ath nam Bràithrean a chanadh daoine ris an àite sin bhon latha sin a-mach: *it's 'the ford of the brothers' that people would call that place from that day onwards*; mòran de mhuinntir Luis: *many Luss folk*; air thoiseach orra: *ahead of them*; loisg fir-bhogha Ghriogarach bho chreag os cionn bealach: *MacGregor bowmen fired from a rock above a pass*; sheas gille òg de Chloinn GhillFhionntaig an aghaidh Iain Dubh, agus mharbh e an Griogarach: *a young man of the Clan MacLintock stood against Iain Dubh, and he killed the MacGregor*; thachair iad ri: *they met*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Thug Alasdair Dubh **ceud duine** leis: *Alasdair Dubh took a hundred men with him. Remember that ceud commands a noun in the singular so. When you're translating (if you're not yet at the stage where you think in Gaelic), remember that 'a hundred dogs' is ceud cù not ceud coin. 'A hundred men/people' is ceud duine not ceud daoine.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: thug iad ionnsaigh air na Griogaraich: *they attacked the MacGregors*.

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