

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## An Seanailear Wade (1)

*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](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 1,132. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 828 corresponds to Litir 1,132.*

Bidh mòran agaibh eòlach air na rathaidean a thog an Seanailear Wade air a’ Ghàidhealtachd. ’S ann tric a bha mi fhìn a’ coiseachd air pìosan dhiubh nach deach a leasachadh mar rathaidean do charbadan. Ach an robh Wade na churaidh no na thrustar? Fàgaidh mi sin agaibh fhèin!

**’S iongantach mura cuala sibh** an rann beag:

*If you’d seen this road before it was made,*

*You’d lift up your hands and bless General Wade.*

Uill, ’s dòcha! Ach, ge brìth dè ur beachd air Wade, dh’atharraich e a’ Ghàidhealtachd, le bhith a’ togail rathaidean airm **far nach robh dad dhen t-seòrsa ann** roimhe. Ach cò bh’ ann an Seòras Wade? Tha mi airson rud beag innse dhuibh mu dheidhinn.

Bhuineadh e do shliochd nan Sasannach ann an Èirinn. Rugadh e ann an Contae na h-Iarmhí ann am meadhan na h-Èireann. Nuair a bha e mu sheachd bliadhna deug a dh’aois, fhuair e coimisean ann an Rèisimeid Iarla Bhath ann an Arm Shasainn. Anns an deichead mu dheireadh dhen t-seachdamh linn deug, ghabh e pàirt ann an Cogadh nan Naoi Bliadhna. An uair sin, bha e an sàs ann an Cogadh Co-arbas na Spàinntè.

Dh’èirich e tro na rangan, agus chùm e a dol mar shaighdear an dèidh an aonaidh eadar Sasainn agus Alba. Ghabh e dreuchd mar Mhàidsear-Seanailear agus, ann an seachd ceud deug ’s ceithir-deug (1714) fhuair e àrdachadh gu commandair an airm Bhreatannaich ann an Èirinn.

Cha b’ fhada gus an robh e air ais ann am Breatainn oir dh’èirich na Seumasaich an aghaidh an riaghaltais ann an seachd ceud deug ’s còig-deug (1715). Cha robh Wade air a chur a dh’Alba, ge-tà. Bha e ag obair an aghaidh nan Seumasach ann an Sasainn. Goirid an dèidh sin, chaidh e an sàs ann am poilitigs mar bhall-pàrlamaid.

’S ann ann an seachd ceud deug, fichead ’s a ceithir (1724) a chaidh Seòras a chur a dh’Alba airson an dùthaich a mheas. Bha an riaghaltas ann an Lunnainn a’ gabhail dragh mu na Seumasaich air a’ Ghàidhealtachd agus mar a bha e duilich smachd a chumail orra. Mhol Wade prògram togail a chur air chois – airson gearastanan, drochaidean agus rathaidean a dhèanamh. Fhuair e dreuchd ùr – Àrd-chomannair de dh’Fheachdan an Rìgh, Chaistealan, Dhùn agus Ghearastanan ann an Ceann a Tuath Bhreatainn.

Thairis air dusan bliadhna, thog Wade dà cheud is ceathrad mìle de rathaidean agus trithead drochaid. Bha cuid de na drochaidean air an togail leis an aon phlana. Bhiodh iad air an togail le fiodh an toiseach. Nuair a bhiodh an drochaid deiseil agus a' chlach mu dheireadh na h-àite, bhiodh am fiodh air a thoirt air falbh airson na h-ath-dhrochaid.

Bha an drochaid mhòr thar Uisge Tatha ann an Obar Pheallaidh eadar-dhealaichte, ge-tà. Bha i air a dealbhachadh gu sònraichte le Uilleam Adam. Chaidh a fosgladh gu trafaig ann an seachd ceud deug, trithead 's a còig (1735). Bha i mar charragh-cuimhne do dh'obair Wade air a' Ghàidhealtachd agus chosg i fortan – ceithir mìle not. Rinn an luchd-dealbhachaidh agus luchd-einnseanairidh obair mhath. Tha i beagan goirid air trì cheud bliadhna a dh'aois agus tha i a' gabhail charbadan de gach seòrsa fhathast. Ach cha robh obair Wade ann an Alba deiseil le drochaid Obar Pheallaidh, mar a chluinneas sinn an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** Seanailear Seòras Wade: *General George Wade*; Contae na h-Iarmhì: *County Westmeath*; Cogadh nan Naoi Bliadhna: *The Nine Years' War*; Cogadh Co-arbas na Spàinntè: *The War of the Spanish Succession*; Màidsèar-Seanailear: *Major-General*; gearastanan: *barracks*; carragh-cuimhne: *memorial*; luchd-dealbhachaidh: *designers*; luchd-einnseanairidh: *engineers*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** pìosan dhiubh nach deach a leasachadh mar rathaidean do charbadan: *parts of them that were not developed as vehicular roads*; an robh Wade na churaidh no na thrustar?: *was Wade a hero or a rogue?*; fàgaidh mi sin agaibh fhèin: *I'll leave that to you (to decide)*; ge brith dè ur beachd air Wade, dh'atharraich e a' Ghàidhealtachd: *whatever your opinion on Wade, he changed the Highlands*; bhuineadh e do shliochd nan Sasannach ann an Èirinn: *he belonged to the Anglo-Irish*; Rèisimeid Iarla Bhath ann an Arm Shasainn: *The Earl of Bath's Regiment in the English Army*; dh'èirich e tro na rangan: *he rose through the ranks*; àrdachadh gu commandair an airm Bhreatannaich ann an Èirinn: *promotion to commander of the British Forces in Ireland*; an aghaidh nan Seumasach ann an Sasainn: *against the Jacobites in England*; chaidh e an sàs ann am poilitigs mar bhall-pàrlamaid: *he got involved in politics as a member of parliament*; airson an dùthaich a mheas: *to assess the country*; duilich smachd a chumail orra: *difficult to keep them under control*; nuair a bhiodh an drochaid deiseil agus a' chlach mu dheireadh na h-àite: *when the bridge was finished and the final stone in its [her] place*; bhiodh am fiodh air a thoirt air falbh airson na h-ath-dhrochaid: *the wood would be removed for the next bridge*; thar Uisge Tatha ann an Obar Pheallaidh: *across the River Tay in Aberfeldy*; chaidh a fosgladh gu trafaig: *it was opened to traffic*; chosg i fortan: *it cost a fortune*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** 'S iongantach mura cuala sibh an rann beag: *it would be surprising if you hadn't heard the wee verse ie I'd expect you to have heard ... This is a common idiom and one well worth the effort mastering. 'S iongantach mura cuala tu an naidheachd 'I expect you've heard the news'. The obverse is 'S iongantach gun cuala tu an naidheachd 'I don't expect you've heard the news' [i.e. it would be suprising if you had heard ...*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** a' togail rathaidean airm far nach robh dad dhen t-seòrsa ann roimhe: *building military roads where there was nothing of the like there before*.

*Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA*