

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Ionnsaighean-adhair ann an Ros an Iar**

*Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'SpeakGaelic Extra', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,277. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 973 corresponds to Litir 1,277. The Litir is also available at [www.bbc.co.uk/litir](http://www.bbc.co.uk/litir) and [www.learnghaelic.scot/litir](http://www.learnghaelic.scot/litir). Ruairidh can be contacted at [fios@learnghaelic.scot](mailto:fios@learnghaelic.scot).*

Dè na h-àiteachan ann an ceann an iar-thuath na Gàidhealtachd a dh'fhuiling ionnsaighean bhon adhar anns an Dàrna Cogadh? Uill, tha fhios agam co-dhiù gun do dh'fhuiling sgìre Loch Iubh, faisg air Gearrloch. Bha Loch Iubh air a chleachdadh mar thèarmann airson luingeas. Agus, anns an Ògmhios naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a h-aon (1941), chaidh ionnsaighean a thoirt air bhon adhar ceithir no còig tursan.

'S e Junkers 88 a bh' anns na h-itealain. Thàinig iad à Stavanger no Trondheim ann an Nirribhidh. Bha Nirribhidh an uair sin fo smachd na Gearmailt.

Tha e inntinneach gun tug an Luftwaffe ionnsaigh air Loch Iubh aig an àm sin. Bha Breatainn air **sgur o bhith a' cleachdadh** Loch Iubh mar acarsaid airson longan-cogaidh mòra. Agus cha robh iad air tòiseachadh air Loch Iubh a chleachdadh airson nan conbhoidhean Artach bha a' dol don Ruis. Cha robh an Ruis agus a' Ghearmailt nan nàimhdean fhathast. **'S ann anns a' mhìos sin fhèin** a thug a' Ghearmailt ionnsaigh air an Aonadh Shòibhiatach.

Cha robh na h-ionnsaighean-adhair uabhasach soirbheachail. Air a' chiad oidhche, bha na Gearmailtich dhen bheachd gun robh iad air boma a leigeil air long mhòr. Ach thug iad ionnsaigh, chan ann air soitheach ach air eilean. Tha Sgeir an Araig ann am meadhan an locha. Tha cumadh bàta oirre. Aig an àm sin, bha seadaichean agus crainn oirre. Bha e air a bhith furasta gu leòr a bhith a' smaoinreachadh – aig leth-uair an dèidh uair anns a' mhadainn – gur e long a bh' innte.

Chan ann air an oidhche a ghabh a h-uile ionnsaigh àite. Tha cuimhne fhathast aig feadhainn anns an sgìre air ionnsaigh tron latha. Bha na sgoilearan – aig Bun-sgoil Buail na Lùib faisg air an Allt-Bheithe – a' cluich anns an raon-chluiche aig àm lòn.

Bha an t-itealan Gearmailteach cho faisg orra 's gun robh a' chlann a' faicinn a' phileit. Smèid e orra agus smèid iadsan air ais. Bha am maighstir-sgoile às a bheachd mun ghnothach. Fhuair feadhainn de na sgoilearan strapadh airson a bhith smèideadh air an nàmhad.

Agus, gu cinnteach, bha droch-rùn aig a' phileat. Leag e bomaichean air tè de na longan ann an Loch Iubh. Chaill e a thargaid – an *Devon City* – ach dh'fhuiling an soitheach-carago damaiste.

Rinn na h-ionnsaighean cron ach chaill an Luftwaffe grunn phlèanaichean. Bha gunnaichean-dìon trang nan aghaidh.

Gu h-annasach, chaill na Gearmailtich itealan ann an Ros an Iar còrr is trì bliadhna an dèidh sin. Bha sin anns an Dùbhlachd, naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a ceithir (1944). Dh'fhàg e Stavanger leis an amas fiosrachadh fhaighinn air an luingeas ann an *Scapa Flow* ann an Arcaibh. Ach chaidh cùisean ceàrr. Chaidh iad fada gu deas agus fhuair iad trioblaid leis an einnsean. Leum an ceathrar chriutha a-mach, a' cur feum air na paraisiutan aca. Thàinig an t-itealan sìos faisg air Eilean Mhàrtainn air beul Loch a' Bhraoin.

Cha do mhair beò ach aon duine – an t-einnseanair-iteil Unteroffizier Heinz Josaf. Tha dùil gun deach an triùir eile a chall aig muir. Gu fortanach dhàsan, thàinig e sìos faisg air a' chladach anns an Loch Bheag, deas air Loch a' Bhraoin. Anns an ath Litir, innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair dha an uair sin.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** itealain: *aircraft (pl)*; conbhoidhean Artach: *Arctic convoys*; seadaichean agus crainn: *sheds and masts*; Eilean Mhàrtainn: *Isle Martin*; Loch a' Bhraoin: *Loch Broom*; einnseanair-iteil: *flight engineer*; An Loch Beag: *Little Loch Broom*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** ionnsaighean bhon adhar anns an Dàrna Cogadh: *attacks from the air in the Second [World] War*; bha Nirribhidh fo smachd na Gearmailt: *Norway was under the control of Germany*; mar acarsaid airson longan-cogaidh mòra: *as an anchorage for battleships*; cha robh an Ruis agus a' Ghearmailt nan nàimhdean fhathast: *Russia and Germany were not yet enemies*; a thug a' Ghearmailt ionnsaigh air an Aonadh Shòibhiatach: *that Germany attacked the Soviet Union*; chan ann air soitheach ach air eilean: *not on a vessel but on an island*; tha cumadh bata oirre: *it is the shape of a boat*; bha e air a bhith furasta gu leòr a bhith a' smaoinichadh gur e long a bh' innte: *it would have been easy enough to think she was a ship*; bha na sgoilearan – aig Bun-sgoil Buail na Lùib faisg air an Allt-Bheithe – a' cluich anns an raon-chluiche aig àm lòn: *the pupils – at Bualnaluib Primary School near Aultbea – were playing in the playground at lunchtime*; bha an t-itealan Gearmailteach cho faisg orra 's gun robh a' chlann a' faicinn a' phileit: *the German plane was so close to them that the children were seeing the pilot*; smèid e orra agus smèid iadsan air ais: *he waved to them and they waved back*; bha am maighstir-sgoile às a bheachd: *the schoolmaster was livid*; fhuair feadhainn de na sgoilearan strapadh: *some of the pupils received the strap*; dh'fhuiling an soitheach-carago damaiste: *the merchant ship sustained damage*; chaill X grunn phlèanaichean: *X lost a number of plans*; bha gunnaichean-dìon trang nan aghaidh: *defensive guns were busy against them*; leis an amas fiosrachadh fhaighinn air an luingeas ann an Arcaibh: *with the aim of obtaining intelligence on the shipping in Orkney*; leum an ceathrar chriutha a-mach: *the four crewmen ejected themselves*;

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** 'S ann anns a' mhìos sin fhèin a thug X ionnsaigh: *it's in that particular month that X attacked. Remember that we can start a sentence with 's ann when we want to emphasise something in particular – in this the month in question.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** bha Breatainn air sgar o bhith a' cleachdadh Loch Iubh: *Britain had stopped using Loch Ewe.*

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