

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 55 (which corresponds to Litir 359). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

As t-earrach ochd ceud deug, seachdad 's a ceithir (1874), nochd long ann an Camas Ùige. Tha sin ann an Sgìre Ùige ann an taobh an iar Leòdhais. Leig i a h-acair ann an acarsaid. Ach cha robh an acarsaid math.

Chunnaic feadhainn ann am baile Chradhlastadh an long. Bha dragh orra oir bha an long ann an droch àite.

Chaidh feadhainn a-mach ann an geòla. Dh'innis iad don sgiobair gu robh an long ann an droch àite. B' e an sgiobair an aon duine air bòrd aig an robh Beurla. Thuirt e gur e *La Marie de Dunquerque* an t-ainm a bh' air an t-soitheach. Bha i a' dol gu Innis Tìle. Bha i a' toirt biadh is bathar do bhàtaichean-iasgaich Frangach.

Thuirt na Leòdhasaich, "Fanaibh gus am bi làn na mara ann. An uair sin, gluaisibh an long gu acarsaid eile." Ach chaidh an soitheach air sgeir. Thug muinntir Chradhalstadh cuireadh do na Frangaich fuireach anns na taighean aca. Bha na Frangaich a' càradh an t-soithich airson greis. Thug iad am bathar gu lèir a-mach. Am measg sin bha branndaidh gu leòr. Bha na h-Albannaich toilichte mu dheidhinn sin!

Latha a bha seo, bha clann-nighean a' nighe aodaich. Thàinig còmhlan de mharaichean Frangach seachad. Thachair rudeigin eatarra. Theich na caileagan. Ruith na Frangaich às an dèidh. Ràinig a' chlann-nighean taigh aig seann bhoireannach.

Chuir am boireannach suas an staidhre iad. Nuair a nochd na Frangaich thuirt i riutha nach fhaca i a' chlann-nighean. Ach bha na Frangaich amharasach. Chaidh iad am falach. Nuair a thàinig na caileagan a-mach, ruith na Frangaich às an dèidh. Fhuair aon Fhrangach grèim teann air tè bhrèagha, Anna Ruairidh.

Thug am maraiche Anna am bruid. Chaidh e gu taigh leatha. Dhiùlt e a leigeil air falbh. Bha cuid de na fir ag iarraidh am Frangach a dhochann. Ach cha robh iad ag iarraidh Anna a ghoirteachadh.

Fhuair muinntir an àite taic bho na Frangaich eile. Bha iadsan air an nàrachadh. Mu dheireadh, chaidh Anna a shaoradh. Dh'fhalbh an soitheach Frangach. Chan ann do dh'Innis Tìle, ge-tà. Chaidh i air ais don Fhraing. Cha d' fhuair na h-iasgairean ann an Innis Tìle am biadh no am branndaidh.

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Faclan is abairtean: as t-earrach: *in the spring*; nochd long ann an Camas Ùige: *a ship appeared in Camas Uig*; Sgìre Ùige: *[the parish of] Uig*; leig i a h-acair ann an acarsaid: *she dropped her anchor in an anchorage*; Cradhlastadh: *Crowlista*; chaidh feadhainn a-mach ann an geòla: *some went out in a dinghy*; dh'innis iad don sgiobair gu robh an long ann an droch àite: *they told the captain that the ship was in a bad place*; soitheach: *vessel*; Innis Tìle: *Iceland*; bha i a' toirt biadh is bathar do bhàtaichean-iasgaich: *she was supplying food and goods to fishing boats*; fanaibh gus am bi làn na mara ann: *wait for high tide*; gluaisibh an long: *move the ship*; chaidh an soitheach air sgeir: *the vessel went on a sea-rock*; cuireadh: *invitation*; bha na Frangaich a' càradh an t-soithich airson greis: *the Frenchmen were repairing the vessel for a time*; branndaidh: *brandy*; bha clann-nighean a' nighe aodaich: *girls were cleaning clothes*; thàinig còmhlan de mharaidhean Frangach seachad: *a group of French seamen came past*; thachair rudeigin eatarra: *something happened between them*; ruith na Frangaich às an dèidh: *the Frenchmen ran after them*; thuirt i riutha nach fhaca i a' chlann-nighean: *she said to them that she didn't see [had not seen] the girls*; amharasach: *suspicious*; chaidh iad am falach: *they hid*; fhuair aon Fhrangach grèim teann air tè bhrèagha: *one Frenchman put a tight grip on a beautiful one [girl]*; thug am maraiche Anna am bruid: *the seaman kidnapped Anna*; dhiùlt e a leigeil air falbh: *he refused to release her*; bha cuid de na fir ag iarraidh am Frangach a dhochann: *some of the men wanted to beat up the Frenchman*; bha iadsan air an nàrachadh: *they were ashamed*; chaidh Anna a shaoradh: *Anna was set free*; chan ann do dh'Innis Tìle, ge-tà: *not to Iceland, however*; cha d' fhuair na h-iasgairean am biadh no am branndaidh: *the fishermen did not get the food or the brandy*.

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