

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 62 (which corresponds to Litir 366). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige ann. Bha sin as t-samhradh ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a naoi (1859). Leugh an Siorram Achd na h-Aimhreit. Dh'fhalbh an sluagh. Ach thàinig buidheann còmhla a-rithist.

'S e Gàidheil a bh' anns an fheadhainn seo. Bha iad airson briseadh a-steach do stèisean nam poileas. Bha iad airson na companaich aca, a bh' ann an grèim, a leigeil a-mach. Ach bha na poilis a' feitheamh. Bha batail ann airson deich mionaidean. Bhuannaich na poilis. Dh'fhalbh na Gàidheil.

Ach cha b' e sin e. Bha còmhlain de ghillean à Inbhir Ùige a' coiseachd nan sràidean. Bha iad a' coimhead airson Gàidheil. Bha iad ag iarraidh ionnsaigh a thoirt orra. Bha iad ag aithneachadh nan Gàidheil bho na bonaidean aca.

Madainn Diluain bha sluagh timcheall taigh na cùirte. Cha do dh'fhosgail taigh na cùirte. Bha an sluagh mì-thoilichte. Bha iad a' fàs feargach. Bha slatan fiodha aig cuid aca. Bha ceithir mìle duine ann. Chaidh an dithis phrìosanach – Raibeart Dòmhnallach agus fear eile – a leigeil ma sgaoil air urras. Ach cha robh an sluagh sàsaichte.

Bha caiptean a' *Princess Royal* – soitheach riaghaltais – an làthair. 'S ann à Leòdhas a bha e. Bha mòran eòlach air. Bhruidhinn esan ris an t-sluagh. Bha fichead dhen chriutha aige ann cuideachd. Bha iad a' dol a thoirt taic do na poilis. Agus thàinig buidheann de shaighdearan don bhaile air eacarsaich. Sgaoil an sluagh.

Cha deach na h-iasgairean gu muir, ge-tà. Chaidh glè bheag de bhàtaichean gu muir Dimàirt no Diciadain. Cha robh muinntir a' bhaile air an socair. Dh'fhalbh cuid de na h-iasgairean Gàidhealach dhachaigh Diardaoin. Cha robh iad ag iarraidh a bhith ann tuilleadh.

Ach gu mì-fhortanach cha robh Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige seachad. Disathairne, thàinig feachdan cogaidh. Bha iad air na longan am *Prince Consort* agus an *Jackal*. Bha saighdearan gu leòr aig an t-Siorram a-nise. Mar sin, dh'fheuch e ri grèim fhaighinn a-rithist air Raibeart Dòmhnallach. Chì sinn dè thachair anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan is abairtean: Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige: *The Great Fight of Wick*; Leugh an Siorram Achd na h-Aimhreit: *the Sheriff read the Riot Act*; thàinig buidheann

còmhla a-rithist: *a group gathered once more*; bha iad airson briseadh a-steach do stèisean nam poileas: *they wanted to break into the police station*; bha iad airson na companaich aca a leigeil a-mach: *they wanted to let their companions out*; bha na poilis a' feitheamh: *the police were waiting*; cha b' e sin e: *that wasn't it [finished]*; còmhlain de ghillean: *groups of lads*; bha iad ag iarraidh ionnsaigh a thoirt orra: *they were wanting to attack them*; bha iad ag aithneachadh nan Gàidheal bho na bonaidean aca: *they were recognising the Gaels from their bonnets*; bha sluagh timcheall taigh na cùirte: *a crowd was around the courthouse*; bha slatan fiodha aig cuid aca: *some had wooden rods*; chaidh an dithis phrìosanach a leigeil ma sgaoil air urras: *the two prisoners were released on bail*; sàsaichte: *satisfied*; bha caiptean an X – soitheach riaghaltais – an làthair: *the captain of the X – a government vessel – was present*; bhruidhinn esan ris an t-sluagh: *he spoke to the crowd*; fichead dhen chriutha aige: *twenty of his crew*; thàinig buidheann de shaighdearan don bhaile air eacarsaich: *a group of soldiers came to the town on exercise*; sgaoil an sluagh: *the crowd dispersed*; cha deach na h-iasgairean gu muir: *the fishermen didn't put to sea*; cha robh muinntir a' bhaile air an socair: *the townsfolk weren't relaxed*; cha robh iad ag iarraidh a bhith ann tuilleadh: *they didn't want to be there anymore*; gu mì-fhortanach: *unfortunately*; Disathairne, thàinig feachdan cogaidh: *on Saturday military forces came*; bha saighdearan gu leòr aig an t-Siorram a-nise: *the Sheriff now had enough soldiers*; dh'fheuch e ri grèim fhaighinn a-rithist air X: *he tried to recapture X*.

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