

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 63 (which corresponds to Litir 367). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha an Siorram ann an Inbhir Ùige airson a' mhì-rian anns a' bhaile a thoirt gu ceann. Chuir e feachd a-mach airson grèim fhaighinn air Raibeart Dòmhnallach. Bha Raibeart à Leòdhas. Bha an Siorram dhen bheachd gun do thòisich e an aimhreit air a bheil "Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige".

Ach fhuair Raibeart fios. Theich e. Aig Thrumster, gu deas air Inbhir Ùige, ghabh e coidse thairis. Chaidh e gu Poll Iù anns a' choidse. Ann am Poll Iù, ghabh e bàta gu na h-Eileanan a-Muigh. Chaidh e am falach ann an Sgìre nan Loch ann an Leòdhas.

Ann an Inbhir Ùige, chùm an Siorram na saighdearan aige am falach. Chaidh innse don mhòr-shluagh gun a bhith a' dol air na sràidean. Aig deich uairean a dh'oidhche, fhuair an Siorram droch naidheachd. Chaidh grunnan Ghàidheal a shàthadh le sgeinean ann am Pulteneytown. 'S iad gillean às a' bhaile fhèin a rinn an sàthadh. Gu fortanach, cha deach duine a mharbhadh. Bha poilis is saighdearan a' coiseachd nan sràidean airson beagan làithean. Ach bha Inbhir Ùige sìtheil.

Cha do dhìochuimhnich na h-ùghdarrasan mu Raibeart Dòmhnallach, ge-tà. Chaidh barantas air a shon a Steòrnabhagh. Ach bha e am falach air na Lochan. Chaidh seachdainean seachad. Cha do thachair dad. Thòisich Raibeart air a dhol a-mach gu cèilidhean. Chuala na poilis mu dheidhinn. Oidhche a bha seo, chaidh dithis phoileas à Steòrnabhagh ann.

Chaidh Raibeart a cheangal le glas-làmh ri fear de na poilis. Thòisich iad air coiseachd a Steòrnabhagh. Bha mòran de mhuinntir na sgìre nan cois. Bha iad uile a' dol seachad air loch. Thuirt Raibeart gun robh e a' dol a leum a-steach don loch. Thuirt e gun robh e a' dol a thoirt a' phoilis leis. Às dèidh spàirn fhuair Raibeart ma sgaoil. Theich e bhon eilean. Bha e na mharaiche às dèidh sin. Chaidh a bhàthadh ann an Sasainn.

Cha robh fàilte cho cridheil air na h-iasgairean Gàidhealach às dèidh Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige. Às dèidh sin, cha robh na coitheanalan Gàidhlig anns a' bhaile idir cho mòr 's a bha iad roimhe.

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Faclan is abairtean: bha an Siorram ann an Inbhir Ùige airson a' mhì-rian anns a' bhaile a thoirt gu ceann: *the Sheriff in Wick wanted to bring the disorder in the*

town to an end; chuir e feachd a-mach: he sent out a force ("flying squad"); gun do thòisich e an aimhreit air a bheil "Sabaid Mhòr Inbhir Ùige": that he started the riot called "The Great Fight of Wick"; fhuair Raibeart fios: Robert received intelligence; theich e: he fled; ghabh e coidse thairis: he hijacked a coach; ann am Poll Iù, ghabh e bàta gu na h-Eileanan a-Muigh: in Poolewe, he took a boat to the Outer Isles; chaidh e am falach ann an Sgìre nan Loch: he went into hiding in Lochs parish; chaidh innse don mhòr-shluagh gun a bhith a' dol air na sràidean: the population was told not to go onto the streets; chaidh grunnan Ghàidheal a shàthadh le sgeinean: some Gaels were stabbed with knives; 's iad gillean às a' bhaile fhèin a rinn an sàthadh: it's local lads that did the stabbing; cha deach duine a mharbhadh: nobody was killed; sìtheil: peaceful; cha do dhìochuimhnich na h-ùghdarrasan: the authorities didn't forget; chaidh barantas air a shon a Steòrnabhadh: a warrant for him went to Stornoway; air na Lochan: in the parish of Lochs; chaidh dithis phoileas à Steòrnabhadh ann: two policemen from Stornoway went there; glas-làmh: handcuffs; bha mòran de mhuinntir na sgìre nan cois: many locals were with them; thuir Raibeart gun robh e a' dol a leum a-steach don loch: Robert said he was going to jump into the loch; gun robh e a' dol a thoirt a' phoilis leis: that he was going to take the policeman with him; às dèidh spàirn: after a struggle; fhuair Raibeart ma sgaoil: Robert got away; bha e na mharaidhe: he was a seaman; chaidh a bhàthadh: he was drowned; cha robh fàilte cho cridheil air na h-iasgairean: the fishermen weren't so warmly welcomed; cha robh na coitheanalan Gàidhlig cho mòr 's a bha iad roimhe: the Gaelic congregations weren't as big as they were previously.

ends