

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 66 (which corresponds to Litir 370). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Ann an còig ceud deug is ceathrad (1540), bha Iain Muideartach anns a' phrìosan. B' esan ceann-cinnidh Chlann 'ic Ailein. Bha caraid aige, Ragnall Gallta, ag iarraidh a bhith na cheann-cinnidh. Fhuair e taic bho na Frisealaich. Chaidh e gu Caisteal Tioram, prìomh chaisteal Chlann 'ic Ailein. Ach cha robh an cinneadh ga iarraidh. Chaidh e dhachaigh don Mhanachainn.

Fhuair Iain Muideartach a-mach às a' phrìosan. Chuir e feachd ri chèile. Bha e ag iarraidh stad a chur air Ragnall. Bha Iarla Hunndaidh an sàs ann cuideachd. Bha arm aige. Bha na Frisealaich còmhla ris. As t-samhradh còig ceud deug, ceathrad 's a ceithir (1544), thachair iad ri Iain Muideartach.

Bha còmhradh ann eatarra. Dh'aontaich iad dhol dhachaigh gun sabaid. Dh'fhalbh na Frisealaich tron Ghleann Mhòr. B' e sin an rathad don Mhanachainn. Ach bha Iain seòlta. Cha deach e dhachaigh. Chaidh e gu ceann a tuath Loch Lòchaidh – anns a' Ghleann Mhòr. Bha còig ceud saighdear aige. Bha iad a' feitheamh ris na Frisealaich. Bha Ragnall Gallta am measg nam Frisealach.

Bha am batail ann am meadhan an Iuchair. Bha an latha uabhasach teth – dìreach mar a bha i ann am meadhan an Iuchair am-bliadhna. Bha lèana mòr aig ceann Loch Lòchaidh. Nuair a ràinig na Frisealaich an lèana, thug Clann 'ic Ailein ionnsaigh orra. Bha sabaid mhòr ann. Bha bàs uabhasach ann. Chaill na ceudan am beatha. Agus chaidh Ragnall Gallta a mharbhadh.

Thathar ag ràdh gun robh an latha cho teth 's gun do reub na saighdearan an lèintean dhiubh. Agus gur e sin a tha a' fàgail *Blàr na Lèine (Field or Battle of the Shirt)* air mar ainm. Bha lèintean nan saighdearan marbha air a' bhàr às dèidh làimh.

Tha cuid eile ag ràdh gun do thilg na saighdearan am fèilidhean dhiubh. 'S e dìreach lèintean a bh' orra nuair a bha iad a' sabaid. Tha sin a' fàgail gur e *Blàr na Lèine* a th' air mar ainm. Tha cuid eile ag ràdh nach eil an dà stòiridh sin fìor. Tha iadsan ag ràdh gur e *Blàr na Lèana* an t-ainm ceart – *the Field or Battle of the Swampy Meadow*.

Uill, cò aige tha fios. 'S e latha uabhasach a bh' ann. Tha daoine ag ràdh gun robh uisge an locha dearg le fuil às dèidh làimh.

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Faclan is abairtean: bha Iain Muideartach anns a' phrìosan: *John of Moidart was in prison*; ceann-cinnidh Chlann 'ic Ailein: *the clan chief of the MacDonalds of Clanranald*; fhuair e taic bho na Frisealaich: *he received assistance from the Frasers*; chaidh e dhachaigh don Mhanachainn: *he went home to Beaulieu*; chuir e feachd ri chèile: *he established a fighting force*; bha Iarla Hunnaidh an sàs ann cuideachd: *The Earl of Huntly was involved as well*; as t-samhradh: *in the summer*; bha còmhradh ann eatarra: *there was a conversation between them*; seòlta: *cunning*; cha deach e dhachaigh: *he didn't go home*; ceann a tuath Loch Lòchaidh – anns a' Ghleann Mhòr: *the northern end of Loch Lochy – in the Great Glen*; bha iad a' feitheamh ris na Frisealaich: *they were waiting for the Frasers*; meadhan an Iuchair: *the middle of July*; lèana mòr: *a big swampy meadow*; thug X ionnsaigh orra: *X attacked them*; chaill na ceudan am beatha: *hundreds [of men] lost their lives*; thathar ag ràdh: *it is said*; gun robh an latha cho teth: *that the day was so hot*; 's gun do reub na saighdearan an lèintean dhiubh: *that the soldiers ripped their shirts off [them]*; bha lèintean nan saighdearan marbha air a' bhlàr: *the shirts of the dead soldiers were on the battlefield*; às dèidh làimh: *afterwards*; tha cuid eile ag ràdh: *some others say*; gun do thilg na saighdearan am fèilidhean dhiubh: *that the soldiers threw their plaids off [them]*; nach eil an dà stòiridh sin fìor: *that those two stories are not true*; cò aige tha fios: *who knows*; 's e latha uabhasach a bh' ann: *it was a terrible day*; gun robh uisge an locha dearg le fuil: *that the loch's water was red with blood*

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