

# **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 81 (which corresponds to Litir 385). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Bha feadhainn à Barraigh ann an Alba Nuadh ann an Canada o chionn ghoirid. Chùm iad seirbheis cuimhneachaidh do dhaoine a chaill am beatha ann an spreadhadh mòr Halifax. Bha sin ann an naoi ceud deug is seachd-deug (1917). Am measg nam marbh bha còignear à Barraigh. Bha iad air bòrd soitheach. Bha i ann an cala Halifax.

Tha cuid ag ràdh gun robh an spreadhadh na bu mhotha na gin eile mus robh bomaichean niùclasach ann. Thachair e ann an naoi ceud deug is seachd-deug (1917) air an t-siathamh latha dhen Dùbhlachd. Bha an Cogadh Mòr a' dol. Bha port Halifax trang. Bha e làn soithichean. Bha mòran longan a' dol a Bhreatainn.

Air an latha sin chaidh còrr is mìle is còig ceud duine a mharbhadh. Chaochail na ceudan eile às dèidh na tubaist.

Bha an soitheach Frangach, am *Mont Blanc*, taobh a-muigh a' phuirt. Bha i làn stuth-spreadhaidh. Rudan mar TNT. Bha soitheach eile a' fàgail a' phuirt. B' ise tè à Nirribhidh, an *Imo*. Bha i air an t-slighe a New York. Bhuail an dà shoitheach na chèile. Thòisich teine air bòrd a' *Mhont Blanc*. Theich an criutha ann am bàtaichean beaga.

Dh'fhalbh am Mont Blanc leis an t-sruth. Stad i ri taobh a' chidhe ann an Halifax. Cha robh fios aig a' phoball gun robh an suidheachadh cunnartach. Chaidh na mìltean a-mach airson an gnothach fhaicinn. Aig còig mionaidean an dèidh naoi spreadh an stuth air a' *Mhont Blanc*.

Chaidh soitheach nam Barrach fodha. Sgrìos an spreadhadh taighean, eaglaisean, sgoiltean is factaraidhean. Chaidh clann a mharbhadh air an rathad gu sgoil. Chaidh na ceudan a mharbhadh a bha a' coimhead an t-soithich. Bha mòran air cùl uinneagan. Chaill cuid na sùilean aca. Bha tuinn ann coltach ri *tsunami*. Rinn na tuinn milleadh mòr anns a' bhaile.

Thuit togalaichean. Chaidh daoine a ghlasadh annta. Bha cuid beò ach chaochail iad leis an fhuachd.

Thug sgioba Ameireaganach sùil air spreadhadh Halifax nuair a bha iad a' dèanamh boma niùclasach. Bha sin anns an Dàrna Cogadh. Bha iad a' tomhas cho mòr 's a bha na bomaichean gu bhith a bha iad a' dol a leigeil air Hiroshima is Nagasaki.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** Bha feadhainn à Barraigh ann an Alba Nuadh: *some people from Barra were in Nova Scotia*; chùm iad seirbheis cuimhneachaidh: *they held a memorial service*; a chaill am beatha ann an spreadhadh mòr Halifax: *who lost their lives in the great explosion of Halifax*; còignear: *five people*; bha iad air bòrd soitheach: *they were on board a vessel*; na bu mhotha na gin eile: *bigger than any other*; mus robh bomaichean niùclasach ann: *before nuclear bombs existed*; air an t-siathamh latha dhen Dùbhlachd: *on 6<sup>th</sup> December*; an Cogadh Mòr: *the Great War*; làn soithichean: *full of vessels*; bha mòran longan a' dol a Bhreatainn: *many ships were going to Britain*; chaidh còrr is mìle is còig ceud duine a mharbhadh: *more than 1,500 people were killed*; às dèidh na tubaist: *after the accident*; làn stuth-spreadhaidh: *full of explosive material*; a' fàgail a' phuirt: *leaving the port*; Nirribhidh: *Norway*; bhuail an dà shoitheach na chèile: *the two vessels hit each other*; theich an criutha: *the crew fled*; dh'fhalbh am Mont Blanc leis an t-sruth: *the Mont Blanc drifted with the current*; stad i ri taobh a' chidhe: *she stopped beside the quay*; cha robh fios aig a' phoball: *the population didn't know*; airson an gnothach fhaicinn: *to see the event*; chaidh soitheach nam Barrach fodha: *the Barra men's vessel sank*; sgrios e: *it destroyed*; chaidh clann a mharbhadh air an rathad gu sgoil: *children were killed on the way to school*; a bha a' coimhead an t-soithich: *who were watching the vessel*; air cùl uinneagan: *behind windows*; chaill cuid na sùilean aca: *some lost their eyes*; rinn na tuinn milleadh mòr: *the waves did great damage*; chaidh daoine a ghlasadh annta: *people were trapped in them*; chaochail iad leis an fhuachd: *they died with the cold*; thug sgioba Ameireaganach sùil air spreadhadh Halifax: *an American team examined the Halifax explosion*; boma niùclasach: *nuclear bomb*; an Dàrna Cogadh: *the Second [World] War*; bha iad a' tomhas cho mòr 's a bha na bomaichean gu bhith: *they were estimating how big the bombs were going to be*; a bha iad a' dol a leigeil air: *that they were going to drop on*.

ends