

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 93 (which corresponds to Litir 397). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Ràinig an soitheach *Hesperus* na h-Eileanan Flannach. B' ise an soitheach a bha a' frithealadh nan taighean-solais. Bha seo anns an Dùbhlachd sa bhliadhna naoi ceud deug (1900). Bha fios aig Bòrd nan Taighean-solais gun robh rudeigin ceàrr. Cha robh an solas anns an taigh-sholais ag obair. Nuair a ràinig iad an t-eilean, cha robh sgeul air duine.

Bha doras an taigh-sholais dùinte. Bha sèithear anns a' chidsin air a chliathaich. Cha robh an gleoc a' dol. Bha aon seata oillsginean ann. Ach anns a h-uile dòigh eile, cha robh càil ceàrr. Dè bh' air tachairt, ma-thà, don triùir a bha ag obair ann?

Dh'fhuirich ceathrar bhon *Hesperus* anns an taigh-sholais. Thill an *Hesperus* a Bhreascleit ann an Leòdhas. Bha ionad aig Bòrd nan Taighean-solais ann am Breascleit. Chuir caiptean an *Hesperus* fios don Bhòrd. Thuirt e gun robh tubaist ann. Cha robh an gleoc a' dol anns an taigh-sholais. Mar sin, thuirt e gun do thachair an tubaist seachdain roimhe.

Rinn an ceathrar anns an eilean rannsachadh. Bha stoirm mhòr air a bhith ann. Bha rèilichean iarainn air an lùbadh. Bha clach mhòr de chuideam còrr is tonna air gluasad. Gu h-àrd os cionn na mara, bha am feur air a reubadh a-mach.

Bha cuid ag ràdh gun do mhuirt fear aca an dithis eile. An uair sin leum e don mhuir. Bha cuid eile ag ràdh gun robh iad air an toirt air falbh le daoine à dùthaich chèin. Bha feadhainn ag ràdh gun do thachair rudeigin os-nàdarrach.

Chaidh oifigear aig Bòrd nan Taighean-solais ann. Cho-dhùin esan gun robh an triùir air a dhol a-mach a cheangal bogsa ann an stoirm. Bha am bogsa làn ròpan. Bha e ann an eag sa bhearradh. Bha sin còrr is ceud troigh os cionn na mara. Bha fear dhen triùir air a dhol a-mach gun oillsginean air. Chaidh tonn mòr thairis air an triùir.

Ge-tà, tha feadhainn ag ràdh fhathast gun robh fear dhen triùir anns an taigh-sholais. Bha an dithis eile a-muigh. Chunnaic am fear a bha a-staigh rudeigin – 's dòcha tonn mòr. Ruith e a-mach ann an cabhaig. Bha e ag iarraidh rabhadh a thoirt don dithis eile. Cha robh ùine aige oillsginean a chur air. Agus 's e sin as coireach gun robh an sèithear air a chliathaich. Ach cò aige tha fios dè dìreach a thachair air an latha sin anns na h-Eileanan Flannach.

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Faclan is abairtean: ràinig an soitheach na h-Eileanan Flannach: *the vessel reached the Flannan Isles*; An Dùbhlachd: *December*; bha fios aig Bòrd nan Taighean-solais gun robh rudeigin ceàrr: *The Lighthouse Board knew something was wrong*; cha robh sgeul air duine: *there was no sign of anybody*; bha sèithear anns a' chidsin air a chliathaich: *a chair in the kitchen was on its side*; cha robh an gleoc a' dol: *the clock wasn't going*; aon seata oillsginean: *one set of oilskins*; cha robh càil ceàrr: *nothing was wrong*; dè bh' air tachairt, ma-thà, don triùir?: *what had happened, then, to the three people?*; a Bhreascleit ann an Leòdhas: *to Breascleite in Lewis*; gun robh tubaist ann: *that there was [had been] an accident*; seachdain roimhe: *a week before*; bha stoirm mhòr air a bhith ann: *there had been a great storm*; bha rèilichean iarainn air an lùbadh: *iron railings were bent*; bha clach mhòr de chuideam còrr is tonna air gluasad: *a large stone weighing more than a ton had moved*; gu h-àrd os cionn na mara: *high above the sea*; bha am fear air a reubadh a-mach: *the grass was ripped out*; gun do mhuirt fear aca an dithis eile: *that one of them murdered the other two*; leum e don mhuir: *he jumped into the sea*; air an toirt air falbh le daoine à dùthaich chèin: *taken away by people from a foreign land*; rudeigin os-nàdarrach: *something supernatural*; cho-dhùin esan: *he [emphatic] concluded*; air a dhol a-mach a cheangal bogsa: *had gone out to secure a box*; gun oillsginean air: *without oilskins on [him]*; chaidh tonn mòr thairis air an triùir: *a large wave went over the three men*; chunnaic am fear a bha a-staigh rudeigin: *the one that was inside saw something*; ruith e a-mach ann an cabhaig: *he ran out in a hurry*; rabhadh a thoirt don dithis eile: *to warn the other two*; 's e sin as coireach gun robh an sèithear air a chliathaich: *that is why the chair was on its side*; cò aige tha fios dè dìreach a thachair: *who knows exactly what happened*.

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