

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 788 (which corresponds to Litir 1,092). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

I was telling you about William Wallace. My accounts of him are from the book 'The History of Scotland'.

One day, when he was living in Ayr, William went fishing in the river. He and a lad were returning home with a basket full of trout. Two or three English soldiers came over.

The soldiers asked the Scots to give them the basket and the fish. Wallace was willing to give them a share of the trout. But the soldiers weren't satisfied with that. Their exchange came to blows.

With the thick end of his fishing rod, William struck one of the soldiers on his head. He fell dead. William took the man's sword and made for the other soldiers. They fled. But William had to leave for another area.

A year later, William was married. He was living in Lanark. One day, he was walking in the town along with friends. He had a green suit on.

An English soldier came. He started to mock William's suit. Wallace did not want to be involved in a fight. But more soldiers came,

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Uilleam Uallas. Tha na cunntasan agam mu dheidhinn às an leabhar 'Eachdraidh na h-Alba'.

Latha a bha seo, agus e a' fuireach ann an Inbhir Àir, chaidh Uilleam a dh'iasgach anns an abhainn. Bha e fhèin is balach a' tilleadh dhachaigh le basgaid làn bhreac. Thàinig dithis no trìuir shaighdearan Sasannach nan rathad.

Dh'iarr na saighdearan air na h-Albannaich a' bhasgaid agus na h-èisg a thoirt dhaibh. Bha Uallas deònach roinn de na bric a thoirt dhaibh. Ach cha robh na saighdearan riarachta le sin. Chaidh an dol a-mach eatarra gu buillean.

Le ceann reamhar na slait-iasgaich aige, thug Uilleam buille air fear de na saighdearan na cheann. Thuit e marbh. Thog Uilleam claidheamh an duine agus rinn e air na saighdearan eile. Theich iad. Ach b' fheudar do dh'Uilleam falbh gu sgìre eile.

Bliadhna an dèidh sin, bha Uilleam pòsta. Bha e a' fuireach ann am baile Lannraig. Latha a bha seo, bha e a' coiseachd anns a' bhaile còmhla ri caraidean. Bha deise uaine air.

Thàinig saighdear Sasannach. Thòisich e air magadh air deise Uilleim. Cha robh Uallas ag iarraidh a bhith an sàs ann an sabaid. Ach thàinig tuilleadh shaighdearan,

and they were all mocking him. Finally, one of them struck the head of the scabbard in which sat Wallace's sword. The Scot drew his sword. He put the soldier down with one blow.

There was a fight. Wallace reached his house, with the help of his friends. Then, out he went through the back door. He hid in a wood.

The English governor, Heselrig, got revenge on him. He burned Wallace's house and killed his wife. A maidservant of hers went to the wood. She told Wallace and his followers everything. They were extremely sad.

'I shall not rest until I have revenge,' said Wallace. That night, he gathered thirty men. They went quietly to the town. They reached the house of the governor. There was a stair between the street and the governor's bedroom. Wallace ascended the stair. And I'll tell you what happened in the next Litir.

agus bha iad uile a' magadh air. Mu dheireadh, bhuail fear dhiubh ceann na truaille anns an robh an claidheamh aig Uallas. Tharraing an t-Albannach a chloidheamh. Chuir e an saighdear gu talamh le aon bhuille.

Bha sabaid ann. Ràinig Uallas a dhachaigh, le taic a charaidean. An uair sin, a-mach leis air an doras chùil. Chaidh e am falach ann an coille.

Rinn an riaghladair Sasannach, Heselrig, dìoghaltas air. Loisg e taigh Uallais agus chuir e a bhean gu bàs. Theich ban-òglach aice don choille. Dh'inns i a h-uile nì do Uallas agus do a luchd-leanmhainn. Bha mulad orra.

'Cha bhi fois agam gus an dèan mi dìoghaltas,' thuirt Uallas. Air an oidhche sin, thionail e trithead fear. Chaidh iad gu sàmhach don bhaile. Ràinig iad taigh an riaghladair. Bha staidhre eadar an t-sràid agus seòmar-cadail an riaghladair. Dhìrich Uallas an staidhre. Agus innsidh mi dhuibh na thachair anns an ath Litir.