

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 661 (which corresponds to Litir 965). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

I was telling you about Donald Grant who was a Nazi broadcaster in the Second [World] War. He belonged to Alness in Easter Ross. He left Britain in July 1939. He went to Germany.

A week after the start of the war, the Germans put him in prison. He wasn't there long, however. After a few months, he started up a propaganda broadcasting station. That was under the auspices of Joseph Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry. Radio Caledonia ran from June 1940 until August 1942.

The programs were ten minutes long. The scripts were written and delivered by Donald Grant, with assistance from others. Donald was calling himself Donald Palmer. He was maintaining that he was broadcasting from Scotland, rather than from Berlin.

Radio Caledonia was aiming to set the people of Scotland and the people of England at odds with each other. Grant was saying that the

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Dhòmhnall Grannd a bha na chraoladair Natsach anns an Dàrna Cogadh. Bhuineadh e do dh'Alanais air taobh sear Rois. Dh'fhàg e Breatainn anns an Iuchar, naoi ceud deug, trithead 's a naoi (1939). Chaidh e don Ghearmailt.

Seachdain an dèidh toiseach a' chogaidh, chuir na Gearmailtich don phrìosan e. Cha robh e ann fada, ge-tà. An dèidh beagan mhìosan, thòisich e stèisean craolaidh phropaganda. Bha sin fo sgèith Ministreachd a' Phropaganda aig Joseph Goebbels. Ruith Radio Caledonia eadar an t-Ògmhios naoi ceud deug is ceathrad (1940) agus an Lùnastal naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a dhà (1942).

Bha na prògraman deich mionaidean a dh'fhaid. Bha na sgrìobtaichean air an sgrìobhadh 's air an lìbhrigeadh le Dòmhnall Grannd, le taic bho fheadhainn eile. 'S e Dòmhnall Palmer a bha Dòmhnall a' gabhail air fhèin. Bha e a' cumail a-mach gun robh e a' craoladh às Alba, seach à Berlin.

Bha Radio Caledonia ag amas air muinntir na h-Alba agus muinntir Shasainn a chur an ugannan a chèile. Bha an Granndach ag ràdh gur iad na Sasannaich a bu choireach ris an droch

English were responsible for Scotland's bad situation.

In 1942, Donald considered that his broadcasts were not effective. He asked the Nazi authorities to allow him to stop his work. For the rest of the war, he was working in an archive connected to the broadcast of propaganda.

After the war, Donald disappeared. He was arrested in Germany in October 1946. He got six months in prison.

As far as I know, Donald Grant returned to Alness when he got out of prison. But he didn't get a welcome at all, and he left for London. He went to live in South Africa when that country was coming under apartheid. It is thought that he returned to London and that he died there in the eighties.

shuidheachadh anns an robh Alba.

Ann an naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a dhà (1942) bha Dòmhnall dhen bheachd nach robh na craolaidhean aige gu feum. Dh'iarr e air na h-ùghdarrasan Natsach leigeil leis sguir dhen obair aige. Airson a' chòrr dhen chogadh, bha e ag obair ann an tasglann co-cheangailte ri craoladh phropaganda.

An dèidh a' chogaidh, dh'fhalbh Dòmhnall à fianais. Bha e air a chur an grèim anns a' Ghearmailt anns an Dàmhair naoi ceud deug, ceathrad 's a sia (1946). Fhuair e sia mìosan sa phrìosan.

Fhad 's as aithne dhomh, chaidh Dòmhnall Grannd air ais a dh'Alanais nuair a fhuair e a-mach às a' phrìosan. Ach cha d' fhuair e fàilte idir, agus dh'fhalbh e a Lunnainn. Chaidh e a dh'fhuireach ann an Afraga a Deas nuair a bha an dùthaich sin a' tighinn fo apartheid. Thathar a' smaoineachadh gun do thill e a Lunnainn agus gun do chaochail e an sin anns na h-ochdadan.