

## Eilean beag donn a' chuain

Little brown isle of the sea

Le Dòmhnall Moireasdan

Sèisd

**Hi ri o ri ri, togaidh sinn fonn**

Hi ri o ri ri, we will raise a tune

**air Eilean beag donn a' chuain;**

to the little brown isle of the sea;

**Eilean beag Leòdhais, dachaidh nan seòid,**

Little island of Lewis, home of the heroes

**a chumas a' chòmhrag suas;**

who would keep up the fight;

**Eilean nan tonn a dh' àraich na suinn**

Isle of the waves that raised the heroes

**'S a chuidich an Fhraing gu buaidh;**

And helped France to victory

**O còmhla ri chèile togaidh sinn fonn**

O together let us raise a tune

**air Eilean beag donn a' chuain;**

to the little brown isle of the sea

Rann 1

**Do lamh, a charaid, gu Eilean a' chuain**

Your hand, friend, for the isle of the sea

**'S a h-eallach cho chruidh is trom,**

And its burden so hard and heavy,

**Tha'm bàs 'na chabhaig, ri sgathadh 's a' buain,**

Death, in its haste is cutting and harvesting,

**gun duine nì suas an call;**

with no-one to make up the loss;

**Tha'n òigridh sgoinneil a sheòlas na caoil**

The active youths who sail the narrows

**an àite nan laoich a bh'ann,**

in place of the heroes that were,

**Gun bhoineid gun bròig a' siubhal nan raon**

Without hat without shoes travelling the fields

**an Eilean an Fhraoich ud thall.**

On the Island of Heather over yonder.

**Togaidh sinn** - we will raise; **fonn** - tune; **Eilean** - island; **beag** - small; **donn** - brown; **a' chuain** - of the sea; **dachaidh** - home; **nan seòid** of the heroes; **chumas** - would maintain; **chòmhrag** - fight; **suas** - up; **tonn** - wave; **dh' àraich** - raised; **suinn** - hero; **chuidich** - helped; **Fhraing** - France; **buaidh** - victory; **còmhla** - together; **ri chèile** - with each other;

**Do** - your; **lamh** - hand; **a charaid** - friend; **eallach** - burden; **cho** - so; **chruidh** - hard; **trom** - heavy; **bàs** - death; **chabhaig** - haste; **sgathadh** - reaping; **buain** - harvest; **gun duine** - no-one; **nì** - make; **call** - loss; **òigridh** - youths; **sgoinneil** - active; **sheòlas** - sail; **caoil** - narrows; **àite** - place; **laoich** - hero; **a bh'ann** - that were; **Gun bhoineid** - without hat; **gun bròig** - without shoes; **a' siubhal** - travelling; **raon** - fields; **Fhraoich** - of heather; **ud thall** - over yonder;

Rann 2

**A Dhia bi maille ri muinntir a' bhròin**

O God protect the sorrowful ones

**'S na fir a tha leònte, tinn,**

And the men who are wounded and sick,

**Bho ìnean guineach na h-iolair' a bhòc**

From the fierce talons of the (German) eagle, swollen

**Air fuil agus feòil do chloinn;**

On the blood and the flesh of your children;

**Tha gaoth an fhir-mhillidh 'na itean; 's a chròg**

The wind of destruction is in his feathers; her fingers

**A' dhruidheadh m' a sgòrnan teann,**

Closing tight around his throat,

**Tha 'n leòmhann a' fàsgadh Uilleam a Dhà**

The (British) lion is squeezing (Kaiser) William the

Second

**Is spiollaidh i chnàmhan lom.**

And she will pick the bones bare.

Rann 3

**O's làidir na bannan 'g am tharraing a-null**

O strong are the ties that are pulling me away

**Gu eilean beag donn MhicLeòid,**

To the little brown isle of MacLeod,

**'S gu stiùir mi h-ealamh gu cala mo long**

Guiding me swiftly to my boat's harbour

**'Nuair ruigeas mi ceann mo lò;**

When I reach the end of my days;

**'S ma ghreimichas m' acair ri Carraig nan Ail**

If my anchor holds on the Rock of Ages

**Bidh m' anam tighinn sàbhailt beò,**

My soul will come safely to life,

**Mo shiùil air am pasgadh am fàsgadh Chill' Sgair**

My sail folded in the shelter of Cill-sgair

**Le m' aithair 's mo mhàthair chòir.**

With my dear father and mother.

**A Dhia** - O God; **bi maille** - be protective; **muinntir** - people; **a' bhròin** - of sorrow; **na fir** - the men; **leònte** - wounded; **tinn** - sick; **ìnean** - talons; **guineach** - fierce; **iolair'** - eagle; **bhòc** - swollen; **fuil** - blood; **feòil** - flesh; **chloinn** - of children; **gaoth** - wind; **fhir-mhillidh** - destroyers; **itean** - feathers; **chròg** - paws, fingers; **druidheadh** - closing; **sgòrnan** - throat; **teann** - tight; **leòmhann** - lion; **a' fàsgadh** - squeezing; **spiollaidh** - will pick; **chnàmhan** - bones; **lom** - bare; **làidir** - strong; **bannan** - ties; **tharraing** - pulling; **a-null** - away; **stiùir** - guide; **ealamh** - quick; **cala** - harbour; **long** - boat; **'Nuair** - when; **ruigeas** - reach; **ceann** - end; **lò** - days; **ghreimichas** - should hold; **acair** - anchor; **Bidh** - will; **anam** - soul; **tighinn** - come; **sàbhailt** - safe; **beò** - life; **shiùil** - sail; **pasgadh** - folded; **fàsgadh** - shelter; **aithair** - father; **mhàthair** - mother; **chòir** - dear;