The Long Road Back to Achill

Léadh Aifreann na Marbh ar 10.30 r.n. ar an Satharn 18 Meán Fómhair i gKirkintilloch. I dtús baire bhí sé i gceist na coirp a chur sa tseanreilig i gKirkintilloch ach tháinig athrú ar an phlean nuair a fuarthas sreangsceal ó Éirinn leis na focail seo scriofa air, 'Beir Abhaile ár Marbh'.

I ndiaidh an Aifrinn thosaigh na mairbh ar an turas fada go hAcla agus daoine muinteartha leo ag siúl ar a gcúl a fhad le teorann Kirkintilloch. Cuireadh busanna speisialta ar fáil lena dtabhairt go Glaschú. Is iomaí deoir a sileadh agus deich gcónra ag dul ar bord long Burns & Laird, Lairdsburn, agus leagadh amach ar an deic uachtair iad.

I ndiaidh turais thar oíche tháinig an long i dtír i mBaile Átha Cliath agus sheol go mall suas An Life agus tuairim is 6,000 duine ag amharc ónché. Cuireadh na cónraí ar bord traenach ansin sna carráistí ar cúl agus d'imigh siar go hAcailli. Sa deireadh thiar thall ar an Luan 20 Meán Fómhair tógadh na cónraí thar thalamh Acla, deich gcarr á n-iompar. Cuireadh in uaigh mhór amháin i relig Chill Dhamhnait ar an taobh ó dheas den oileán iad.

Solemn Requiem Mass was said at 10.30am on Saturday 18th September, in Holy Family & St Ninian's Church, Kirkintilloch. It had originally been intended to bury the victims in the Old Aisle Cemetery, Kirkintilloch, but this plan was quickly altered when a telegram from Ireland, bearing the words Beir Abhaile Ar Marbh ('Bring Home Our Dead'), reached Kirkintilloch.

After mass, the coffins were dispatched on the long journey to Achill, with relatives of the dead walking behind the hearses as far as the Kirkintilloch boundary. There, special buses were provided to take them to the Broomielaw, Glasgow. There were emotional scenes as the ten coffins were carried on board the Burns & Laird vessel *Lairdsburn* and laid on an upper deck.

After an overnight voyage, the ship reached Dublin and came slowly up the Liffey, watched by an estimated 6,000 people on the quayside. The coffins were then transferred to the three rear coaches of an awaiting train for the overland journey to Achill. Finally, on Monday 20th September, the coffins were transported across Achill Island, each one on the roof of a motor car, and were buried in a mass grave at Kildownet Cemetery, in the south of the island.

SCOTTISH FIRE VICTIMS BROUGHT HOME

Last Journey to their Native Village

MOVING SCENES IN DUBLIN AND ACHILL

The Lairdsburn arriving in Dublin. *From The Irish Times*

Survivors on board the *Lairdsburn*

On the quayside at Dublin

Disembarking at Dublin

Coffins at Achill Railway Station

Funeral procession across Achill

SHAMROCK LINED GRAVE FOR ACHILL'S TRAGIC SONS

From *The Daily Record*

TRAGIC SCENES AT FIRE VICTIMS' BURIAL

From *The Bulletin*

Chaidh Aifreann Sòlaimte na Mairbh a rádh aig 10.30m. air Disathairne 18mh Sultain ann an Eaglais an Teaghlaich Naomh is an Naoimh Ninein ann an Kirkintilloch. An toiseach, bha dúil na mairbh a thiodhlachadh ann an Cladh Aillt Dail ann an Kirkintilloch, ach chaidh am plana seo atharrachadh gle luath nuair a fhuaireadh teilegram à Èirinn leis na facail Beir Abhaile Ar Marbh ('Thoir Dhachaigh ar Mairbh').

Às déidh na h-aifreinn chuireadh na cisteachan air falbh air an t-slighe fhada gu Acaill, le cairdean nam mairbh a' coiseachd air cúlaibh nan carbadan tiodhlacaidh cho fada ri crioch Kirkintilloch. Ann an sin, bha busaichean air an solarachadh a dh'aon ghnothaich gus an giùlain gun Bhroomielaw ann an Glaschu. Bha seallaidhean làn faireachdainn an sin fhad `s a bha na deich cisteachan gan togail air bòrd an t-soithich Lairdsburn, le Burns & Laird, agus gan càradh air an deic uachdrach.

An déidh turas-mara tron oidhche ràinig an t-soitheach Baile Átha Cliath agus thàinig i air a socair suas An Life, le timcheall air 6,000 neach air a' chidhe ga feitheamh. An sin, chaidh na cisteachan a thogail dha na trì coidseachan deireannach air tréana a bha a' feitheamh riutha airson an turais tìre gu ruig Acaill. Mu dheireadh thall, air Diluain 20mh Sultain, chaidh na cisteachan-laighe a ghiùlain tarsainn Eilean Acaill, gach tè dhiubh air mullach càir, agus chaidh an adhlacadh còmhla anns an aon uaigh ann an Cladh Chill Dúin Ad, ann an ceann a deas an eilein.