

Shortlisted for the Saltire Book of the Year Award

When I Heard The Bell

THE LOSS OF THE *Iolaire*

'Evocative and wholly wonderful'

ROGER HUTCHINSON – THE SCOTSMAN

JOHN MACLEOD

When I Heard The Bell The Loss Of The Iolaire

Marjory Harper



When I Heard The Bell The Loss Of The Iolaire:

When I Heard the Bell John Macleod, 2021-02-12 The author of *River of Fire* examines the events surrounding the post World War I sinking of HMY Iolaire and its aftermath On December 31 1918 with hours from the first New Year of peace hundreds of Royal Naval Reservists from the Isle of Lewis poured off successive trains onto the quayside at Kyle of Lochalsh A chaotic Admiralty was unprepared for their safe journey home Corners were cut an elderly and recently requisitioned steam yacht was sent from Stornoway and that evening HMY Iolaire sailed from Kyle of Lochalsh grossly overloaded and with lifebelts for less than a third of all on board The Iolaire never made it At two in the morning in pitch black and stormy conditions she piled onto rocks only yards from the harbor entrance and just half a mile from Stornoway pier where thronged friends and relatives eagerly awaited the return of their heroes 205 men drowned 188 of them natives of Lewis and Harris men who had come through all the alarms and dangers of World War I only to die on their own doorstep on a day precious to Highlanders for family celebration and togetherness The loss of the Iolaire remains the worst peacetime British disaster at sea since the sinking of the Titanic Yet beyond the Western Isles few have ever heard of what is not only a cruel event in our history but also an extraordinary maritime mystery a tale of bureaucrats in a hurry unfathomable Naval incompetence and abiding official contempt for the lives of Highlanders but of individual heroism astonishing escapes heart rending anecdote and the resilience and faith of a remarkable people *River of Fire* John MacLeod, 2011-11-01 Vibrating with endeavours for Britain's effort against the might of Nazi Germany Clydebank was in hindsight an obvious target for the attentions of the Luftwaffe When on the evening of 13 March 1941 the authorities first detected that Clydebank was on beam targeted by the primitive radio guidance system of the German bombers no effort was made to raise the alarm or to direct the residents to shelter or flight Within the hour a vast timber yard three oil stores and two distilleries were ablaze one pouring flaming whisky into a burn that ran blazing into the Clyde itself in vivid ribbons of fire And still the Germans came and Clydebank now an inferno lay illuminated and defenceless as heavy bombs of high explosive as land mines and parachute blasters began to fall With reference to written sources and the memories of those who survived the experience John MacLeod tells the story of the Clydebank Blitz and the terrible scale of death and devastation speculating on why its incineration has been so widely forgotten and its ordeal denied any place in national honour **Western Isles Folk Tales** Ian Stephen, 2014-10-01 *Western Isles Folk Tales* is a representative collection of stories from the geographical span of the long chain of islands known as the Outer Hebrides Some are well known tales and others have been sought out by the author but all are retold in the natural voice of a local man You will find premonitions accounts of uncanny events and mythical beings such as the blue men of the stream who test mariners venturing into the tidal currents around the Shiant Islands Also included are tales from islands now uninhabited like the archipelago of St Kilda in contrast to the witty yarns from bustling harbours The author was the inaugural winner of the Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship 1995 and his *Acts of Trust* collaboration with visual artist

Christine Morrison won the multi arts category in the first British Awards for Storytelling Excellence 2012 Both author and illustrator live in Stornoway Isle of Lewis *Testimonies of Transition* Marjory Harper,2020-04-24 Marjory Harper explores the motives and experiences of migrants settlers and returners by focusing on the personal testimonies of the two million men women and children who left Scotland in the 20th century *Scotland: Her Story* Rosemary Goring,2018-10-18 Scotland s history has been told many times but never exclusively by its women This book takes a unique perspective on dramatic national events as well as ordinary life as experienced by women down the centuries From the saintly but severe medieval Queen Margaret to today s first minister Nicola Sturgeon it encompasses women from all stations of class and fame and notoriety offering a tantalising view of what happened to them and how they felt Drawing on court and kirk records exchequer rolls and treasurer s accounts diaries and memoirs chap books and newspapers government reports and eye witness statements *Scotland Her Story* brings to life the half of history that has for too long been hidden or ignored Features material by from a hugely diverse range of authors including Princess Matilda St Margaret Margaret Tudor Mary Queen of Scots Lady Grizel Baillie Elsie Inglis Mary Slessor Jane Carlyle Marie Stopes Nan Shepherd Leila Aboulela Winnie Ewing Muriel Spark Liz Lochhead Jackie Kay Ali Smith Nicola Sturgeon *Love of Country* Madeleine Bunting,2017-04-11 Excellent Almost the perfect marriage of travelogue to the inner landscape of political ideas and cultural reflections a super read *New Statesman* Few landscapes are as striking as that of the Hebrides the hundreds of small islands that speckle the waters off Scotland s northwest coast The jagged rocky cliffs and roiling waves serve as a reminder of the islands dramatic geological history Facing the Atlantic the Hebrides were at the center of ancient shipping routes and have a remarkable cultural history After years of hearing about Scotland as a place interwoven with the story of her family Madeleine Bunting went to see for herself this place so full of history Over six years Bunting returned again and again to the Hebrides fascinated by the question of what it means to belong there With great sensitivity she takes readers through the Hebrides history of dispossession and displacement a history that can be understand only in the context of Britain s imperial past and she shows how the Hebrides have been repeatedly used to define and imagine Britain *Love of Country* is a revelatory journey through one of the world s most remote beautiful landscapes that encourages us to think of the many identities we wear as we walk our paths A remarkably thorough digest of the many histories of the Hebrides *Wall Street Journal* Moving and wonderful Both the author and reader of this book end up losing themselves not just in politics and history and the details of nature but a sense of wonder *The Guardian* Makes you feel you are there even if you have just left *Observer* Best Books of the Year

Prizing Scottish Literature Stevie Marsden,2021-02-15 This history of the Saltire Society Literary Awards demonstrates the significance the awards have had within Scottish literary and cultural life The book explores how the prizes have influenced understandings of Scottish literature over eight decades and explores what they reveal about the wider mechanisms of how literary prize culture functions in the UK today *The Hebrides* Paul Murton,2024-07-04 Paul Murton

has spent half a lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world the Hebrides He has travelled the length and breadth of the Scotland s rugged six thousand mile coast line and sailed to over eighty islands In this new and updated edition of his acclaimed book Paul visits each of the Hebridean islands in turn introducing their myths and legends history culture and extraordinary natural beauty In addition he also meets the people who live there and learns their story He has met crofters fishermen tweed weavers Gaelic singers clan chiefs artists postmen and bus drivers people from every walk of life who make the islands tick This blend of the contemporary and the traditional creates a vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to the less well known aspects of life among the islands The Highlands and Islands of Scotland

Alistair Moffat,2024-06-06 Alistair Moffat tells the extraordinary story of the Highlands in the most detailed book ever written about this remarkable part of Scotland This is the story of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland as it has never been told before From the formation of the landscape millions of years ago to the twenty first century it brings to life the events and the people who have shaped Highland history from saints sinners and outlaws to monarchs clan chiefs and warriors Highly readable and informative it mines a wide range of sources including medieval manuscripts and sagas poetry and popular culture Picts Romans Irish missionaries Vikings Jacobites and the flood of emigrants who left to forge new lives abroad are just some of the important players in the drama As he paints the bigger picture Alistair Moffat also introduces many key aspects of Highland culture and explores the experience of ordinary Highlanders and Islanders over thousands of years Fishermen, the Fishing Industry and the Great War at Sea Robb Robinson,2019 This book examines the scale and scope of the largely forgotten role played for the Admiralty by 3000 armed fishing vessels 39 000 fishermen and many coastal communities during the Great War in the unrelenting struggle against mines and U boats It is a story largely forgotten in the recent centenary commemorations

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