

Laughter in Todday

By JAMES SHAW GRANT

IN Sweden I was solemnly assured that "Whisky Galore" is the best advertisement the Hebrides ever had, and I believe it. The Hebrides are now known all over Europe as fabulous islands lying somewhere in the West, where life is rich, kindly, and full of good humour. The film undoubtedly has put it on the map.

The man who passed the comment was not a Swede. He was a Ukranian refugee and he called the film "Much Whisky." Everyone I met—Norwegians, Swedes, Finns, Esthonians and Czecho Slovaks — had seen "Whisky Galore" and they had all enjoyed it.

All except one. He had never seen the film or even heard of it. He looked quite blank at my mention of the name, which astonished me because up to that point, as soon as I said Hebrides, whoever I was speaking to said "Whisky Galore." Oddly enough the man who had never heard of "Whisky Galore" was a newspaper editor, and he was in such a desperate hurry to get himself a glass of Swedish punch that he walked away and left me.

It all began when a Danish journalist came to the Hebrides to write up what he called "The Whisky Galore Islands."

SAN t-Suain chaidh innse dhomh gur h-e "Whisky Galore," an sanas-tarruing a b'fheàrr a bha aig Innse Gall riamh, is creididh mi sin. Tha Innse Gall a nis ainmeil troimh'n Roinn-Eòrpa mar eileanan fo bhrat-sgeòil, 'nan laighe 'san àird-an-iar, is an rian-beatha saidhbhir coibhneil, is làn de dheagh-ghean. Thug an dealbh gun teagamh fo aire dhaoine iad.

Cha b'e Suaineach a bha 'san duine a thuirt sin. 'Se Ukranian fo'n choill a bh'ann, agus 'se'n t-ainm a bha aige air an dealbh "Much Whisky." Bha gach fear a thachair orm—Lochlann-aich, Suainich, Finnich, Eastón-aich is Teacaich—air "Whisky Galore" fhaicinn, agus chòrd e riutha uile.

Ach aon duine a mhàin. Chan fhac e an dealbh, is cha chuala e guth air. Cha do las sràd 'na aodann nuair thug mi iomradh air an ainm, nì a chuir mór iongnadh orm a chionn, gu ruige sin, cho luath 's a theirinn' Innse Gall' theireadh an duine bha mi còmhraidh ris "Whisky Galore." Gu h-iongantach 'se fear-deasachaidh paipear-naidheachd a bha 'san duine nach cuala iomradh riamh air "Whisky Galore," is bha e ann a leithid de dh'fhoiteig airson glainne de "punch" Suaineach fhaighinn is gun do choisich e air falbh, 'gam fhàgail-sa 'na dhéidh.

Thòisich a h-uile càil a bh'ann nuair a thàinig fear-sgrìobhaidh a Denmarc gu ruig Innse Gall a sgrìobhadh mu thimcheall "Eileanan Whisky Galore."