

Timeline of the events of Oct/Dec 1886 based on the Glasgow Herald newspaper reports

5th Oct – Gunboats HMS Seahorse & HMS Jackal arrive in Portree with 250 marines and 50 Police Officers from Glasgow to support the Sheriffs with their eviction of crofters who are in arrears of rents.

25th Oct – HMS Seahorse arrives in Bornaskitaig bay, with marines, police officers, sheriff's etc. to start serve writ's on crofters in the area. 'Rioting and mobbing' takes place (Press name it the 'Battle of Bornaskitaig' - 6 crofters arrested). Sheriffs and Police are also blocked from going into Herbusta by the crofters to serve a writ on John MacIntosh. Sheriffs and Police eventually retreat after a confrontation with the Herbusta crofters and return to the HMS Seahorse.

27th Oct – HMS Seahorse returns with a much larger force two days later, to arrest the Herbusta Crofters who had deforced the Sheriff. This is led by Lord Sheriff Ivory, plus two other Sheriffs, the Procurator Fiscal, 70 Marines/Police Officers, Dr Macleod and a number of Newspaper reporters. They all march to Herbusta, but find the township is abandoned. After searching the area they only find and capture Herdsman John Beaton and a Mrs MacMillan (Newly married 22 years old wife of Alex MacMillan). They arrest them and take them back on the Gunboat to Portree Prison.

1st Nov – John Beaton released, no charge. (Sues Ivory). **Mrs Ann MacMillan** released on Bail (£30)*

1st Nov to 18th Nov - Marines conducted unsuccessful night raids on Herbusta to capture the crofters, after suffering injuries falling over rocks and broken rifles, raids now conducted by Police

Police now stationed in Kilmaluag School and are now conducting regular raids on Herbusta.

24th Nov – **John MacDonald** Voluntarily surrenders to the Police in Portree by walking overnight to the Police Station. Bailed next day (£30)*

27th Nov – **William MacArthur & Alex MacMillan** Voluntarily surrenders to the Police in Portree by walking overnight to the Police Station. Next day all bailed (£30 each)*

30th Nov – **Donald Beaton, William Beaton & John Mackenzie** voluntarily surrenders to the Police in Portree. Leaving Herbusta Sunday night and walking overnight to the Police Station arriving 11:00 in the morning. Next day all three released on bail (£30)*

2nd Dec – The Gunboats Seahorse & Jackal with Marines departs Portree back to Portsmouth.

6th Dec – **Charles MacIntosh** (Who the Press have named the 'last Fugitive') voluntarily surrenders to the Police in Portree by walking overnight to the Police Station. Bailed next day (£30)*

Police leave Kilmaluag School and cease raids on Herbusta Township

4th Jan – The Seven Herbusta Crofters are sentenced up to 2 months imprisoned, after the jury found them guilty of rioting, mobbing and deforcing an officer of the Law at the High Court in Edinburgh.

***All bail money was paid for by Skye Businesses e.g. Cummings, Stewarts (Merchants), Mackinnon (Bakers) etc.**