



Foynes Island Viewpoint

Ionad Amhairc Oileán Fainge

“unnud aye-urk il-lawn FANG-yeh”

Turasóirí á dtóigáil amach ag báid bheaga le gur féidir leo sult a bhaint as an mbád aeir ‘Mai’ agus an muireitleán beag ‘Mercury’, 1938
Le caoinhead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

Small boats taking sightseers out to admire the flying boat ‘Mai’ and the small seaplane ‘Mercury’, 1938
Courtesy of National Library of Ireland

Tuirlingt ar uisce

Rúidbhealach ba ea an stráice uisce idir seo agus Oileán Fainge tráth.

D’fhéadfadh roinnt bád aeir dul ó thaobh amháin den Atlantach go dtí an taobh eile gan athbhreoslú. Ba é an Boeing B314 ‘Yankee Clipper’ de chuid Pan Am an chéad eitilt paisinéirí a thug aghaidh ar Fhaing in 1939 tar éis di teacht ó Nua Eabhrac trí Thalamh an Éisc.

Bhí na paisinéirí ar a gcompord i rith an turais a mhaireadh suas le 17 uair an chloig. Is ar bhád rámhaofcha a thug siad aghaidh ar an gcríochfort, óstán tráth dá raibh.

Bhí aerstáisiún Fhainge ag feidhmiú i rith an Dara Cogadh Domhanda. Go hoifigiúil bhí Éire neodrach, ach choinnigh na húdaráis faisnéise súil ghéar ar na daoine a bhí ag teacht agus ag imeacht. Daoine mó� le rá ba ea formhór na bpaisinéirí – pearsana míleata na gComhghuaillithe, teifigh, teaghlaigh ríoga, agus daoine cáiliúla a raibh sé de chúram orthu ócайдí siamsaíochta a eagrú do na trúpaí.

Ba é an sárphíolóta bád aeir, Charles Blair, a rinne an eitilt dheireanach ó Fhaing in 1945. Blianta ina dhiaidh sin phós sé an reálta scannán de bhunadh na hÉireann, Maureen O’Hara.



Splash down

The strip of water between here and Foynes Island was once a runway.

Some flying boats could cross the Atlantic without refuelling. Pan Am’s Boeing B314 ‘Yankee Clipper’ was the first passenger flight into Foynes in 1939 after flying from New York via Newfoundland.

Passengers travelled in luxury on a journey which could take up to 17 hours. They disembarked by rowing boat to the airport terminal, a former hotel.

Foynes operated during the Second World War. Ireland was officially neutral, but intelligence kept watch on who was passing through. Passengers were largely VIPs – Allied military personnel, refugees, royalty, and celebrities travelling to entertain the troops.

Ace flying boat pilot Charles Blair made the last flight from Foynes in 1945. He later married Irish-born film star Maureen O’Hara.

- 1 Tabhair cuairt ar an t-aon Mhúsaem Bád Eitilte ar domhan atá lonnaithe i bhfoirgneamh críochfóirt Fhaing.

Explore the world’s only Flying Boat Museum housed in the original terminal building at Foynes.

- 2 Tabhair cuairt ar chathair stairiúil Ollscoile Luimnígh, ar an gcaisleán, ar an ardeaglais agus ar na músaem.

Visit the historic, university city of Limerick with its castle, cathedral and museums.

- 3 Siúil ar do shuaimheas trí shráidbhaile an Gheanna, agus bain lán do shúl as na tithe péinteáilte atá suite taobh le bruach na Sionainne.

Stroll down the village of Glin with its brightly painted houses to the banks of the Shannon.



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