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# HICKEY

**ALARMINGLY**, I note that Germans are the most enthusiastic learners of Gaelic, the lingo used by crofters in the Lewis hinterland. When I was a PoW, there was a particularly dim guard whom we called "Aonghas" because he spoke in some weird language. He'd gabble away getting more and more enraged because no one knew what he was on about and it was only later we learned that he was one of many Gaels from the Western Isles who fought for the Jerries, but were disgracefully pardoned in 1945 by the new Labour government.