

# Correspondence from Gareth Jones before, during & after his famine exposing trip to Moscow & Ukraine in 1933

Transcriptions by Nigel Linsan Colley – March 2011 [E. & O. E.]

1. First letter sent to parents on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1933 at 7.10pm from the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool St Station. N.B. The last person Gareth seemingly meets is Paul Scheffer, the first foreign correspondent to be refused a Soviet re-entry visa in 1929 for his negative reporting of the 5-Year Plan. [Personally, I feel Scheffer encourages GJ to expose the famine he was unable to do himself, as Scheffer reports GJ's news on April 1<sup>st</sup> for the Berliner Tageblatt. ([http://www.garethjones.org/soviet\\_articles/hungersnot\\_in\\_russland.htm](http://www.garethjones.org/soviet_articles/hungersnot_in_russland.htm)), so Scheffer most probably have met GJ almost immediately on GJ's arrival back in the UK on the 31st March, the day on which GJ gave an important lecture to the RIIA (Royal Institute of International Affairs)].

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Great Eastern Hotel  
Liverpool Street [Station]  
London  
Wed 7.10 pm

My dearest all,

I am waiting here for Paul Scheffer – to dine together, then I leave at 8.30.

What luck that the articles coincided with events in Germany.

I shall arrive in Moscow 12.50 Sat. morning, staying Hotel Metropole.

Write however, c/o Intourist, Moscow, USSR.

Article appeared today in Financial News; another tomorrow or Friday

German Embassy very impressed with my article. It was read to the Ambassador “considered very balanced and reasonable and unbiased”. Lectures great success.

I hope you are buying several copies of WM [Cardiff Western Mail].

Yes would like telephone [at the Jones' family home in Barry]. Shall pay.

I am giving Eric Schuler work for my book on Russia & the League of Nations.

I shall pay him 20 Marks (about 28/- [Shillings]) per week for 3 months.

Cariad cynhesaf [With fondest regards]

I shall be very careful in Russia.

Gareth

[Followed by a Post Script in Welsh to Gareth's live-in Aunty Winnie.]



GREAT EASTERN HOTEL,  
LIVERPOOL STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.2.

TELEGRAMS: "EASTBOLT, LONDON"  
TELEPHONE: BISHOPSGATE 4601.

Wed. 7.10.

My dear all,

I am waiting here for Paul Scheffer - to dine together. He I leave at 8.30.

What luck that the article coincided with events in Germany.

I shall arrive in Moscow 12.50 Sat. morning, staying Hotel Metropol. Write however,

C/o Intourist,

Moscow.

U.S.S.R.

Article appeared today in Financial News. Another tomorrow or Friday.

German Embassy very impressed with my article. It was read to the Ambassadors & considered "very balanced and reasonable & unbiased".  
Lectures, great



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TELEGRAMS: "EASTBOLT, LONDON"  
TELEPHONE: BISHOPSGATE 4601.

success.

I hope you are buying several copies of W.M.

You wd like telephone. Shall try.

I am giving Eric Schuler work, preparing material for my book on Ruff Russia & the L. of N.

I shall pay him 20 mrs (and 28/-) per week for 3 months.

Caraid  
Cyrilcat. I shall be very careful in discussion.

Carath  
Goberth Rd A15  
Wingie. For well.  
Dyoth am lythron  
wddschaf. Camie, greth

2. A letter en route to Moscow from Berlin, where Gareth met up with Eric Schuller whom GJ had commissioned Schuller (a friend whom GJ was trying to help with some work) to write a book for him.

Mentioned in GJ's letter is Lady Muriel Padget, who was a British philanthropist and a humanitarian relief worker, based in London & Eastern and Central Europe [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muriel\\_Paget](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muriel_Paget)

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Berlin  
Friday March 3, 1933  
c/o Mr & Mrs Eric Schuler.

My dearest Everybody,

Here I am in Berlin. The boat came in late in the Hook [of Holland] and I did not get to Berlin until 10 o'clock, thus losing my connection is an excellent thing, because it has given me plenty of time. The Schulers, who lived in Russia, have stocked me up with medicaments, etc and given me camphor against insects.

As I told you, Eric Schuller is going to be my collaborator. He has already done a tremendous amount of work and is a happier man.

Address in Russian: МОСКВА, ИНТУРИСТ

[Page 2]

Uncle Harold Hughes came to see me in my Hotel in Liverpool.

I go to Moscow tonight and arrive on Sunday, 12.50. I shall be very careful.

Lady Muriel Padget is going to give a dinner party for me when I return from Russia on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is probable that I will go from Moscow to Kiev.

I slept late this morning. They are remarkably kind.

I enclose some photographs. Please keep them for me.

Cariad cynhesaf,

Gareth

Berlin.  
Friday, March 3, 1933.  
c/o Dr. M. Eric Schuler.

My dearest Everybody,

Here I am in Berlin. The boat came in late in the Hook and I did not get to Berlin until 10 o'clock, thus losing my connection — an excellent thing, because it has given me plenty of time to buy things here. The Schulers, who lived in Russia, have stocked me up with medicaments etc & given me camphor apt insects.

As I told you, Eric's <sup>slate</sup> going to be my collaborator. He has already done a tremendous amount of work and is already a happier man.

Address in Russian:

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ИНТУРИСТ.

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to see me in my hotel in Liverpool.  
I go on to Moscow tonight  
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Lady David Paget is going  
to give a dinner party for me when  
I return from Russia, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is probable that I  
shall go from Moscow  
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I left late this morning.  
They are remarkably kind. I enclose  
some photographs. Please keep them for me.

Carlad cyrhaed,  
Gaeth.

- 3) As with all of Gareth's correspondence from the USSR, he clearly knows that it will probably be read by censors and is thus very complimentary of them.
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Hotel Metropole

Moscow

4 o'clock Sun. March 5, 1933.

My dearest Everybody,

Here I am in a splendid room, have had a good bath and a meal of hors d'oeuvres, smoked salmon, creamed soup, a whole chicken, apricots & coffee. So I feel fine after a most interesting journey across five frontiers.

Before long I shall go for a walk. It is not cold here, although there is snow on the ground.

My stay in Berlin was pleasant but short. The Schulers are most kind. I had interesting conversations on the train. I left Berlin at 7.17 Friday night and arrived here 12.50 to the minute. I caught a bus here and a very kind Communist helped me to get my ticket. He said he was leaving for the Far East tomorrow on an engineer's job.

I hope you enjoyed yourself at the Watkin's party. I have just written to Aileen Llewellyn to congratulate her.

I am not sure what my plans will be. I may go South.

[Page 2]

In any case write to:

Intourist, Moscow.

This hotel is far more up to date than the North Western Hotel, Liverpool which had no telephone! No running water! No bathroom! No Central Heating, though it was about the best hotel in Liverpool.

The Liverpool Secretary wrote a most complimentary letter to my lecture agent.

Don't expect much news, I won't have time.

Warmest love,

Gareth

How is aunty Pennarth? Best wishes to Mr Davis,  
etc.

Hotel Metropole,  
Moscow.

Wódok Jan. March 5, 1943.

My dearest Everybody, Here I am in a splendid room, have had a good bath, then a meal of hors-d'oeuvres, smoked salmon, cream soup, a whole chicken, apricots & coffee. So I feel fine after a most interesting journey across five frontiers.

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no bathroom!  
no central heating?

Although it was about the best hotel  
in Liverpool.

The Liverpool secretary  
wrote a most complimentary letter to  
my lecture agent.

Don't expect much  
news. I won't have time.

Warmest love,

Maeth.

How is Aunt Penworth? Best  
wishes to N<sup>o</sup> Davis etc.



- 4) On Gareth's return from Ukraine, he never mentions the famine, nor the arrest of the Metrovik engineers and is very complimentary about the Soviet foreign Office and also makes reference to his forthcoming meeting with Livinov.

Normally, Gareth would use his position with Lloyd George to open diplomatic doors, but seemingly the German & British Ambassadors were keen on meeting Gareth on his return from Ukraine. The German Ambassador, von Dirksen with whom Gareth finds excellent company is meet Gareth again in Tokyo in 1935, when von Dirksen is transferred to Japan.

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Hotel Metropole  
Moscow  
Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1933

My dearest Everybody,

I am continuing to have an exceedingly interesting time. On my return from Kharkoff, I went to see our Ambassador (Sir Edmund Ovey) and had a talk with him. In the evening I dined with the German Ambassador, von Dirksen, an excellent dinner and excellent company.

This afternoon I am going to a Foreign office reception where Mr Litvinoff will be present

[Page 2]

My conversations have been exceedingly instructive & I have been received with the utmost kindness. The Foreign Office ("Narkomindel") has spared no trouble to make my a visit a success.

With warm love,

Gareth

Many thanks for your letters.

Hotel Metropole,  
Moscow.

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I am continuing to have an exceedingly interesting time. On my return from Kharkoff I went to see our Ambassador (Dr. Edward Ovey) and had a talk with him. In the evening I dined with the German Ambassador, von Diestlisen, an excellent dinner and excellent company.

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Office ("Aarkomindel") has  
spared no trouble to make  
my visit a success.

With warm love,

Yareth.

Very many thanks for your  
letter.

5) Gareth's tone is more frank on leaving the USSR, similar to his letter in 1930 announcing to the family of hunger in the Dontez Basin. The letter is sent from the home of Gareth's good friend, Dr Reinhard Haferkorn who was the Chairman of League of Nations High Commission in the Polish Corridor in Danzig.

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At Reinhard's  
Danzig  
Sunday March 27. 1933

My dearest Everybody,

It is splendid to be in civilisation again & I was delighted to get your letters on my arrival at Reinhard's.

The Russian situation is absolutely terrible, famine almost everywhere and millions are dying of starvation. I tramped for several days through villages in the Ukraine and there was no bread there, many children had swollen stomachs, nearly all the horses & cows had died, and the people themselves were dying.

The terror has increased tremendously and the G.P.U. has almost full control. It was a disgrace to arrest the six engineers, two of whom I know. I saw Monkhouse [A British Metrovik engineer arrested for espionage] a few days ago at our Embassy, a splendid man.

I have spent masses of money so I shall have to save rigidly when I return. I am looking forward ever so much to coming home.

Reinhard & Brigitte [his wife] send their love. They are exceedingly happy.

How is Modryb [Margaret]? I hope Aunty Winnie [Gareth's live-in, aunt and his mother's sister & 'famed' for her good cooking]?

---[written vertically on LHS page]---

I had long conversations with Livinoff [Lit-vinov], with Commissar for Finance, etc.

Should L.G. [Lloyd George] want me at "Churt" [L.G.'s political country home, near London] this week-end then I shall let you know. Gareth.

I had long conversations with Litvinoff with the Commission for Finance etc. Should L.C. want me at Christ this week-end, I shall let you know. Gweth.

Monday morning.  
Arrived Berlin.  
Dish up your rain on  
yelly top. Shall write  
Sis B.P.

At Reinhard's,  
Danzig.  
Sunday, March 27, 1933.

My dearest Everybody,

It is splendid to be in civilisation again and I was delighted to get your letter on arriving at Reinhard's.

The Russian situation is absolutely terrible, famine almost everywhere and millions are dying of starvation. I tramped for several days through villages in the Ukraine and there was no bread there, many children had swollen stomachs, nearly all the horses and cows had died, and the people themselves were dying. The terror has increased tremendously and the G.P.U. has almost full control. It was a disgrace to arrest the 6 engineers, two of whom I know. I saw Workhouse a few days ago at our Embassy, a splendid man.

I have spent masses of money so I shall have to save rigidly when I return. I am looking forward ever so much to coming home.

Reinhard and Brigitte send their love. They are exceedingly happy. Aunt Winne will be home on my return. Shall answer questions later.  
Carina cyphersab, Gweth.

- 6) Letter to Lloyd George (with covering letter to A.J. Sylvester – Lloyd George’s Secretary) from Berlin announcing to his employer, the extent of the famine, plus a list of who Gareth had interviewed of importance in Moscow & an offer to visit LLG at his country home of Churt:

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[Mr Gareth Jones]

Berlin

[Monday] March 27, 1933

My Dear A.J.,

I have just arrived from Moscow and enclose a letter for the Chief [Lloyd George], with an interview with Litvinoff.

My visits have been a great success, met Hitler, Goebbels, Litvinoff, etc., etc. I studied the Labour Camp Movement, by which employment is given to nearly 300,000 young Germans.

So I have first-class information.

Perhaps the Chief would like to see me. I shall be arriving in London on Thursday and leaving for Cardiff (Western Mail) Friday night. If I could come to Churt some Saturday afternoon, I should be delighted to give the Chief my views of the situation.

Would you be so kind as to ask a messenger to forward all my letters to the Reform Club, so that I can get them on Thursday morning.

With best greetings.

Gareth

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Berlin, March 27, 1933.

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

I have just arrived from Russia where I found the situation disastrous. The Five-Year Plan has been a complete disaster in that it has destroyed the Russian peasantry and brought famine to every part of the country. I tramped alone for several days through a part of the Ukraine, sleeping in peasants’ huts. I spoke with a large number of workers, among whom unemployment is rapidly growing. I discussed the situation with almost every British, German and American expert. I had interviews with the following:

Litvinoff

Karl Radek

The Commissar for Finance, Grinko

The Vice-Commissar for Light Industry

The Vice-Commissar for Education

The President of the Atheists (who has given me a special message to you as a Baptist!).

The British and the German Ambassadors

The situation is so grave, so much worse than in 1921 that I am amazed at your admiration for Stalin.

Before going to Russia, I went to Germany where I met Hitler and flew with him in his aeroplane to attend a giant meeting in Frankfurt, had a long conversation with Goebbels and other Nazis, with Breitscheid, von Schleicher, etc.

I made a special study of the Labour Camps, which impressed me deeply. I also visited Checho-slovakia and Danzig.

Therefore I have much material on which you may want to question me. On Saturday April 1st, I begin work at Cardiff on the “Western Mail”. Should you wish me to come to Churt at anytime – perhaps a Saturday afternoon – I should be delighted to come and report.

About the German situation, I am not so alarmed and believe that the English newspapers have lost their heads.

In the meantime I enclose my conversation with Litvinoff.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Jones.

Mr. Smith Jones. 9/26/12

29 MAR 1933

Mr. J. C. Jones

Berlin.

March 27, 1933. (3)

My dear A. J.,

I have just arrived from Moscow and enclose a letter for the Chief, with an interview with Litvinoff.

My visits have been a great success! met Hitler, Goebbels, Litvinoff etc etc. I studied the Labor Camp Movement, by which employment is given to nearly 300,000 young Germans.

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With best greetings  
Gareth.

A/26/1/2

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Litwinoff,

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the Commissar for Finance, Glinko,

the Vice-Commissar for Light Industry,

the Vice-Commissar for Education,

the President of the Atheists (who has given

me a special message to you as a Baptist!),

the British and the German Ambassadors etc.

The situation is so grave, so much worse than in 1921, that I am amazed at your admiration for Stalin.



Mr. Smith Jones. 9/26/12

29 MAR 1933

Berlin.

March 27, 1933. (3)

Mr. L.G. Jones  
My dear A.J.,

I have just arrived from Moscow and enclose a letter for the Chief, with an interview with Litvinoff.

My visits have been a great success! met Hitler, Goebbels, Litvinoff etc etc. I studied the Labor Camp Movement, by which employment is given to nearly 300,000 young Germans.

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Perhaps the Chief would like to see me. I shall be arriving in London on Thursday and leaving for Cardiff (Western Mail) Friday night. If I could come to Chart some Saturday afternoon, I should be delighted to give the Chief my views of the situation.

Would you be so kind as to ask a messenger to forward my letters to the Reform Club, so that I may get them on Thursday morning.

With best greetings,  
Gareth.

7) This final letter sent from a trip to his friend Reinhard Haverkorn in Danzig, where Gareth met the German Consul for Kharkiv again after having stayed with him on his March trip to Ukraine.

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Danzig  
Sun. May 28

### Election Day

My dearest all,

Everything is remarkably quiet here, so quiet I am having a lazy time. I shall arrive in Berlin Tuesday morning and come by Hook of Holland that day, so I will back late on Wed night in Cardiff. I am looking forward to Whitsun weekend.

Reinhard & Brigitte are looking forward to their visit to England & Wales.

The German Consul in Kharkoff & his wife thought that my articles gave a wonderful picture, but that the reality is really much worse than I described it. Since March it has

[Page 2]

.. got so much worse that it is horrible to be in Kharkoff, so many dying & ill or beggars. They are dying off in the villages, he said, and the spring sowing campaign is catastrophic. The peasants have been eating the seed. To talk of a bumper harvest, as Molotoff did, was a tragic farce, and he only said that to keep up the spirits, but nobody believed Molotoff. Many villages are empty. The fate of the German colonists is terrible, in some villages 25% have died off and there will be more dying off until August. In August he said there would be an epidemic of deaths, because hungry peasants would suddenly eat so much as to kill themselves.

Now Reinhard and I are going into the town.

Cariad cynhesaf,

Gareth

Daddy

Sunday, Nov 28. '33

Election Day

My dearest all,

Everything is remarkably quiet here, so quiet that I am having a lazy time. I shall

arrive in Belin Tuesday morning and come by Hook of Holland that day. So I shall be back late Wed. night in Cardiff. I am

looking forward to Whitsun week-end. Randa & Britte are looking forward to their visit to England and Wales.

The German Consul in Kharhoff & his wife thought that my stils gave a wonderful picture but that it is really much worse than I described it. Since then it has

got so much worse that it is horrible  
to be in Kharkoff, so many dying  
with a typhus. They are dying off in the  
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of a bumper harvest, as Dolotoff did,  
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25% have died off and there will  
be more dying off until August. In

Aug. he said there would be an epidemic  
of deaths, because hungry peasants  
would suddenly eat so much as to kill themselves.  
Now Rumyantsev is going

into the town of Caradynsk, and  
Gareth.