modern agricultural machinery. Everywhere there were new buildings, and he noted that, industrially, Soviet Russia was progressing at a rapid rate. At the state farm, he was given excellent meals, in contrast to those given to the starving peasants working there.

A week later, on August 26th his arrival in Berlin, near the station for Saxony, he wrote another letter to his parents:

_Hurray! It is wonderful to be in Germany again, absolutely wonderful. Russia is in a very bad state; rotten, no food, only bread; oppression, injustice, misery among the workers and 90 percent discontented. I saw some very bad things, which made me mad to think that people like Bernard Shaw go there and come back, after having been led round by the nose and had enough to eat, and say that Russia is a paradise. The winter is going to be one of great suffering there and there is starvation. The government is the most brutal in the world. The peasants hate the Communists. This year thousands and thousands of the best men in Russia have been sent to Siberia and the prison island of Solovki. In the Donetz Basin conditions are unbearable. Thousands are leaving. One reason why I left Hughesovska so quickly was that all I could get to eat was a roll of bread – and that is all I had up to 7 o’clock. Many Russians are too weak to work. I am terribly sorry for them._

_Never-the-less great strides have been made in many industries and there is a good chance that when the Five-Year Plan is over Russia may become prosperous. But before that there will be great suffering, many deaths._

_The Communists are doing excellent work in education, hygiene and against alcohol. Butter is 16/- a pound in Moscow; prices are terrific and boots, etc. cannot be had. There is nothing in the shops. The Communists were remarkably kind to me and gave me an excellent time._

On Gareth Jones’ eventual return to Britain, three articles were published in The London Times by “Our Correspondent,” outlining conditions in Soviet Russia.

In April 1931, Gareth Jones left the employ of David Lloyd George to join the renowned Public Relation Advisors, Ivy Lee and Associates of Wall Street, New York. Lee who had interests in Standard Oil, intended to write a book on the Soviet Union, and it was Jones’ brief to undertake the research. That summer, he was invited to accompany young Jack Heinz II, the grandson of the founder of the “57 Varieties” organization to “Bolshevik Russia” – this time for a six weeks tour. They covered the length and breadth of the country, and finally visited Ukraine. Jones kept an extensive diary, which Jack Heinz

---

2. Gareth Jones, letter to his mother, August 26, 1930.
then copied into a small book, entitled: *A Diary*, and published anonymously. Gareth Jones wrote the foreword to this book:

> With knowledge of Russia and the Russian language, it was possible to get off the beaten path, to talk with grimy workers and rough peasants, as well as such leaders as Lenin's widow and Karl Radek. We visited vast engineering projects and factories, slept on the bug-infested floors of peasants' huts, shared black bread and cabbage soup with the villagers—in short, got into direct touch with the Russian people in their struggle for existence and were thus able to test their reactions to the Soviet Government's dramatic moves.3

Noted in the diary were the pitiful conditions of the peasants. A typical entry, made during their walking tour in the countryside, described when they met:

> One old man with a cap on the back of his head who came up and greeted us. “And how is it with you, tovarishch (comrade)?” they inquired.

> “It is terrible in the Kolhoz,” he whispered. “They took my cows and my horse. We are starving. Look what they give us—nothing! Nothing! How can we live with nothing in our dvor (farm)? And we can't say anything or they'll send us away as they did the others. All are weeping in the villages today, little brother.”

> Outside, a horse was tied to a post—“one of the worst kept and fed they had ever seen,” said our last mentioned friend. “That was my horse once; now he belongs to the Kolhoz. I fed him well, and now look at him—scraggy and dejected.”4

Gareth Jones returned to his employment in New York for six months, but due to the American financial situation and the World Depression of 1931, he returned to his old “Chief,” David Lloyd George, in London. There, unknown to many, he assisted the former Prime Minister in writing his *War Memoirs*.

Gareth Jones' true ambition was to be a journalist, and he arranged to join the Welsh newspaper, *The Western Mail*, in April 1933. However, before he left Lloyd George's employment, in February 1933, he visited Germany, and was present in Leipzig the day Adolf Hitler was made Chancellor. A few days later he was the first foreign journalist to fly with the Dictator to a rally in Frankfurt. On his return to Wales, Gareth Jones wrote his prophetic article de-