

Nigel Colley's Speech in Aberystwyth at the Gareth Jones' Tri-Lingual Plaque
on 23 November 2017



Thank you Vice Chancellor for your excellent précis of my great uncle's short life & his remarkable pioneering work in being the 1st named journalist to internationally expose the 1932/33 Holodomor Genocide

In these modern days of Russian 'fake news', such as Putin's denial of Russian culpability in the shooting down Malaysian Airlines MH17 (or even the presence of Russian troops on the ground in 2014, during his illegal invasion of the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine)...

Then we must never forget that Moscow have indeed been past masters of deliberately falsifying the facts by the very successful 'cover-up' of the Holodomor.

In the autumn of 1932, travellers then returning to London from Moscow were privately talking to Gareth of their fears that an ongoing famine would ravage the USSR that winter.

As Russian foreign correspondents were not only censored by the Soviets, but were also banned from travelling outside Moscow, Gareth knew that in order to expose the famine that he would have to witness it first-hand otherwise it would be officially denied...

In early March 1933 and supposedly under the auspices of his employer David Lloyd George, Gareth managed to secure a Soviet visa & invitation to visit a tractor factory in Kharkiv, the then capital of Ukraine.

What Gareth was not supposed to do was to covertly get off his train en route.

Gareth's unique journalist notebooks, which are now deposited at the NLW & which 'probably represent the only independent western verification of arguably Stalin's greatest atrocity', bear stark witness to his personal observations of the famine...

Gareth noted:

In the Ukraine. A little later I crossed the border from Greater Russia into Ukraine. Everywhere I talked to peasants who walked past – they all had the same story; “There is no bread – we haven’t had bread for 2 months – a lot are dying.”

Immediately on leaving the Soviet Union, Gareth held a press conference in Berlin at which his claims of millions dying of starvation in Soviet ‘Russia’ was given great credence in newspaper articles at the time by virtue of his association as an ‘Aide to Lloyd George’.

However, just two days later on the 31st March 1933, Walter Duranty, the then current Pulitzer Prize Winner and a Stalinist Apologist in an article published in the New York Times entitled; ‘Russian Hungry, but Not Starving’ personally denigrated Gareth & with great sophistry Duranty stated that;

“...There is no actual starvation or deaths from starvation, but there is widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition.”

Gareth’s exposure of the Holodomor inadvertently put a huge spanner in the works during delicate negotiations for diplomatic recognition between the USA

& USSR & it was therefore necessary through Duranty for the Soviets to conceal the famine, by its denial.

Anne Abblebaum in her recently published major academic work on the Holodomor entitled; 'Red Famine' concluded of this episode:

'Duranty outshone Jones: he was more famous, more widely read, more credible. He was also unchallenged... 'Russians Hungry but Not Starving' became the accepted wisdom.'

Banned from ever returning to the Soviet Union, less than two years later Gareth was mysteriously murdered by Chinese bandits in 1935.

British PRO evidence which I discovered shows that there is actually fairly strong circumstantial evidence of Stalin's regime being culpable of Gareth's murder:

The vehicle from which he was kidnapped belonged to a supposed German company called Wostwag, who were actually a major covert arm of the Soviet NKVD Secret Police...

And, the German journalist, Dr Herbert Mueller, who invited Gareth on his fateful last trip into inner Mongolia, had assured him in advance of; 'absolutely safe, no bandits'.... Though, Mueller was released unharmed after just two days, Gareth was murdered two weeks later the day before his 30th birthday, with

three bullet wounds; two in the back & one in the back of his head – often a hallmark of a contract killing! PRO file on the other hand secretly documented a 34-year record of Mueller's Soviet allegiances.

The French phrase; 'Plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose' (The more things change, the more they stay the same) seems most apt today, as a warning to us all since Putin's control of the Kremlin, over 150 investigative journalists have been murdered in Russia & Ukraine...

Now in 2006, when this plaque was unveiled by Ihor Kharchenko, the then Ukrainian Ambassador to London, my late mother Siriol Colley & Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Diaspora, hardly anyone had heard of Gareth's Jones & few in the west were even aware of the Holodomor....

But how things have changed over the past 11 years & the fortunes of Duranty & Gareth have diametrically reversed...

Calls for the New York Times to hand back Duranty's ill-gotten Pulitzer are again being demanded by both myself and others & Gareth's truthful reporting is now being duly recognised worldwide...

Since the unveiling in 2006, there have been three TV documentaries, an exhibition of his Famine diaries in 2009 at The Wren Library at Cambridge &

Gareth was also posthumously awarded the Ukrainian Order of Freedom in a ceremony at Westminster Central Hall to mark the 75th commemorations of the Holodomor in 2008.

And next year, there is even a movie entitled 'Gareth Jones' which is scheduled to begin being filmed....

It is indeed our good fortune today, that we can thank destiny, that in our rediscovery of Gareth Jones' memory & through his integrity to seek out 'the truth' that irrespective of danger or personal consequence; that whether we be Welsh, Ukrainian, or of whatever nationality or even religious creed, that we should be truly proud of his virtuous endeavours & wish that other journalists are just as fearless in investigating future atrocities...

In these times of 'Fake News', Gareth Jones' exemplary reporting of the 1933 famine-genocide to the world, without distortion or manipulation, stands out as a beacon for honest journalism, which is just as important now as it was back in 1933 for those millions of innocent victims of the Holodomor.

Thank you...