

Wife of arrested Briton talks

CPYRGHT



The Brookes on Dartmoor holiday last summer

THEY QUESTIONED ME ALL NIGHT SAYS TEARFUL MRS. BROOKE

From IAN BRODIE: Moscow, Thursday

IN tears tonight a young wife from London told how she was questioned all night by Soviet police after her husband was whisked away under arrest.

Barbara Brooke, 24 and pretty, is going home tomorrow. Her husband, 26-year-old lecturer Gerald Brooke, is still held somewhere in Moscow, perhaps in the Lubyanka prison.

I understand the word "espionage" has not been mentioned by the Russians. They have used the phrase "subversive activities," which could cover anything.

Mr. Brooke's friends here—he was leading a party of British school teachers—think the whole thing is a frame-up.

As one said: "He could not have been involved in anything shady. No man would take his wife along for something like that."

A CALL

It was on Sunday that the young couple—apparently in response to a mysterious telephone invitation—went to visit a Russian husband and wife in Moscow.

Gerald Brooke speaks fluent Russian. Barbara Brooke understands little—and so tonight she still scarcely knew what had happened.

At the Moscow home of Miss Agnes Wood, the newly arrived British Consul, Mrs. Brooke wept as she tried to explain how three Russians burst into the home they were visiting.

"They were all speaking



ROSEMARY HONEY
"Ridiculous"

Russian," she said. "They took me away to another building—I don't know where—and there they questioned me. They kept questioning me all night."

Mrs. Brooke, spectacled, wearing red skirt and beige sweater, went on: "I don't know the exact time the men came because I don't have a watch, but it was latish in the evening. They released me at 7.30 next morning. They just let me go.

"I would rather not say what questions they asked. They did not use any force.

"I don't know the Russian people in the flat. I have no idea if they were arrested."

And her husband? "I don't know," said Mrs. Brooke. She broke down. Miss Wood helped her from the room.

Some of the gaps in the story were filled in by one of Mr. Brooke's touring party, 40-year-old Mr. Paul Harvey, a teacher from Woodford Green, Essex, who first raised the alarm.

Apparently the Brookes were "hospitably welcomed" at the flat they visited.

But after 15 minutes the three

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