

*W.S. Parks, Jr., M.D.*  
*7406 Curly Leaf Cove*  
*Austin, TX 78750*

2-8-01

Mr Richard M. Manton  
1294 Master Street  
North Towanda, NY 14120-2228

Dear Mr Manton:

I read your letter to Bob Thompson and thought I would comment on my similar experiences in Odessa, Russia. In fact, I will send a copy of this to Bob, himself, as he probably has a collection of such memoirs.

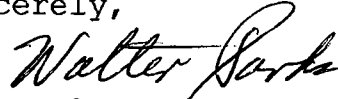
My POW situation (from 104<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in Holland) was to leave Oflag 64 in January 1945 to cadre Oflag 64Z nearby. I had been a battalion surgeon. In due time we went on the march ahead of the Russians who finally overtook us in eastern Germany at the village of Wugarten. In about 6 weeks the Russians evacuated us by truck and boxcar to Odessa.

Yes, we too were at a vacation villa and guarded. Our mess officer was in touch with their kitchen but couldn't do much to change things. Remember pickle soup for breakfast? At the entrance to the mess hall Capt Polluconi posted our menu for the day. He embellished the offerings with titles such as "Potatoes a la Manhattan", etc. This disturbed the ever-suspicious Russians who removed our efforts at humor, thinking they were some sort of code.

We had the diarrhea too, but it was not infectious type. It was caused by the chocolate and rich foods in the Red Cross boxes "given" us by the Russians. Diarrhea means contagion to the Ruskies, so they insisted on hospitalizing at least 4 of us. I went to the hospital and tried to explain the situation to their medical officer, surprisingly a male. He was frightened to buck the system and said that if our soldiers didn't stay in the hospital a few days, he would be sent to the front lines. You may have been in the same hospital I visited - a one-story, temporary type structure. The brown tablets you took were an extract of opium. From your later experiences with the British I believe your group did have an infectious diarrhea.

It has been interesting to share this experience with you. I have never attended the Oflag 64 reunions because my remembered friends were from 64Z. I did know Amon Carter, Jr and his father because they were from Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter S. Parks, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Walter S. Parks, Jr., MD