

My Last Day in Ukraine



All of the remaining days of our Mission we're spent doing more of the same – delivering aid to the neediest Ukrainians, conducting fact-finding on the real, on-the-ground-conditions in Ukraine and how well the West's humanitarian aid is meeting the real needs, and reporting on all that we had experienced. Attached to the end of this presentation is a comprehensive assessment of how well our Mission executed its goals and objectives, but here I need to make mention of the physical and mental effort that was required (thinking in part about any of you who might be joining us on Mission II).

On our final day, as we drove nearly a thousand miles to get from the front lines to Warsaw for my departing flight, I witnessed myself acting in a very telling way. Being of the “advanced age” of 67, before and during the Mission I wondered how I would hold up to more than a week gruelingly crisscrossing Europe's second largest country delivering aid and rescuing people amidst active combat, while witnessing firsthand the horrific genocide being committed on the Ukrainian people.



The one-thousand-mile drive from the front lines to the Polish border and then on to Warsaw gave me plenty of time to think about our Mission. Thankfully, Theo and Markiian knew the way, since Ukrainians covered up directional signs to thwart Russia's invasion.

For more than a week, I held up just fine, in fact I exceeded my own private expectations, which was significant seeing as our work required us each day to be up at dawn hitting the ground running in undertaking our Mission objectives, a schedule which persisted for more than 18-20 hours before we grabbed a few hours of anxious sleep so that we could again arise at dawn and spend the day saving Ukrainians. Each day was a repeat of the same – the only things that changed were the destinations, the delivery targets for our aid – where each day we offloaded more than one ton of aid supplies - to small villages, field hospitals and military encampments, while conducting fact-finding interviews of civilians and soldiers alike in trying to get to the truth which we would circulate to...well, anyone who would listen.