

came the warning of enemy aircraft and as an introduction we immediately had a nice success to brag about. A direct hit from the heavy Flak tore apart a Russian bomber into uncountable pieces. It was a grand scene for us as the individual pieces fluttered down in the air.

The point of the **Panzer-Division** had taken Dubno and had already advanced further. The way was free for the following units. But in the surrounding woods there were still strong Russian forces and even tank concentrations were identified. Our own defense of the city was weak, and it was self-explanatory to us that we would take over protection against enemy tanks. The Russians still must not have recovered from the battle, because the night passed without any incident.

Hardly had we taken up positions against aircraft targets in the morning than it was reported that in the village of Tarakanow - about 4 kilometers southwest of Dubno - several enemy tanks had attacked a German column and were moving toward Dubno. A short time later we were standing prepared for defense in our anti-tank positions.

A motorcycle rider reported that two of our vehicles were following behind him and then about 2 1/2 kilometers behind them four Russian tanks were advancing. The first tank was very heavy and then three smaller tanks. What were they up to? Did they want to first gain contact and recon? Our own vehicles had long ago passed by, and now the giant tank was spotted. It was a command tank weighing 64 tons with a 15 cm gun. - Page Missing

Now the first tank struck our defenses. Infantry guns joined the firefight and anti-tank guns fired continuously. Calmly the crew of the heavy Flak allowed the tank to approach to within close range because the failing light already made it difficult to spot the target with the gun sights. Now it was time to fire and after a short fight two tanks went up in bright flames. The attacking infantry were fought with both superquick and time delay fuzed high explosive shells.

Where were the rest of the tanks hiding? Taking advantage of the terrain, they wanted to attack us from both left and right. However, there they ran into another 8.8 cm Flak and the position was still held after another firefight. Do the Russians want to attack at night? We didn't think so because they could see very little out of their tanks.

Still at night, the Flak named "Anton" moved

to a new position. The third night in which the crew did not get any sleep. The main direction of attack of the Russian forces was known exactly. Hardly were we ready to fire when the outposts reported "Enemy tanks advancing". It is 0315 hours and at long range we saw the tanks slowly, one after the other, leave their cover. We were located on the edge of a cemetery on a rise and could see very well the south and southwest edge of the city and far into enemy-held territory. The tanks rolled toward the city and often presented good targets. But our experience had shown that we had to let the monster come closer. The opponent attacked, using the same attack tactics as on the previous days. The 64 ton command tank was in front, closely followed by the rest. We couldn't count them all, because sometimes it was this one and at other times another that disappeared behind a clump of bushes.

"**Panzergranate** - range 500 - **Feuer**" was the fire command for the largest tank. Even this time, it doesn't seem to be bothered when shot at. He wanted to knock us out of action with his 15 cm gun. Shells struck close to the Flak, but our **Panzergranate** with their tracers went straight into the body of this giant. There, he remains stopped - clearly we see how his left drive wheel is blown off and the track hangs down. However, he kept firing his gun and the **Artillerie-Sturmgeschuetz**, assigned for our close defense, failed us. Now the turret was taken under fire and after several rounds the crew climbed out of the tank. Confused, they ran into fire from our **Infanterie**. Protected by the heavy tank, a 32 ton tank opened fire on us. However, it went up in flames immediately after our first shot at it. This time the following tanks did not turn around but tried to reach the road. Just as one showed us his wide side, he received a direct hit. A burst of flame and the blast revealed that the ammunition in this tank was exploding.

In the interim, another tank had reached the road and was driving fast toward the entrance to the city. His shots were very erratic. He was able to withstand more than three hits, when a shell exploded right under the tank, which was raised up and tipped into the roadside ditch. "The same range" was the next order, and another shot tore into him at exactly the same moment that the crew attempted to bail out.

Two tanks were spotted to our right. The rangefinder had measured the exact range to the