



Above: An 8.8 cm Flak 18 being towed through a ford by an 8 to Zugkraftwagen (Sd.Kfz.7). (GF)

Every soldier of the 2. Batterie/Flakregiment 701 that took direct part in the defensive battle at Cholm is proud of his actions, of the successes of his battery, and of its four Leutnante, who at times when the artillery fire was very heavy manned the guns themselves.

Combat report on the action of the 2. Batterie/I. Abteilung/Flak-Regiment 701 at Cholm from 2 to 5 September 1941

About 1700 hours on 1 September, the battery was ordered to support **Infanterie-Regiment 11** to defend against the Russian tank attacks that had broken through near Cholm. The battery didn't reach its planned assembly area west of Cholm that day because of poor road conditions and at dusk took up anti-tank defensive positions in the Makejew area. At dawn, after consultation with the commander of **Infanterie-Regiment 11**, a position for the battery was scouted. The scouting patrol was subjected to enemy artillery fire. About midday the 8.8 cm Flak towed by **Zugkraftwagen**, a 2 cm Fla-Geschuetz, and ammunition trucks arrived at the command post of **Infanterie-Regiment 11** and were immediately sent into the half-concealed positions with a good view of the terrain to their front on a ridge about 1 kilometer northwest of the center of Cholm. The foremost infantry line

lay about 200 meters in front of the firing position, a 10.5 cm Sturmgeschuetz [sic] pulled into position to the right of and beside the 8.8 cm Flak.

The first two 8.8 cm Flak prepared to fire at about 1200 hours were under the leadership of Lt. Weise and Lt. Fuessel; the **Geschuetzfuehrer** was Uffz. Welzel. The 2 cm Geschuetz was led by Wm. Breton and the **Geschuetzfuehrer** was Uffz. Menzel. Because the roads were a complete morass, both of the other 8.8 cm Flak under the command of Lt. Koch didn't arrive until 1800 hours. Scouting the approach route and details of the firing positions were accomplished under the direction of Lt. Kozur.

At 1430 hours, **Infanterie** began to attack out of the forest near Tschista. The attack was energetically supported by 8.8 cm and 2 cm guns and both small and large groups of Russians were suppressed, allowing the attack to gain ground. At first the opponent fired his artillery without apparent plan in the direction of the firing positions, and mortars fired rapidly at both guns. Uffz. Menzel at the 2 cm and Lt. Fuessel, Ogefr. Guckel, and Gefr. Schmidt were lightly wounded by fragments from this fire.

After the German attack was carried far forward, the Russians sent in tanks. Six tanks that appeared one after the other were taken under fire