

at ranges of 1500 to 1800 meters of which one 35 ton tank was halted with track damage. Hits on all of the tanks could be observed, after which the tanks quickly pulled out of the fight. The long range resulted in several hits ricocheting. Russian infantry following the tanks were engaged by the 8.8 cm firing *Sprgr.Az.* and *Zz.* and the 2 cm, killing some and causing some to flee. During a pause in the firing, enemy machinegun and mortar fire covered the Flak guns. The second and third 8.8 cm Flak were no longer needed on this day and moved to a rearward position in readiness.

After a quiet night, at 0330 hours on 3 September heavy enemy artillery fire started and continued for over an hour. During this time, a 52 ton heavy tank emerged from the woods moving toward the firing positions. Due to the poor light, the tank was allowed to close to about 1500 meters and then fired at with *Pzgr.* but without any visible result because many ricochets were observed. The tank suddenly pulled into a depression, turned around there, and disappeared out of sight.

During this period, the firing positions lay under heavy artillery and mortar fire. About 0600 hours, about 50 to 70 Russian infantry attacked out of the woods east of Cholm. The attack's strength pushed back our own forward line. Then the 2 cm Flak started to fire. Above all, the attack was driven back by well-placed *Sprgr.Zz.* The opponent pulled back in wild flight. The ensuing counterattack by our *Infanterie* was again successfully supported by fire from the Flak guns.

About 1400 hours, eight enemy tanks appeared out of the depression in a meadow at a range of 1200 to 1800 meters. This tank attack pushed our *Infanterie* almost back to their start line. Under the heaviest enemy fire, this tank attack was beaten back and one 52 ton and one 35 ton tank destroyed. The others panicked and pulled back into the forest. They reappeared at about 1500 hours at about the same range as before at which two 35 ton tanks were hit and caught fire. The rest pulled out of sight and reappeared for the third time at about 1630 hours. This time a 52 ton tank was destroyed at a range of 1300 meters. A 35 ton tank pulled out of sight into a depression and suddenly reappeared to the side of the battery at a range of 150 meters. It threatened the *Infanterie* lying in an assembly area and the command post near there. This tank was set on fire by short bursts fired by the 2 cm

Flak. The penetrations were in the tracks and the hull. The crew was burned. Accompanying papers and maps were turned over to the regimental command post.

In the evening about 1800 hours, the 8.8 cm Flak again fired at a 52 ton tank east of Cholm. This disabled the tank by a direct hit in the tank's suspension. The tank immediately stopped, and two of the crew jumped out and ran back to the enemy line. Thereby, all eight of the tanks in the afternoon attack were destroyed.

At 1915 hours, at about 2100 meters range an enemy gun firing at the edge of the woods was made out and destroyed with time-fuzed shells. Under the cover of dusk, the Russians with tanks renewed the attack from the east toward burning Cholm. When they retired they towed off the tanks that had been destroyed by the battery during the day.

Even though the second 8.8 cm Flak was on the ridge, it had a very limited field of fire which needed to be improved due to the number of Russian tanks that were attacking. During the day a new position was scouted for and the second 8.8 cm Flak was brought into position on the edge of the woods to the left of the first 8.8 cm Flak so that the previous poor view of the meandering cut through the meadow could be taken directly under fire in the future.

About 1050 hours on 4 September, an enemy attack conducted under massive artillery preparation was stopped before it could gain momentum by high explosive shells fired by both 8.8 cm and the 2 cm Flak. About 1145 hours, two Russian tanks (one 35 ton and one 52 ton) feeling their way forward were taken under fire and destroyed at ranges over 2000 meters. In addition the main part of enemy infantry following these tanks was destroyed by 8.8 and 2 cm shells. About 1300 hours, a 35 ton tank appeared on a ridge at a range of 1700 meters and two *Pzgr.* were fired which set the tank on fire. Two enemy guns, brought up to the edge of the woods to the left, were engaged by direct fire and destroyed with *Sprgr.Az.* and *Zz.* Two machinegun nests which had sprayed our gun positions with fire all day were destroyed by the 2 cm Flak. In the morning during the attack a position was scouted to position the third 8.8 cm Flak in the forward line in case an attack would be carried past the occupied ridge.