



Above: An 8.8 cm Flak 18 at full recoil just as it was fired. (GF)

On 5 September, both 8.8 cm Flak and the 2 cm Flak supported the *Infanterie* attack and suppressed the Russian infantry counterattack with well-aimed fire from 0800 to 1230 hours. From the start of the attack, deadly enemy fire of all calibers continued uninterrupted to rain down on the ridge and the gun positions. A direct hit on the lower carriage of an 8.8 cm Flak killed Gefreite Buechner, severely wounded Ogefr. Weihrauch, and lightly wounded Ogefr. Latos and Gefr. Stommen. Ogefr. Knappe, the messenger for the gun, was severely wounded by shell fragments when he returned from the battery observation post. Even the radio station positioned in the ravine behind the firing positions was located by the enemy and was subjected to the heaviest fire. Radio traffic had to be halted because of the danger of directional locator interception. At 1730 hours the 8.8 cm Flak under Lt. Weise and the 2 cm Flak fought back a Russian counterattack in company strength. The danger that two German companies would be cut off was thereby eliminated. Strafing Russian "I 16" fighters were taken under fire by the 2 cm Flak. When the 2 cm Flak failed because of the recoil arm breaking, anti-aircraft defense was accomplished by firing carbines.

Lt. Koch, Wn. Munschke, and Ogefr. Koerner were wounded by shell fragments. Almost all of the tires on the *Sonderanhaenger* and the vehicles were destroyed by the heavy fire. Shell fragment damage to a *Zugkraftwagen, Kfz.81*, Henschel trucks, and the radio vehicle was reported.

Many wounded *Infanterie* returning from the battle were cared for by the medics from the battery, aided by the officers and crews, and transported back using battery vehicles. In the evening, after discussion with the commander of the *I.Abt./Flak-Regiment 701* and the commander of *Infanterie-Regiment 11*, the battery left their firing positions that were known to the enemy and pulled back to an assembly area close to their old firing positions. This maneuver to change the positions of all of the guns had to be conducted under the heaviest enemy fire.

During all of the combat activity, heavy and the heaviest fire from all types of enemy weapons hit the gun positions. In spite of this, all crew members, even the lightly wounded, remained courageously manning their weapons. In spite of enemy fire, the ammunition carriers resupplied the necessary ammunition in time. Motorcycle messengers and ration runners were uninterrupted under way on circumventing routes, being hit in