

8.8CM FLAK18 SFL TANK-HUNTER

DEVELOPMENT

When it looked like Germany might soon be at war with Czechoslovakia in 1938, the high command ordered that ten 8.8cm FlaK18 anti-aircraft guns should be modified for use against the fortified positions on the Czech border. War was avoided, but the need remained and ten 8.8cm FlaK18 anti-aircraft guns were mounted on Daimler-Benz DB10 12-tonne half-tracks.

The resulting 8.8cm FlaK18 (Sfl) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t was fitted with a low armoured cab and a small armoured cupola for the driver that allowed the gun to be fired to the front. The gun was mounted on a simple platform over the tracks. Known as the 'Bufla' or 'Bunkerflak', this self-propelled mount was equally useful against fortifications and heavy tanks.

COMBAT SERVICE

The 8.8cm FlaK18 (Sfl) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t were issued to the 8. Schwere Panzerjägerabteilung and were used in action in Poland in 1939 and France with 1. and 2. Panzer Divisions in 1940. They fought French tanks (including the heavy Char B) on several occasions, losing two vehicles in the process.

8. Schwere Panzerjägerabteilung was attached to the XXXIX Armeekorps for the invasion of Russia. In mid-1942 the four surviving vehicles joined 521. Schwere Panzerjägerabteilung and fought in the Caucasus alongside the Dicker Max and the two Sturer Emil heavy tank-hunters.

DESIGN FEATURES

The Bunkerflak mounted a standard 8.8cm FlaK18 gun on an armoured self-propelled mounting. It retained the large crew required to operate the big gun at its maximum performance. The crews were trained to use their weapon's outstanding accuracy to engage enemy bunkers.



8.8cm FlaK18 in its standard anti-aircraft configuration.

The 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl tank-hunter combines the range and power of the quick-firing 8.8cm with a mobile armoured chassis.

ROF 3, Anti-tank 13, Armoured, Mobile

BUNKER FLAK PLATOON

With years of combat experience, the Bufla crews know what they are doing.

Bunker Flak Platoons are rated as:
Confident Veteran

PLATOON

- 2 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl 280 points
- 1 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl 140 points

Position your bunker flak platoon with a good field of fire to deny an area to the enemy. The long-range accuracy of the 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl combined with its ability to withdraw to a safer location makes the Bufla much more useful than the towed gun when engaging tanks. Withdraw behind the troops you are supporting if enemy tanks approach too closely.

FIELDING 8.8CM FLAK18 SFL

You can field a Bunkerflak Platoon in Eastern Front.

Name	Mobility	Front	Armour		Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top	
8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl	Half-tracked	1	0	0	AA MG, Awkward layout, Overloaded.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	
8.8cm FlaK18 gun	40°/100cm	3	13	3+	Hull mounted, Bunkerflak.

LEUTNANT

LEUTNANT



Command 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl

UNTEROFFIZIER



8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl

HQ SECTION

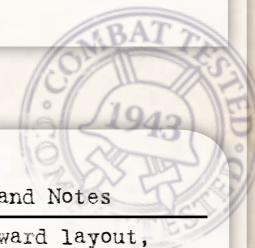
BUNKER FLAK SECTION

BUNKER FLAK PLATOON

BUNKERFLAK

The 8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl 'Bufla' was designed to suppress bunkers from outside the range of the defenders' weapons. The crews were well-trained in identifying and locating bunkers and hitting their firing slits to force the defenders to take cover.

8.8cm FlaK18 Sfl self-propelled guns can shoot at bunkers up to 24°/60cm away rather than the normal 16°/40cm limitation.



8.8CM FLAK18 SFL SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: 8.8cm FlaK18 (Sfl) auf Zugkraftwagen 12t (Sd Kfz 8)
 Crew: 9 (cdr, gnr, ldr (6), dvr)
 Weight: 44,090lb/20,000kg
 Length: 24'6"/7.35m
 Height: 9'5"/2.8m
 Width: 8'7"/2.5m
 Armament: 1x 8.8cm FlaK18 gun,
 1x 7.92mm MG34 machine-gun
 Ammunition Stowage: 40x 8.8cm, 600x 7.92mm
 Armour Thickness: 8mm to 14.5mm
 Engine: Maybach HL85TUKRM 12-cylinder petrol,
 520cu in/9 litre, 185hp
 Suspension: Torsion bar
 Maximum Speed: 31mph/50km/h
 Road Radius: 162 miles/260km



BUNKER FLAK PLATOON