Example of meeting engagement executed by 280 Rifle Regiment on second half of 7th July 1943.

At 1620 (Moscow time) advance guard from 1st Battalion reached Melikhovo (Мелихово). At the same time enemy was spotted by regimental recon detachment (circles with "K" letter on scheme).

The first combat took place on southern outskirts of Melikhovo between 1st rifle Co/1 Rifle Bn (RBn) and leading elements of 6 Panzer. 3 km south of village Germans start to deploy their main force - (estimated strength - strengthened battalion with tanks). Soviet battalion commander decided to hold southern slopes of hills just south of Melikhovo.

Added artillery (1/197 Artillery Regiment(AR)) was fast deployed north of Shlahovo (Шляхово) and opened fire. Two batteries moved to Melichovo for direct fire support [it seems that only one - probably 122mm battery was at Shlahovo, while both 76mm batteries was used for direct support]. By the order of 280 Rifle Regiment (RR) commander, 1st battalion was strengthened by 2nd Co/148 Tank Regiment (TR) (T34 tanks). It moved fast to small woods west of Melikhovo.

At 1700 after 10-minutes arty preparation enemy started an attack on the vanguard. 18 tanks with inf. Co attacked east of village, while 15 tanks with two Co's - west. Another column of tanks with infantry moved via Sheino (Шеино) to Mazikino (Мазикино). The same time more soviet forces arrived on battlefield:
- Regimental ATGun Reserve (~6 45mm guns+AT-rifles) deployed between Shlahovo and Mazikino;
- 2/197 AR deploy 122mm battery north of Komintern (Коминтерн), two 76mm batteries - south of Komintern (for direct firing);
- Divisional Anti-tank gun Reserve deployed between hill 222 and Gremjache (Гремяче);
- 2nd and 3rd rifle battalions advanced to deploying along the line Dalnaja Igumenka (Дальняя Игуменка) - Melikhovo.

After fierce fighting enemy lost 16 tanks east of Melikhovo and shifted main efforts to the west of village. Reinforced with 30 tanks, at 1830 enemy broke throughout soviet lines and advanced to Shlahovo, while nearly 20 tanks continued attack south of Melikhovo.

With the night fall German forces stopped and start to secure their positions around Shlahovo and Mazikino. Soviet forces prepared themselves to night battle. The first move made by two rifle Co's, that managed to reach Mjasoedovo (Мясоедово) and destroy enemy HQ in that village. Later in the night combined forces of 280, 276, 282 GRR's and 94 GRD managed to pull Germans back to Andreevski (Андреевский) - Bliznaja Igumenka (Ближняя Игуменка) line.
Схема 39. Ход боевых действий во встречном бою 280-го гвардейского стрелкового полка 7 июля 1943 г. под г. Белгород.