



The Fortifications

Large ramparts on the plateau of the *Rosenstein*

Several fortifications argue for settlements from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages and their remains cross some of the walks today. Nevertheless many insecurities do exist regarding an exact dating of the walls. The origin of the walls may possibly be assigned to different epochs. There are sound arguments based on old excavations of the early 20th century which can be detected in the text and the timeline.

Wall A

(original length 460 m, today's breadth of the base between 12 and 20 m)

The rampart of *Wall A*, which is today still clearly visible, hedges the plateau of the *Rosenstein* against the southern plateau of the Swabian Jura and protects an area of approximately 58 hectare. First excavations conducted by *Friedrich Hertlein* in 1904 and 1906 and by *Franz Keller* in 1920 lead to the result that *Wall A* represents the remains of a double framed wall – a *muris duplex* consisting in front of an about 2 m thick and in the back of an about 1 m thick dry wall with a height of about 4 m without the assumed breastwork. The inner life of it was filled with compressed debris (stones and earth). The wall construction consisting of Upper Jurassic, dolomite and tuff rocks is based on Upper Jurassic slabs with small gravels as filling. Often this type of construction features in a stabilising internal wooden framework of quite variable workmanship connecting the front and the back. For those timber-framed walls there are several evidences in the pre-Roman ages of Central Europe. Even in the Early Middle Ages this proven technique was still applied.

Wall B

(only preserved in fragments)

Wall B proceeds behind *Wall A* and is badly preserved on a length of about 150 m. It is supposed that this rampart is older than *Wall A*. It consisted of greyish white, crumbly sinter material which is interstratified with Upper Jurassic gravels. Presumably *Wall B* was functionally integrated into the future fortification. During the excavation conducted by *Franz Keller* no wooden remains were found. This leads to the assumption that it was a wall of earth- and/or stonework.

1. picture:

excavated profile of *Wall A*, 13 m east of the path (according to *F. Keller*)

2. picture:

There are three prehistoric fortifications on the *Rosenstein*. Together with the remains of ramparts of the nearby hills *Mittelberg* with the *Teufelsmauer* (devil's wall)



and *Hochberg* with its circular wall, this region shows a high density of this kind of constructions.

3. picture-series:

- older and younger construction phase of the oppidum of *Manching* from Late Latène period (County of *Ingolstadt*, Bavaria)
- the old castle near *Bundenbach* from the Late Latène period (County of *Birkenfeld*, Rhineland-Palatinate)
- early Middle Ages: *Banzer Burg* (County of *Lichtenfels*, Bavaria)
- early Middle Ages: *Burg Roßthal* (County *Neumarkt i. Opf.*, Bavaria)