



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 D

(length 660 m, height of the remains 0,5 to 1,5 m, breadth depending on erosion between 10 and 15 m, crown measuring about 2 m)

This large fortification protects an area of 27 ha towards the eastern part of the *Rosenstein*, where the highest points of the mountain can be found (735 m above sea level). A permanent trench in front of the wall does not exist. Today the ramparts mainly consist of a steep slope and a kind of an embankment with only occasional formations of the wall. The later usage of the plateau as an agricultural surface with all of its established entries is responsible for the complete destruction of the already weathered remains of the fortification. At some points the deposition of the wall is still present and detectable in a mainly sandy component with low components of stones and gravels.

To assess the fortification altogether, especially as for its diffuse appearance in its surrounding terrain, one can get the impression that this wall was never finished and represents a state of work in progress. The observed combustion features which at least represent a timber-earth-wall at some sections can be linked together. It is also conceivable that an already destroyed Wall was made use of to build up again a new fortification. Among experts, however, the opinion of an old prehistoric rampart has been established.

1. 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.

2. 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)