



# rupnikova linija



Občina Železniki; Komisija za delo na področju Rupnikove linije in rapalske meje; 2024

## Rupnikova linija (1938-1941)

V zgodovini so v vseh časih delali obrambne utrdbe proti potencialno nevarnemu sosedu in varovali meje na različne načine, največ pa s prisotnostjo stalnih posadk. Veliko utrjevanje meja med državami pozna tudi obdobje med 1. in 2. svetovno vojno. Francozi so zgradili obsežno Maginotovo linijo na meji z Nemčijo v letih 1930-1937, slednji so odgovorili s t. i. Siegfriedovo linijo. Italijani so zgradili podoben utrdben sistem s t. i. Alpskim zidom po letu 1931 in Kraljevina Jugoslavija v letih 1938-1941 sprva le proti Italiji, kasneje tudi proti Nemčiji. V gradbenem oziru se je Rupnikova linija zgledovala po čeških utrdbah v Sudetih.

### Gradnja

Načrte Rupnikove linije je naredila vojska, posamezne utrdbe in bunkerje so gradila strokovno usposobljena podjetja; na Škofjeloškem je bilo to podjetje Dukič iz Ljubljane. Za vrhovnega poveljnika gradnje vojaških utrjevalnih del je bil 3. januarja 1938 imenovan Primorec in prvi slovenski general Leon Rupnik (Lokve pri Gorici, 1880 – ustreljen leta 1946 v Ljubljani). Tako nižji delovodski kader kot nekatera zahtevna dela so opravljali domačini in domači obrtniki. Delavci, večinoma vojaški rezervisti iz cele Jugoslavije (po neuradnih ocenah okoli 40.000), so opravljali težaška dela, kot so izkopi vseh vrst, priprava peska in transport materiala. Pri slednjem so si pomagali tudi s številnimi osli in mulami, ki so jih pripeljali v ta namen. Častniki so stanovali v Železnikih, saj je bilo tam tudi poveljstvo, medtem ko so navadni vojaki imeli svoja barakarska naselja na več krajih. Cement, železo, predvsem pa gorivo so vozili iz Škofje Loke v dve večji skladišči na prostem pri Železnikih in Suši.

### Bunkerji (ljudsko obekti)

Celotna Rupnikova linija je bila razdeljena na pet odsekov. Skupaj je imela dvanajst skupin večjih utrdb in okoli 4000 bunkerjev, ki so bili grajeni večinoma iz mletega dolomitskega peska, močnih železnih konstrukcij in litoželeznih plošč, ki so okoli odprtih merile v debelino dva centimetra. Večina utrdb in bunkerjev na območju Selške doline je še danes ohranjena, manjka jo nekatere železne zaščitne plošče, ki so jih domačini po vojni uporabili za razne namene. Obrambna dela so bila grajena v dveh obrambnih linijah. V prvi bojni vrsti so strojni bunkerji, ki so tvorili gosto mrežo, saj so bili med seboj oddaljeni zgolj 150 – 300 m. Drugo obrambno linijo, ki je potekala okoli 500 metrov za prvo, je sestavljalo manj posameznih bunkerjev, a so bili le-ti večji. Poleg bunkerjev so bile del druge tudi omenjene obrambne skupine, ki so jih sestavljale največje utrdbe. Puškomitralješki in mitralješki bunkerji, ki so predstavljali večino izmed obrambnih del, so najlažje prepoznavni po zračnikih za odvod plinov pri streljanju. Notranji opaži pri betoniranju so bili iz močnih desk in so po koncu gradnje služile tudi kot toplotna izolacija. Bunkerji na Selškem so skoraj vsi odlično izolirani, zato tudi ni notranje vlage, saj so bili narejeni strokovno in iz kvalitetnega materiala.

### Odnos med domačini in vojsko

Med prvo in drugo linijo bunkerjev je bila malo nad zemljo okoli 20 m široka pregrada prepletena z bodečo žico, ki so jo navezali na zavite železne drogove, ljudsko imenovane "svinjski repi". Te ovire so najbolj motile domačine, ker so potekale preko njiv in travnikov. Domačini so jih delno odstranili že med vojno, največ pa takoj po njej. Čeprav je bilo območje Rupnikove linije strogo vojaško varovano, so se med domačini in vojaki stkale vezi. Zanimive so tudi zgodbe domačinov, ki se spominjajo nabornikov iz muslimanskih delov Kraljevine Jugoslavije, saj ti niso hoteli delati s krampom, če je imel na koncu toporišča vrezan križec, kar je bila sicer tukajšna ljudska navada. Marsikateri otrok se je že takrat naučil jugoslovanskih jezikov. Kopanje rezervistov brez oblačil v bližnjih rekah je bilo za domačine dostikrat nemoralno, predvsem pa nenavadno.

## Rupnik Line (1938-1941)

In all periods of history, defensive fortifications were built against a potentially dangerous neighbour and borders were protected in various ways, typically with the presence of a permanent guard. Extensive reinforcement of borders between countries was also common in the period between the two world wars. The French built the large-scale Maginot Line on the border with Germany in the period between 1930 and 1937, with the latter responding by the so-called Siegfried Line. The Italians built a similar system of fortifications with the so-called Alpine wall after 1931, while the Kingdom of Yugoslavia built the same in the period between 1938 and 1941, initially only against Italy and later also against Germany. From the aspect of construction, the Rupnik Line was inspired by Czech fortifications in Sudetenland.

### Construction

The plans for the Rupnik Line were made by the army, but individual fortifications and bunkers were built by qualified professionals, such as the company Dukič from Ljubljana that worked in the area of Škofja Loka. On 3 January 1938, the first Slovenian general Leon Rupnik, a native of the Primorska region (born in Lokve pri Gorici, 1880 – shot in 1946 in Ljubljana), was named the commander-in-chief of military fortification works. Lower foreman positions as well as some demanding works were taken up by the civilian population and local craftsmen. Workers, mostly reservist soldiers from all over Yugoslavia (according to some official estimates, about 40,000 of them), performed heavy manual labour, such as excavations, preparation of sand and transport of material. Often, donkeys and mules were also used for material transport. Officers resided in Železniki, where the army headquarters were located, while ordinary soldiers lived in barracks in different locations. Cement, iron and mainly fuel were transported from Škofja Loka to two bigger outdoor storage facilities near Železniki and Suša.

### Bunkers (popularly known as "obekti")

The entire Rupnik Line was divided into five sectors. In total, it consisted of twelve heavily fortified positions and around 4000 bunkers, which were mostly built from fine ground dolomite sand, strong iron structures and cast iron slabs that were two centimetres thick around the openings. The majority of fortifications and bunkers in the area of the Selška valley are still preserved today, only some iron protection plates disappeared, being used by the locals for various purposes after the war. The system was divided into two primary lines of defence. The first type of fortification, garrisoned in first defence line, included machine-gun bunkers, which formed a thick network, being only 150 – 300 m apart. The second defence line, which was built about 500 meters behind the first line, was composed of less individual bunkers, but they were bigger. In addition to bunkers, the defence system groups formed by the largest fortifications were part of the second line as well. Light-machine-gun and machine-gun bunkers, which represented the majority of defensive structures are best recognized by air vents for the extraction of fumes from firing weapons.

Interior panelling for concrete works was made from solid boards and, after the construction was completed, they also served as thermal insulation. Being constructed in a professional way and from high-quality material, almost all bunkers in the Selška valley have excellent insulation, so there is no moisture inside.

### Relationship between civilians and the army

Between the first and the second line of bunkers, slightly above ground, there was about a 20 m wide barrier, intertwined with barbed wire, which was tied onto curved iron posts, dubbed by the local as "pigs' tails". These barriers bothered the locals more than anything, since they ran through their fields and pastures. The locals partly removed them already during the war, but the majority was removed immediately afterwards. Even though the area of the Rupnik Line was strictly guarded by the military, ties were created between the locals and the soldiers. Locals told numerous stories, such as about recruits from Muslim parts of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, who were not willing to work with a pickaxe, if a cross was cut into the end of its helve, which was a common habit in the area at the time. Back then, many children also had the opportunity to learn Yugoslav languages. Seeing reservist soldiers swim in nearby rivers without clothes was often immoral for the locals, but mostly it was unusual.



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