



4\_Parsejärn-skans\_Bebeskyttelsesrom-for-24-mann\_Foto-S-Norheim\_DSC\_7463---Kopi.jpg

## **THE PARSE LAKE – A DEFENCE LINE**

***The report came on the morning of 9 April 1940 that the Germany had invaded Norway. German forces reached Østfold on 11 April and occupied Moss on 12 April. Fredrikstad was taken over in the early hours of 13 April, by midday it was Sarpsborg's turn, and in the afternoon the occupation of Halden was a grim reality.***

For the Swedish soldiers in the county of Bohuslän and Dalsland the question was now how to prevent German troops getting from Norway to Gothenburg. To strengthen the border defence, a large number of fortifications similar to one above were therefore built.

The fortification at the Parse Lake consists of two fixed points, one at the main road on the north side of the lake, and one south of the lake. In between was an anti-tank obstacle, a concrete block with a movable bulk barriers positioned athwart the main road. The barriers were removed for traffic reasons. Building of the fortifications began here already in 1940 and was completed by 1943. Both sections of the redoubt were defended by a frontier defence of about 100 men.

The north (the one shown here) fortification contains 13 fire trenches and one so-called "KG-hat". Close combat defence of this redoubt would come from the trenches. The four machine guns could fire either from a direct hit efficient machinegun defence with 2-pieces, or from open firing positions. The function of the machineguns was to engage in the fighting at each particular fortification, but also to provide support for the south fortification where firepower could reach with telling effect. The nearest firing distance is approximate 250 m.