



Iron People

Life and War Along Ukraine's Railway Tracks

Jelle Krings

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- The war in Ukraine through the eyes of its railway workers
- A unique perspective on one of the defining conflicts of our time
- Part of a larger project including a short film and global exhibitions
- Jelle Krings is an award-winning documentary photographer whose work has appeared in media such as *CNN*, *The Guardian*, and *de Volkskrant*

Iron People tells the story of the war in Ukraine through the unique perspective of its railway workers. Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, the 230,000 men and women working on Ukraine's railways have played a vital role in the country's defense and daily survival. Stretching nearly 25,000 kilometres, the railway network has been a frequent target of Russian attacks. More than 1,100 railway workers have been injured, and over 790 have lost their lives. Yet despite the danger, a deep sense of duty—and the will to survive—drives these workers, supported by their families, to keep the trains running. Dutch photographer Jelle Krings has been documenting the lives of these railway workers and their loved ones since the start of the invasion. His work paints a powerful and moving portrait of resilience, courage, and humanity.

Jelle Krings is an independent Dutch photographer whose work is featured in international media such as *CNN*, *The Guardian*, and *de Volkskrant*. His photography has received multiple awards, including the prestigious Silver Camera in 2021, 2023, and 2024. **Iron People** has also earned him several international accolades, including the renowned Pictures of the Year International.