

Military and Intelligence Archives in Germany

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Military Records 1

- 1949 Foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany as a State without an army
- 1955 Establishment of the Bundeswehr; Federal Republik member of NATO
- 1952 Establishment of the Bundesarchiv
- 1955 Establishment of the Department for military records within the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz
 - Start of the restitution of the military records of the German Empire
- 1968 Agreement between the Federal Ministries of Interior and of Defense on the handling of military records
 - Transfer of the Bundesarchiv – Militärarchiv to Freiburg



Military Records 2

The holdings of the Military Archive Department comprise the documents from the year 1867 up to the present:

Prussian-German Army

Kaiserliche Marine (Imperial Navy), Schutztruppen (Colonial Force)

Freikorps (mercenary troupes)

Reichswehr and Wehrmacht

Nationale Volksarmee (National People's Army, NVA)

Grenztruppen (Border Troops)

Federal Ministry of Defence and its subordinate military and civil areas

Military Records 3

Highly frequented because of the stable interest in the history of First and Second World War in Germany and abroad.

Increasing journalistic and scientific interest in

- History of the GDR and its armed forces
- History of the Federal Republic and Cold War
- History of the new military position of the Federal Republic and the involvement of German armed forces in military missions

Military Records 4

Main Problems:

- Secrecy of military information even if records are older than 30 years (Classification of archival material)
- Multilaterality of military structures (NATO)
- Special self-concept of the Military

Intelligence Records 1

Different Agencies responsible for „information“ and investigation

- Bundeskriminalamt – Federal Police
- Bundesnachrichtendienst
- Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz
- Militärischer Abschirmdienst
- Landesämter für Verfassungsschutz

Intelligence Records 2

Federal Archives Act 1988

§ 1

Federal archival documents are to be permanently preserved, made available for use and scholarly exploited by the Federal Archives.

§ 2

(1) Federal constitutional bodies, agencies and courts, Federal corporations, public institutions and foundations under public law as well as other Federal agencies shall offer all documents, which they no longer need for fulfilling their public duties including the safeguarding of the security of the Federal Republic of Germany or one of its States, to the Federal Archives. [...]

(4) Documents which [...]

are subject to Federal legal provisions concerning secrecy other than those mentioned under no. 1 shall be offered and transferred.

Intelligence Records 3

Federal Archives Act 1988

§ 5

(1) Everybody shall upon application have the right to use Federal archival documents more than 30 years old unless legal stipulations provide otherwise. Any further legal stipulations and special agreements for the benefit of owners of private archives shall not be affected.

(3) Archival documents pursuant to article 2, para. 4 may only be used 60 years after they were prepared. This term of protection does not apply to documents originating from the time prior to 23 May 1949 the use of which is indispensable to carry out specified scholarly research projects or to pursue legitimate concerns.

Intelligence Records 4

Federal Archives Act 1988

§ 5

(6) Use shall not be allowed if
there is a reason to assume that the wellbeing of the Federal Republic of
Germany or one of its States would be put at stake, or
[...]
the obligation of secrecy pursuant to article 203, para. 1 to 3 of the Penal
Code or other Federal legal provisions on secrecy would be infringed.

Intelligence Records 5



Bundeskriminalamt – Federal Agency of Investigation
Repository B 131



Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz – Federal Office for
the Protection of the Constitution
Repository B 443



Bundesnachrichtendienst – Federal Intelligence Service
Repository B 206



Militärischer Abschirmdienst – Military Protection Service
Repository BW 31 and BW 32

Intelligence Records 6

- Special agreement for the take over of records
- Protection of sources and methods of acquisition of information
- Special conditions for access and usage
- High public interest

Intelligence Records 7

State Security Service of the German Democratic Republic

Special agency:

The Federal Commissioner for the Records of the
State Security Service of the former GDR
(„Stasi Records Agency“)

Special law:

Act regarding the records on the State Security Service of the former
German Democratic Republic (Stasi Records Act) – 1991 ff.

Intelligence Records 8

Interest of the Services

- Discharge of „old“ records
- Safeguarding of knowledge
- Respect to the legal conditions
- Protection of Sources and Methods

Intelligence Records 9

Interest of the Archives:

- Safeguarding of records of archival worth
- Tradition of the substantial parts of the records
- Declassification and Access

Intelligence Records 10

Principles:

- Just complete and entire records
- The Archives will see everything
- Special legal terms regarding the deletion of information will be respected
- Cooperation in regard to appraisal
 - Structure and development of the Agency
 - Exercise of functions
 - Typical records and special records



Arbeiter auf Funkturm bei Königs Wusterhausen, 1929
Bild 102-08325; Fotograf: ohne Angabe

Thank you
for your
kind attention!

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