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Titel **Rezension zu**  
**Guenther K. WEISSE:**  
**Geheime Funkaufklaerung in Deutschland 1945-1989**  
[Secret Signals Intelligence in Germany 1945-1989]  
Motorbuch Verlag, Stuttgart/Germany 2005, ISBN 3-613-02531-0

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Cold War, Espionage, Germany - one would inevitably think of famous spies like Heinz Felfe or Guenter Guillaume and their masters such as Reinhard Gehlen and Markus Wolf. All relevant literature was dominated by human intelligence and still is. Guenther Weisse concentrates on the other side of this chapter of the intelligence game. Today he is a reserve officer of the West German armed forces. For more than three decades he had been a warrant officer within the signals intelligence of the *Bundeswehr*. He had been assigned to air force sigint units, offices of the Ministry of Defence, and SHAPE.

His book focuses on all those various services stationed in both parts of Germany that used technical methods to obtain information from communication lines and centres behind the iron curtain. The first part describes NATO forces: US, British, and French services operating in West Germany against Warsaw Pact targets. We learn details about known organizations like the US *National Security Agency* and the *Army Security Agency* as well as about vastly unknown services like the French *Bataillon de Guerre Electronique*. Of course, the main emphasis is put on the *Bundeswehr*.

Weisse describes all these services and especially their units stationed in Germany. He further explains their technical equipment, locations, structural and personnel development, and methods used to gather signals. Many primary sources, formerly classified documents and Weisse's personal experience constitute the great variety of first hand information.

The same applies to the second part describing the Eastern side of Cold War signals intelligence in Germany. On the basis of documents of the GDR's Ministry of State Security and the Reconnaissance Service of the National People's Army Weisse reconstructs their sigint departments, operations, equipment and methods. He further explains corresponding units of the Soviet KGB and GRU. Little has been known to the public about their communication gathering along NATO's Central-European border.

Weisse has gone even further. Though concentrating on sigint of armed forces and intelligence services he included descriptions of special forces from SAS to Speznaz. Also, his book contains remarks regarding almost unknown organizations such as Group F of the *Bundesgrenzschutz* (Border Guard) and the West German post office's *Funkkontroll-messdienst*.

So Weisse describes the great many of military, intelligence and civilian sigint organizations that collected electronic communication data from behind the prevailing opposite side of the NATO-WP border. This remarkable summary is without doubt the book's strong point. Its weak side are details. Regarding East German services the author could have avoided mistakes and misjudgements. Also, some sources are not stated in an appropriate way, especially those documents that seem not accessible to everybody.

This should be excused because the author has not attempted to publish a scientific work. Weisse's book is a fact book recommendable to everyone interested in getting an overall view as to "Secret Signals Intelligence in Germany 1945-1989".