



1889 – 1969

FRIEDRICH ERRULAT

Co-Founder of Electromagnetic
Deep Sounding Research

Friedrich Wilhelm Errulat was born on October 18, 1889 in Heinrichswalde in East Prussia. After school he began studying in Königsberg in 1910 in order to become a teacher, but had to interrupt his studies due to his military service in the 1st World War. After graduating from university in 1919, Errulat worked as a teacher for the subjects geography, physics and mathematics at a school in Königsberg from 1920. However, due to his interest in earth sciences, he returned to the Albertus University Königsberg in the same year to work as an assistant at the Geological Institute. From 1921 he was an employee of Karl Andrée, another founding father of the DGG. Errulat worked in the Geophysical Observatory Groß Raum north of Königsberg. In 1923 he became head of the Observatory on behalf of Andrée. He completed his doctorate on the remote effect of an explosion in 1922, and from 1924 Errulat also received a teaching license. During his employment at the university, he participated, among other things, in the geomagnetic survey of East Prussia. During this work, he came to the conclusion that magnetic anomalies in northern Germany could be produced not only by pleistocene cover, but also by deep intrusive bodies.

In 1936 Friedrich Errulat left Königsberg to take over the department of “Earth Magnetism” at the *Deutsche Seewarte* in Hamburg and from 1937 he was also a professor at the University of Hamburg. He was especially engaged in the development of new devices and measuring methods for magnetic registrations at sea. He also established the Earthmagnetic Observatory in Wingst between Cuxhaven and Stade in 1938. By comparing the series of measurements from Wingst with data from Niemegek, Friedrich Errulat, together with Gerhard Fanselau and Julius Bartels, was able to prove the existence of an induced earth current, which was later called the North German-Polish conductivity anomaly and this finding led to the beginning of electromagnetic deep sounding research.

In addition to his great achievements in the field of earth magnetism, he also contributed to the preservation of the DGG in the post-World War II period. After 1945, the Society was no longer allowed to operate by decree of the occupation forces. Thereupon Errulat, together with other initiators, founded the *Geophysikalische Gesellschaft in Hamburg*, which was then allowed to bear its original name DGG again from 1949. From 1953 to 1955 Errulat was chairman of the DGG. For his services to the DGG and his accomplishments in geomagnetism research, he received the honorary membership of the German Geophysical Society in 1956.

On March 24, 1969, Friedrich Wilhelm Errulat died in Altenberge near Münster.

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