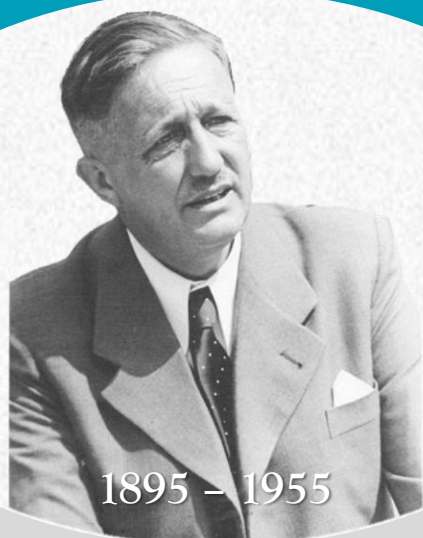


## GERHARD KRUMBACH



1895 – 1955

Director of the Central Institute for  
Earthquake Research & Developer

Gerhard Georg Wilhelm Krumbach was born in Hamburg on March 22, 1895. His scientific interest led him to study mathematics and natural sciences at the universities of Göttingen and Freiburg im Breisgau in 1913. In 1914 he had to interrupt his studies due to his military service and was severely wounded in action in 1916. After his recovery and the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, Krumbach returned to Göttingen in 1918 to continue his studies and attended in particular the geophysics lectures of Emil Wiechert. Even after completing his studies, Wiechert was an important mentor for Krumbach, so he became Wiechert's assistant and received his doctorate under him on a seismological topic in 1922. In the same year, he founded the DGG together with 23 other colleagues and with his age of 27 he was the youngest participant.

In 1924, Gerhard Krumbach took up a position in Jena at the Reich Institute for Earthquake Research (*Reichsanstalt für Erdbebenforschung*), newly founded by Oskar Hecker, where he was put in charge of the "Instrumental Seismology" department. His work included, among other things, the development of various H- and Z-seismographs. One of Krumbach's most important instrument developments was a local seismometer (*Ortsbebenseismometer*) created in 1936, a portable device for the investigation of near-earthquakes. In 1945, after the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Gerhard Krumbach became involved in the continuation of the publication of the journal "Gerlands Beiträge zur Geophysik". In the same year, the Reich Institute for Earthquake Research became the Central Institute for Earthquake Research (*Zentralinstitut für Erdbebenforschung*), which belonged to the German Academy of Sciences (*Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften - DAW*), and Gerhard Krumbach became its director in 1946. In 1949, he then became a professor at the DAW with the teaching assignment "Introduction to General Geophysics".

Around 1950, Krumbach succeeded in the small-scale production of his near-earthquake seismometer. This also opened up new possibilities for him to obtain research data, for example in copper shale mines of the Mansfelder Mulde, in potash and salt mines in Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt, through the continuous monitoring of the Saxon-Bohemian swarm earthquakes in the Vogtland region, and due to monitoring of rock bursts.

After difficult negotiations, Krumbach received permission to build a new institute building in Jena, which he helped to design. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the inauguration.

Gerhard Krumbach died completely unexpectedly on December 23, 1955, at the age of 60, as a result of a heart attack.

*DGG PRO – Public Relations & Outreach, Hannover*

Modified after Jacobs F. & Börngen M. (2019): Wiechert, Mintrop & Co. – Die 24 Gründungsväter der Deutschen Geophysikalischen Gesellschaft. Publisher EAGLE.