

Summary

The study deals with issues relating to the organisation and activities of the armed Border Guard between 1945 and 1989. The author describes the evolution of organisation of the Border Guard Services, their armaments, equipment and means of engineering which were a component of guarding the border, and last but not least, also the organisation and activity of the Border Guard Intelligence Services which have been overlooked up to now. The study draws mainly on unprocessed archival funds, showing the reader in detail how one of the most significant repressive part of the communist regime worked and what means had for its disposal.

The study which serves as an extensive introduction to the issue of guarding the Czechoslovak border in 1945–1989 is completed with lists of persons who lost their lives whilst attempting to cross the border. These lists are organised into several coherent wholes and much significance is attached to them because, among other things, the data therein are provided with references to archival sources.