

Where Are the Original Documents? Comparison of Several “Captured Japanese Air Technical Documents” Lists

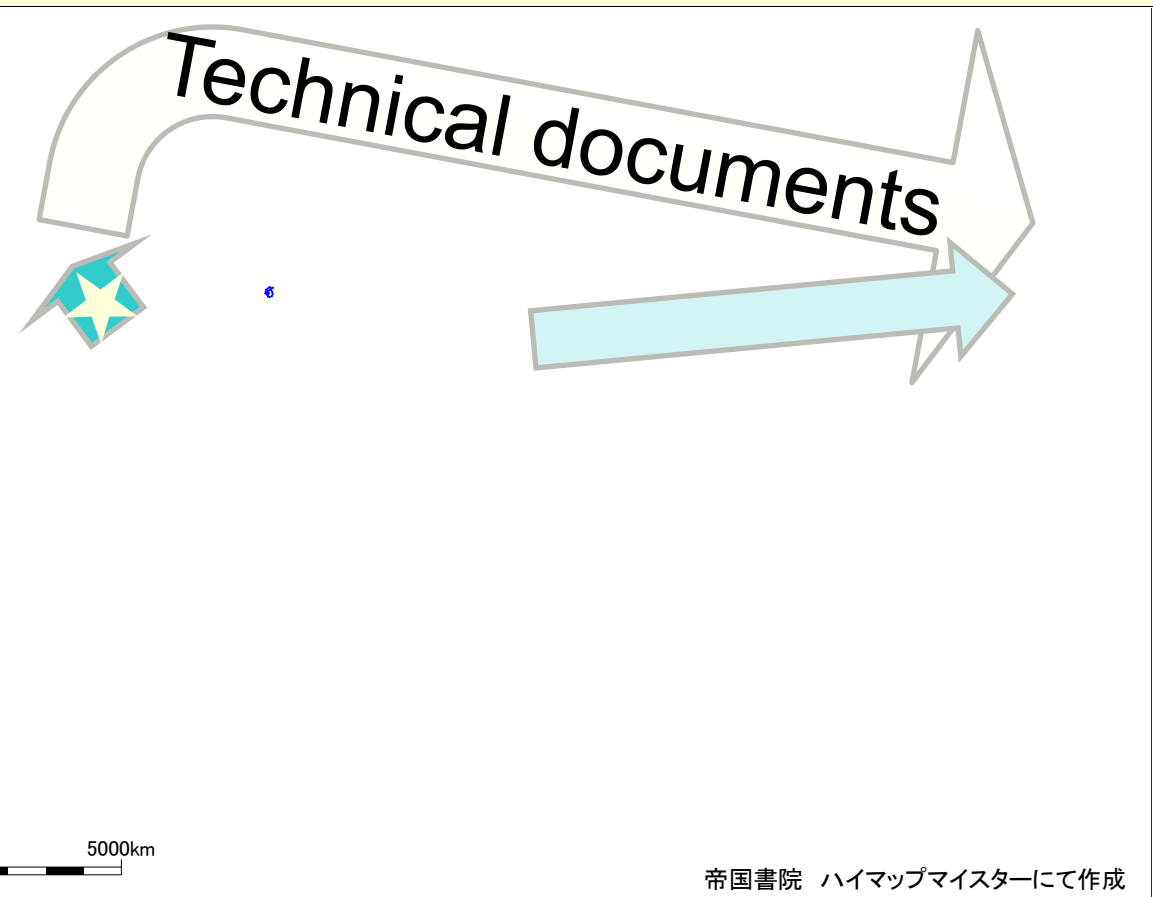
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Introduction The Archives of National Air and Space Museum holds some collections related to Japan. Among them, I am interested in “Captured German & Japanese Air Technical Documents” captured in the final days in the World War II and microfilmed by the Air Documents Division, Technical Information Section (T-2) Air Materiel Command, at Wright Field, Ohio. NASM collection is consisted with microfilms and index cards and Desk Catalog. NARAII and LOC have almost the same microfilms. Visiting the archives and interviewing the NASM archivists, I learned that the collection was transferred from Defense Documentation Center into NASM in 1966 and now the index cards are databased. Original documents are considered to be returned to Japan. I checked up on-line catalog and digitized images of both the National Institute for Defense Studies and the National Archives of Japan in JACAR. This poster is focused on Japanese documents.



National Diet Library, Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room <http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/entry/JAT-1.php>
Microfilms are duplicated from LOC microfilm made for WDC.



1,500t, 600,000 documents from European Continent to London

History of “Captured German-Japanese Air Technical Documents” excerpted from NASM Archives hand-out

Information about the equipment capabilities of potential or actual adversaries gathered by military intelligence personnel.

Mid-1945

Gathered documents throughout Europe were packed to the Air Documents Research Center (ADRC) established to screen them by German speakers. Technical documents were transferred to “Unit Libraries” where the documents were indexed, translated, evaluated, and filmed.

Late-1945 and Early 1946

The Project was moved to Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, under the Air Documents division of the T-2 or Technical Intelligence Branch of Air Materiel Command (ADD/T2). The processing of the documents was expanded to include materials from Japan and English-language documents.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s

Most of documents were returned to Germany or Japan, either to the companies or to governmental archives.

August, 1966

The microfilm and associated materials transferred to the National Air Museum. Anecdotaly, the transfer took place because about 50% of the usage of these materials was to answer question from the museum.

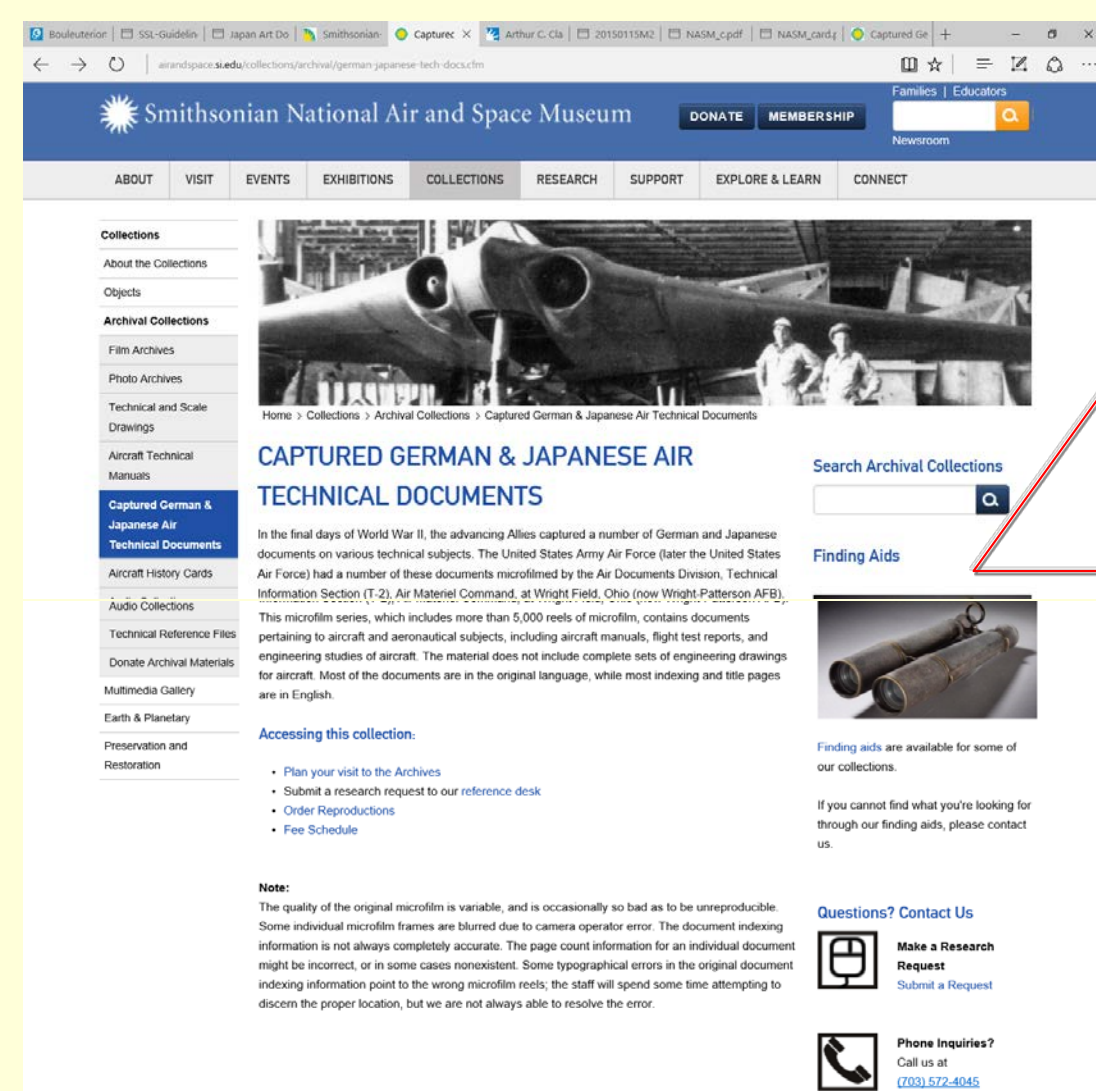
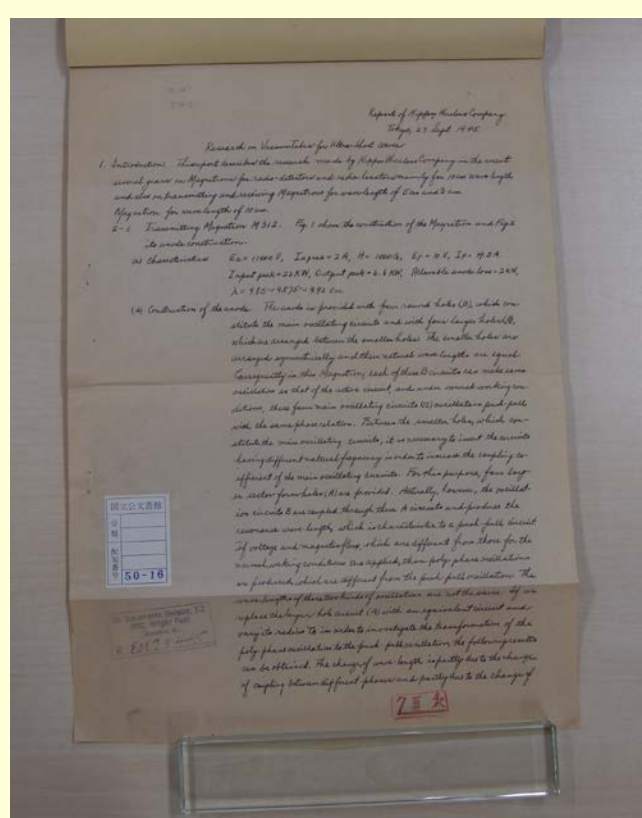
NASM Collection Total amount: 3800 rolls of 35 mm microfilm over 55,000 documents

Japanese documents and English language Reports⇒

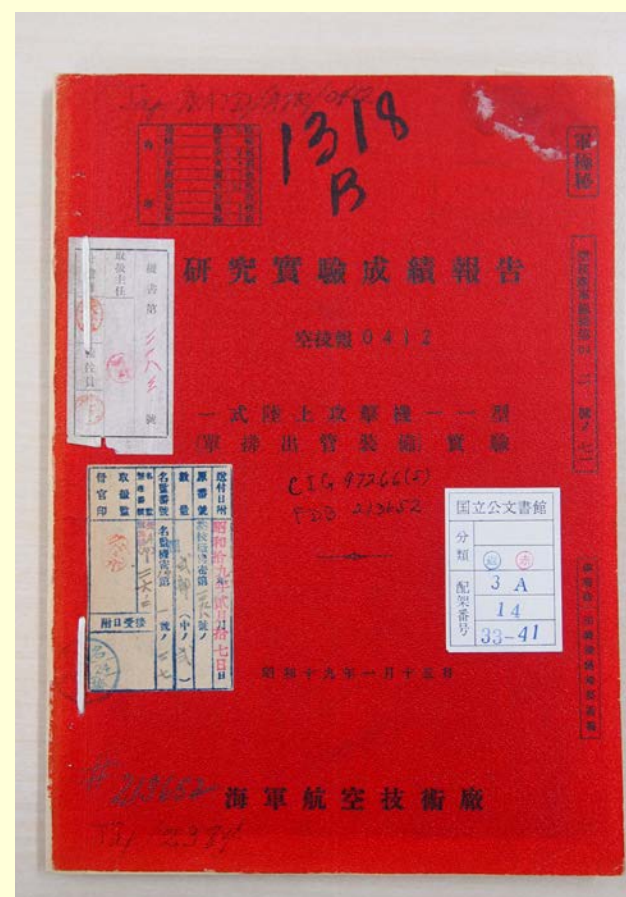
: about 60 rolls

2043 documents

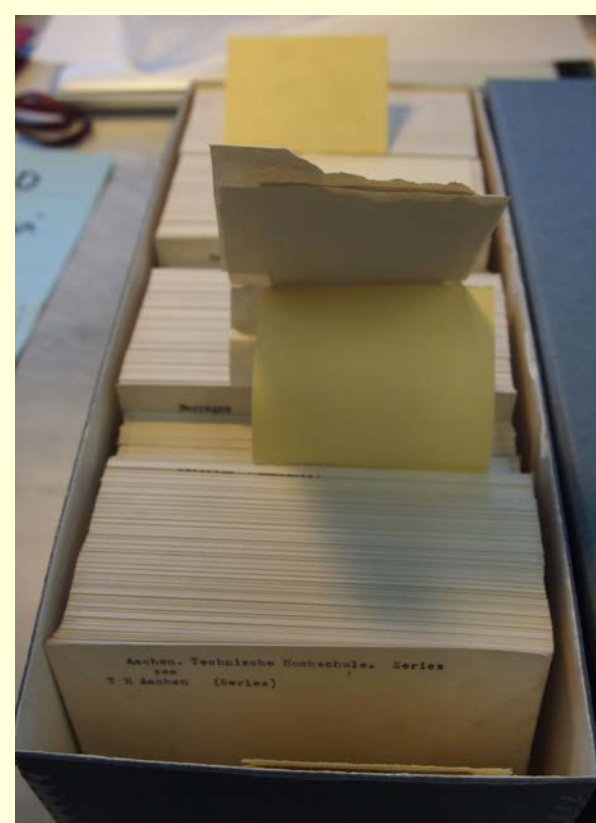
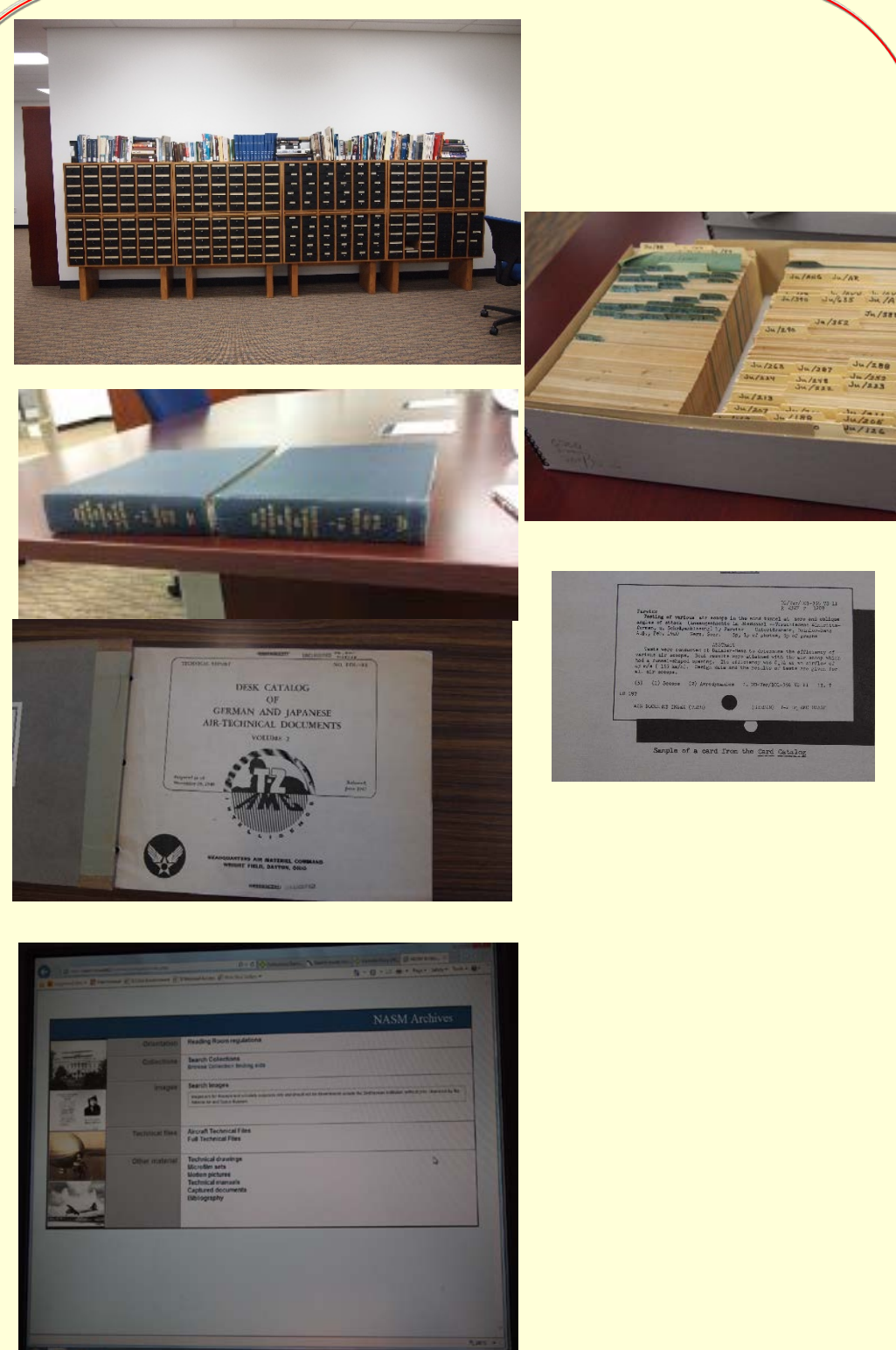
Research on Vacuum Tubes for Ultra-short Waves : R 8087 F 445



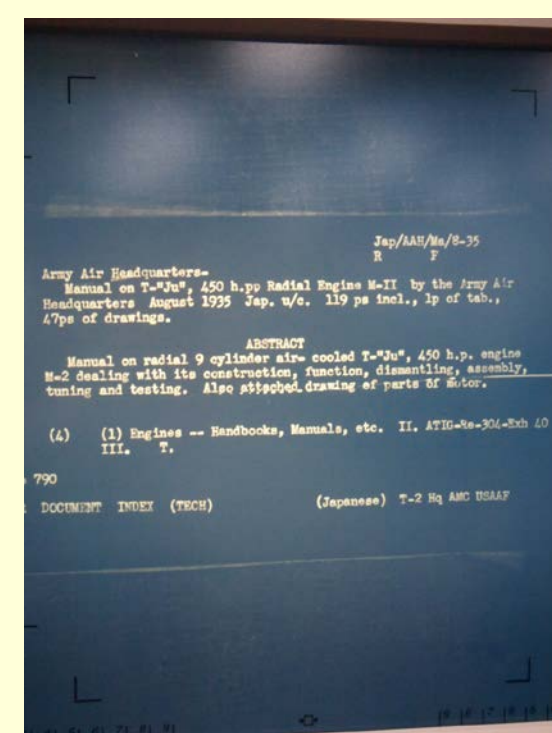
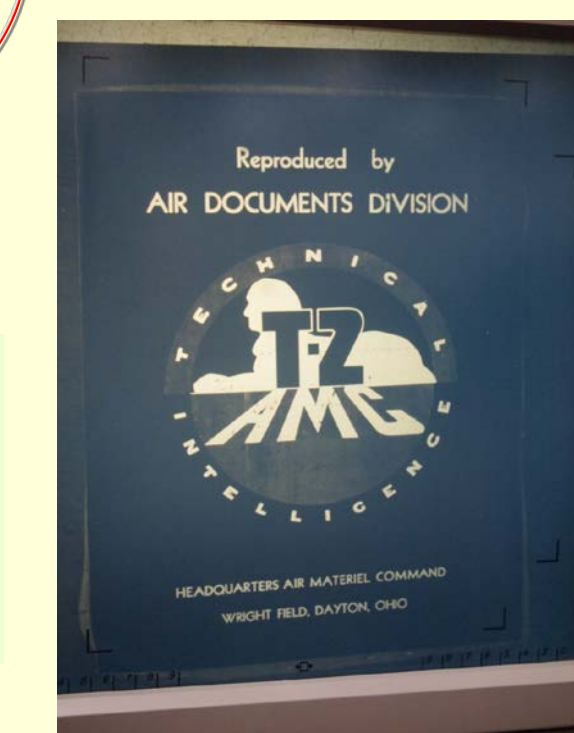
Returned documents to Japan
⇒”Military Archives”,
now in the National
Institute for Defense
Studies in 1958
⇒the National Archives
of Japan in 1974



Air Documents Division, T-2
AMC, Wright Field
Microfilm No.
R 649 F18736



←Index
cards in
NARAII



Missing or erased a document in LOC microfilms

↓ This document titled Study report No.2 on supersonic wing type with marginally thin wings was stamped as Air Documents Division, T-2 AMC, Wright Filed Microfilm No. R 2183 F 176

This document is not be found in NDL microfilm but existed in NASM

Where are the original documents?

I found some WDC(Washington Document center) numbered documents among Returned documents in the National Archive of Japan, which were mostly microfilmed in 1950s. In my recent search, I just found only three T-2 stamped documents microfilmed in about 1945. Two of them are not in NASM data. One is erased in LOC. (Of course I have to look up more.)

Are they still in the Wright Field?

Acknowledgments:: I am grateful to the archivists of Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

