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. Anecdotally, 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

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 Field Microfilm No. R □ 6 4 9 F18736

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 in1950s. 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?

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