

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

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### **Abstract:**

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. The collection is consisted with microfilms and index cards and Desk Catalog.

Visiting the archives and interviewing the archivists, I learned that the collection was transferred from Defense Documentation Center into NASM in 1966 and now the index cards are databased.

Before and after my visit, I also searched the related materials in Japan.

- Microfilms and the list in the National Diet Library in Tokyo.
- They are duplicated based on Library of Congress collection (former collection of Washington Document Center), and the list is described by Mr. Hiromi Tanaka.
- Public Records restituted from the United States in 1974 (Records of the former Army and Navy) located in the National Archives of Japan. The images of all documents are accessible at Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, on-line database built by the National Archives of Japan.
- Army and Navy records restituted from the United States in 1958 held in the National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense
- Desk Catalog of German and Japanese Air-technical Documents printed in 1946-47 available through interlibrary loan

Carefully examining and comparing with these lists as well as asking reference questions to NASM archivists, I tried to cross-match them. I could find only a few original air technical documents in the National Archives of Japan, even though massive documents were captured and microfilmed. My question is where the original documents are now. I would like to ask my fellow colleagues in US how I can find them.

### **About the Author:**

*Yayoi Tsutsui* is a certified archivist by Academy of Certified Archivists and a registered archivist of the Japan Society for Archival Science. She is a part-time lecturer of Hitotsubashi University and a part-time staff of Marega Project proceeded by National Institute of Japanese Literature.

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