

obtain the services of numerous German rocket and aircraft technicians. If we didn't have solid information about either the propulsion system or the motivation of the aliens, how could we dare to go public? Taves has given no indication that Menzel ever broke his security vows to Taves or anybody else. Certainly Mrs. Menzel insisted he never spoke about classified matters to her. It was quite satisfying to me to have one of Menzel's long-term colleagues to whom I eventually sent a copy of my paper about Menzel and the MJ-12 papers, say that he thought Menzel would have enjoyed playing the game of knowing there was the wreckage of an alien saucer at hand and throwing out phoney explanations for case after case and getting away with it. Interestingly he had not known that Menzel had learned Japanese nor that Menzel was involved with cryptanalysis or the CIA or NSA.

Post Menzel Research Discoveries

Determining that Donald Menzel could indeed have been part of an Operation Majestic 12, if there was one, gave me full confidence that it was appropriate to proceed to try to dig out the truth of the Operation Majestic 12 documents. One problem with the briefing document and Truman-Forrestal memo is that because they came on film, there is no paper and there is no ink. Typewriter analysts have told us that it's much better to work from an original than from a xeroxed copy of a photograph made from a blow-up made from a 35 mm negative. The Cutler-Twining memo, however, is an original piece of paper. So there is paper and ink, and the type is the size it is, etc.

Cutler-Twining Memo

The history of the discovery of this memo is rather unusual. I was visiting Washington, D.C., in March, 1985, to participate in a scientific conference. I had some spare time and checked in with the National Archives and was told that they were "classification-reviewing" United States Air Force Headquarters Intelligence files. Since it had already been determined that UFO information was normally handled by the Intelligence departments of various government agencies, it seemed logical to expect that in this material dating back to the earliest days of the Air Force, there would be some UFO-related matter. I was given the original information by Edward Reese, who is an archivist at the National Archives, an old hand at the Archives. He referred me to the classification division at the Archives headed by a Mr. Thompson and I eventually spoke with Jo Ann Williamson who now is Mr. Reese's boss. Jo Ann told me that the reviewing should be finished in about a month or so.

I checked back with her at the end of the month and found it was going to take more time. There were a number of phone calls, and a number of months passed. Finally it was determined that this particular collection of papers (Entry 267), from Air Force Record Group 341 had indeed been completely reviewed. It should be stressed that reviewing doesn't mean total declassification. It means every document is examined by people with an appropriate