

I have told a lot of the Menzel story in Reference 8.

I have more recently obtained some further information. A MUFON member told me that he had heard that while Menzel was consulting at ERA in the Minneapolis area one summer in the late 1940s, he supposedly got a phone call and had to leave to work on something very classified which he could not discuss. I made contacts with some of the people in the Minnesota MUFON group and also had a call from a John Dingley, one of whose neighbors was one of the old ERA guys. ERA, as it happened was a forerunner of a number of computer firms, and was an outstanding organization, according to a fortieth anniversary history, written in 1986. One of the reasons for its formation was a push by James Forrestal (listed as on MJ-12), then Secretary of the Navy, who didn't want the code breaking capability lost to the Navy. There was a lot of work that needed to be done. The company was eventually started but had troubles raising money because they couldn't talk about what they were doing! One of the founders of the company was Howard Engstrom, Menzel's war time boss and later first assistant director of the NSA.

The fortieth year history also gave a listing of the "alumni" who were present at the banquet, as well as a history of the corporation. I did some digging and found that there was a Babbage Computer Institute in Minnesota which does a lot of gathering of historical information. They referred me to the Hadley Library in Wilmington, Delaware, which had some of the papers of ERA, partly because of some lawsuits. ERA was the most successful computer company post World War Two and eventually became the enormous Control Data Corporation with a lot of spin-offs of other companies. There were several surprises. One was not only that Menzel owned 1000 shares of stock, but that his consulting fee was much higher, \$18,000 a year, on an annual basis, than even supervisors were being paid at that time. Obviously, his services were highly valued. Secondly, in one listing of current research activities, there's the usual dull abstruse scientific work dealing with computers. There's another item with Menzel's name next to it called "Diffractive Jewellery". I've yet to find anybody who knows what that means. But it sounds like a "cover" title. Everything they did was classified. Jewellery seemed totally out of the mainstream. Also, in talking to a number of the former consultants, managers, etc., all of whom were pretty much retired at this point, I found somebody who knew Menzel, not well, but knew of him, and had met with him. He remembered one summer when Menzel was there for a very short time and left in a hurry, as far as he could tell. I asked him what year that was. He thought for a moment, I bit my tongue to keep from suggesting any particular date and he casually said, "That was 1947, I think."

Menzel could very well have been involved in Operation Majestic 12. He had the right clearances, had the right kind of background to deal with at least two aspects of the problem posed by the recovery of a crashed alien saucer; his astronomical background and his familiarity with another symbolic language, Japanese, coupled with his ability for code breaking, since there