

a Japanese zero airplane coming at him with the sun right behind the zero. He worked on a number of radio wave propagation problems, some of which were involved with the question of detecting German submarines and keeping radio silence and how to get a directional bearing when you are out in the Pacific, hundreds of miles from any land. There were just a whole host of problems that Menzel's particularly interesting background was helpful in solving. Menzel, unlike many astronomers, had a very pragmatic approach to problems. He was interested in engineering work. He had done a lot of analytical chemistry while he was growing up in Colorado, even setting up a testing lab for geological samples.

I visited his wife in the company of two Harvard people and I found her very charming and cooperative. She knew nothing about his classified work. I didn't mention UFOs. I did mention a particularly intriguing event that I had never heard about elsewhere involving Menzel. The worst experience of his life (as noted above) was a loyalty hearing, one of the bizarre McCarthy-type hearings that occurred in 1950, even though he had a Top Secret Ultra clearance with the Navy, which continued after the war. Partly because he was head of communications group number one in Cambridge and was doing all kinds of classified consulting work for numerous companies, he had a small contract with the Air Force Cambridge Research Labs. The work interested him and required only a Secret clearance. Suddenly two men showed up at his door serving legal papers on him. The U.S. Air Force had reason to believe that his clearance should be removed because of his disloyalty to the United States!! Much to his credit, he fought it vigorously. There were two weeks of hearings. The charges were absurd in the first place. They had no substance and the people who made them didn't even show up at the hearings. But he must be "pro Russian" because he led an eclipse expedition in 1936 to Siberia; because his wife had brought in a pair of stockings for him to give to a Soviet astronomer to take back to his wife; because he had said good things about the Soviet Union early on in the War when there was a big dinner where everybody said good things about the Soviet Union. He was supposedly "disloyal" because Harvard Astronomer Harlow Shapley (who was his boss) was known for his tendencies in the pro Soviet Direction. It went on. The hearings took place in late May of 1950. There was no record of them in the New York Times or Washington Post. I wrote a number of Freedom of Information requests, but nobody seemed to know anything. Then I rediscovered an item that had been in my files all along from the Library of Congress Manuscript Division where Vannevar Bush's files are.

There was one letter (Appendix B) from Menzel's attorney to Bush mentioning these loyalty hearings. This was in January, 1951 and telling Bush in strong terms, thanks for all his help and that Donald had been cleared. This established a previously unknown link between Bush and Menzel. I contacted the attorney's firm, found out that there were 1,100+ pages of hearing transcripts and that they were actually in the Harvard Archives. When I dug into them, I found Bush's testimony which wasn't in the Menzel file in