

Joseph Raymond Desch W8ANP *1907-1987* American engineer and inventor who supervised the “Dayton Codebreakers” We’ve always heard about British Bletchley Park sequel but here is a little publicized talented group to Bletchley at Rubicon Park, Dayton Ohio - Building 26 at “The Cash.” NCR Dayton was known fondly locally as The Cash.

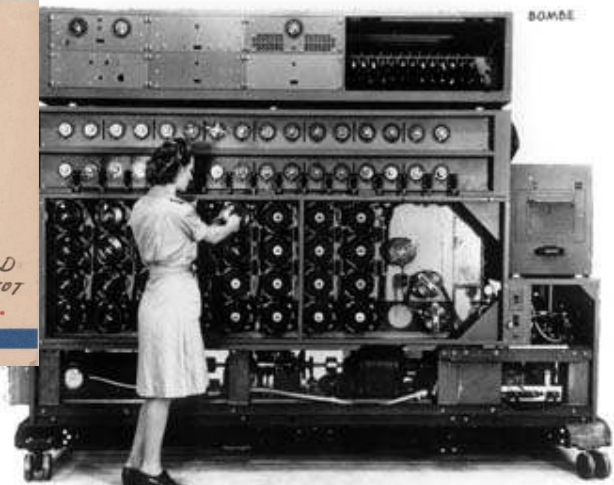
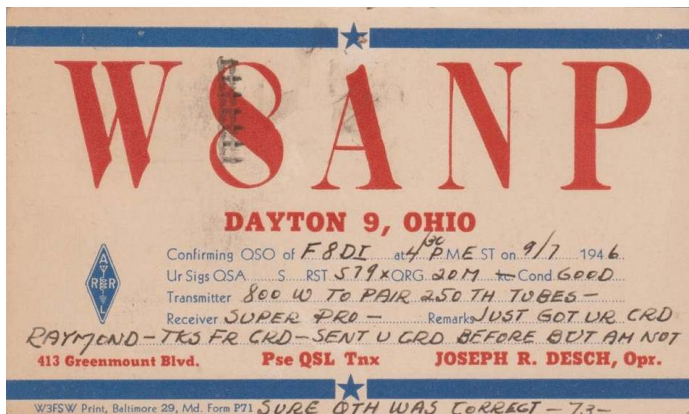


Joe a Dayton Ohio product attended Catholic (Emanuel) elementary and won a scholarship to prep school at U. Of Dayton. While attending UD he was working evenings as an inspector at Day-Fan Electric, supervising radio testing products. After his graduation in 1929 began work with GM Radio where he supervised radio testing. He went on to other positions.

After several electrical and electronic positions Joe was engineer in charge and research director of the project to design

and manufacture the U.S. Navy version of the Bombe, a cryptanalytic machine designed to read communications enciphered by the German military Enigma. He gave his all to the program and devotion to duty cost Joe dearly with health issues but his cause kept on very successfully. .

It is all written about Mr. Desch, several books, his many patents and awards. He and his family are especially proud of The Medal of Merit presented to him by President Harry Truman 16 July 1947 and in 2011 an inductee to NSA/CSS Hall of Fame. Joe’s daughter writes fondly about her dad and the memory is kept alive. He was one of us and enjoyed DX on the bands. W8SU 2014



Known as the Bombe, Desch's machine broke German naval code in World War II to stymie the torpedoing of Allied ships.