

# 'NOT AFRAID TO DIE,' WEEPS BRUNO, CLAIMING INNOCENCE; CHANCE FOR LIFE HELD SLIM

Killer, Who Might Gain New Reprieve by Changing His Story Materially, Prays in Cell for Miracle to Prevent Execution.

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the ransom intermediary in the Lindbergh kidnapping and a vital witness in the trial that resulted in Hauptmann's conviction.

Hauptmann was pale and shaken as the guards made the final preparations.

Kimberling said that, in a trembling voice, Hauptmann told him: "Although I'm innocent, I'm not afraid to die and will go to the chair feeling better than some of the other men who testified against me."

The warden also said that recently Hauptmann told him that Dr. Condon at Flemington told Hauptmann that he was unable to identify him as the receiver of the ransom money. Dr. Condon identified Hauptmann, however, at the trial.

## Makes No Final Request

Kimberling left Hauptmann standing at the front of his cell, gripping the bars and leaning heavily against them. Kimberling asked Hauptmann if there was anything he wanted. There was nothing.

Fisher refused to give up hope for his client but his manner belied his words.

"What are you going to do next?" he was asked.

"I don't know," Fisher said. His eyes were blood shot and he was nervous. "There's always a chance while there's life."

He said he was going to talk immediately to Frederick A. Pope, counsel, "and then I may know what we will do."

## Many Rumors Heard

Hauptmann looked "very bad," but he was not weeping when Fisher visited him.

Hauptmann asked him about his wife, Fisher said, and if she was all right. Mrs. Hauptmann will not be allowed to see her husband again, Fisher said.

The frantic last hours of Hauptmann's life, the preparations for execution and the extraordinary precautions taken by prison guards to prevent a suicide attempt were accompanied by many rumors that "something would happen."

One of the most persistent rumors was that Hauptmann had told his wife to tell Gov. Hoffman that he was ready to talk. This was denied by Mrs. Hauptmann, by Hoffman, by Kimberling, by Atty. Gen. David I. Wilentz, and by Fisher.

Whether Hoffman would make a last-minute visit to the death house remained uncertain.

## Crowd Begins Forming

Outside the high brick walls of state prison, all developments were rushing Bruno closer and closer to death. The Court of Pardons had pronounced its final word of doom. Gov. Harold G. Hoffman, who doubts that the Lindbergh mystery will be solved by Hauptmann's execution and would like to see his life prolonged indefinitely, had said there would be no reprieve.

The area immediately surrounding the prison was closed off by police. Only newspaper men and officials by Kimberling were permitted to cross their lines.

But soon after dawn a crowd began forming as near as it could get and this crowd was expected to be of huge proportions by dusk. Private automobiles, buses, and trains were bringing in excursionists from nearby cities.

The Lindbergh kidnapping—a brutal, wanton crime that shocked the world—rushed forward to its denouement on the wings of public hysteria, rumor and melodrama that has characterized it from the night of March 1, 1932, when Col. Charles A. Lindbergh informed the village constable of Hopewell, N. J., by telephone that his baby had been stolen from its crib.

## Characters Await Denouement

Gov. Hoffman, silent and apparently crushed by his failure to clear up the mystery he maintains was not cleared by Hauptmann's arrest and conviction, was in semi-seclusion, awaiting a possible summons from the death house that the prisoner wanted to see him and change his story.

In the tiny English village of Weald, Col. Lindbergh, his wife, and their son, Jon, lived the quiet life of country people, apparently unaware that the life of the man convicted of killing their first born was ebbing fast.

In the village of Kamenz, Germany, Hauptmann's aged mother wept and bitterly exclaimed that her son was being made a victim of "people over there" who "have no conscience."

In his New York City home, Dr. John F. Condon, who as the melodramatic "Jafsie" paid \$50,000 to ransom a baby already dead, was available to no one. He testified at Hauptmann's trial that Hauptmann was the man who collected the ransom. Gov. Hoffman attacked his

testimony while he was vacationing in Panama. Gov. Hoffman has not questioned him since his return.

In various places, the strange assortment of persons sucked in the vortex of one of the most sensational of crimes awaited the denouement. In Trenton, Atty. Gen. David I. Wilentz, who prosecuted Hauptmann, and Police Superintendent H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who gathered most of the evidence, were calm.

They believed justice was being served. Betty Gow, the nurse of the dead baby, was in her native Glasgow. In California, Hauptmann's sister went into seclusion, convinced that her brother was a martyr to a miscarriage of justice.

—And, near collapse in her Trenton hotel room, was Bruno's faithful Anna, who still believed that something would happen to save him, but meanwhile planned to beg Warden Kimberling to let her see him once more in case today is really his last. And, finally, in cell No. 9 of the death house, the Saxony peasant boy, one of the Kaiser's machine gunners during the war, a village criminal afterward, a runaway to the United States which he entered illegally, an ambitious and avaricious carpenter, watched the remainder of his life being ticked away by the wall clock in the corridor.

In another cell, Charles Zied, a gangster and "cop-killer," waited with much more calmness for death. He will precede Bruno into eternity by a few minutes. But he has known since he was first brought in that there was no hope for him, while Bruno has felt that something would happen to save him.

## IDEA OF GOD SHOULD CHANGE, SPEAKER SAYS

Dean Kirk D. O'Ferrall, Detroit, Addresses Lent Congregation.

"Each age must have a new idea of God," Dean Kirk D. O'Ferrall of St. Paul's Cathedral, Detroit, said in a Lenten sermon this noon in Christ Church.

"As our conception of the universe expands, so must our concept of the Supreme Being be expanding. Now that man has searched for truth and God in the external world, we must search within ourselves for concepts of God."

# Anna Hopes for Miracle After Visiting Bruno for Last Time in Death House

Mrs. Hauptmann Collapses in Hotel on Return From Prison Where Husband Ordered That Son Be Told 'His Father Is Not Murderer.'

By United Press

TRENTON, N. J., March 31.—Anna Hauptmann summoned every ounce of her strength today to obey—if necessary—the final instructions of her husband:

"Tell my son that his father is not a murderer. Tell him that I'll die brave."

Anna Hauptmann, more colorful, more sad than since she first came into the public eye—hoped that she would never have to deliver that message spoken through the bars of a death house cell by the man she married and made a home for in a neighboring section of the Bronx.

She hoped that the eternal "something" of the Lindbergh crime would happen; that, for instance, Gov. Harold G. Hoffman would again visit her husband in the death house and that the Governor might yet be persuaded to issue a second reprieve.

## Seems at End of Road

But she appeared less hopeful than at any time during the two years in which she has gone through almost unbearable grief, suspense and suffering. She seemed to be at the end of that road of hardship today after almost the first collapse she has permitted to break her stoicism.

Hauptmann then instructed her to tell their son that he was not a murderer; that he would die bravely if it were necessary that he die. It was not until she returned to her hotel room that she collapsed. A doctor was summoned. She had been suffering from gripe and the death house visit left her cold and trembling, but the doctor said her condition was not serious.

## Speaks Optimistically

That last visit to her husband was fraught with desperate hope that the Court of Pardons would grant Hauptmann's application for clemency or at least permit a delay execution. She spoke optimistically to him and he told her that he was convinced that he would never walk through the door to the death chamber.

Then Hauptmann pressed against the bars of his cell and asked: "How is Bubie?" referring to their son, Manfred.

She told him briefly about the child and what he had been doing. There is a picture of him pasted on the wall of Hauptmann's cell.

## Screen Bars Kiss

"Anna," the doomed man said, "take good care of Bubie." Mrs. Hauptmann promised. She could see him only through

the heavy screen that guards had moved in front of the cell. She could not touch him; she could not kiss him good-by.

It was a sadder meeting and a less hopeful one than she made in January on the day before he was first scheduled to die and on the day a reprieve was granted. On that day, as she left, Hauptmann said: "I'll see you tomorrow."

Mrs. Hauptmann turned slowly away from the cell yesterday. She smiled at him but if she believed that she would never see him again she gave no sign.

# RUMORS SWEEP JERSEY CAPITAL

Excitement Grips Trenton as Death Hour Nears for Hauptmann.

By United Press

TRENTON, N. J., March 31.—Excitement over the Lindbergh kidnapping case was as great in Trenton today as on the day, exactly four years and one month ago, when Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. was kidnapped.

Little knots of people clustered on street corners, in restaurants, in offices, in bars and in backyards to discuss the execution tonight of Bruno Richard Hauptmann. Rumors of all kinds of spectacular and impossible developments flew over the city.

Some of the reports were: That Hauptmann had offered to "confess," denied in every official quarter.

That Hauptmann had asked to see the Governor "immediately." The Governor denied it.

That the Governor visited Haupt-

mann's death cell. Both the Governor and prison authorities denied that.

That an alien had been arrested in connection with the investigation of Paul Wendel, who confessed the Lindbergh baby's murder and then repudiated it. Atty. Gen. David I. Wilentz and state police denied it.

That the Governor would grant a reprieve at the eleventh hour, after

an attempt to break Hauptmann's nerve and elicit a confession. The Governor repeated his dictum that there will be no reprieve.

## FACE LIQUOR CHARGE

Pair Freed on Bond After Hearing Before U. S. Commissioner.

Robert and Florence Ferrio, arrested Sunday morning by Alcohol

Tax Unit officers for alleged possession of 207 gallons of non-tax paid alcohol, today are free on bond after a United States commissioner's hearing yesterday. The man's bond was fixed at \$2000 and the woman's at \$500.

Arrested at 59th-st and Road 29, the couple were held in the city jail on vagrancy charges until yesterday. They gave their address as Roseland, Ill.

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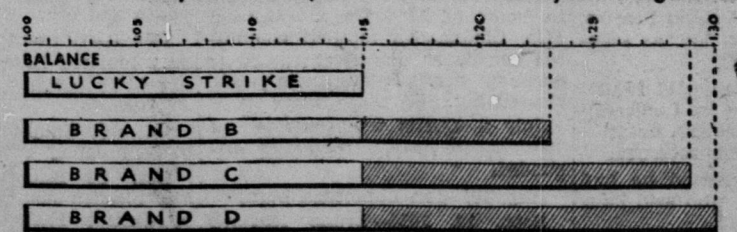
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