

LINDBERGH BABY'S ABDUCTION FROM CRIB BEGAN HUNT THAT FINALLY TRAPPED HAUPTMANN

Hopes of Flier, Wife Smashed When Child's Body Was Found 73 Days After Crime; Meanwhile, 'Jafsie' Had Paid \$50,000 Ransom to 'John' for Infant.

HOPEWELL, N. J., March 31.—The day and night of the first of March in 1932 was bleak and cold in the Sourland mountain region. A gusty wind whipped through the forests back of the big white stone mansion three miles from the small town of Hopewell, N. J.

Inside the home, comfortable and warm, the world's most widely publicized baby, Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., spent the day like any other normal infant at the age of 17 months.

In fact this secluded spot had been selected by the child's famous parents for the precise purpose of giving him a normal life by shielding him from the maudlin public that insisted on interrupting the private lives of the Lindberghs.

Present in the house as a dreary dusk drew near were the child, his mother, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and the regular household staff.

Three Household Workers The staff was composed of an English butler, Oliver Whately; his wife, Elsie, who was the cook; and Betty Gow, attractive brunette nursemaid.

Earlier in the day Miss Gow had been at the Englewood home of the child's grandmother, Mrs. Dwight Morrow, and it had been planned to take young Charles there, too. But the baby was suffering from a slight cold; plans were changed, and Miss Gow was called to the Lindbergh residence near Hopewell.

At 7 p. m. Mrs. Lindbergh and Miss Gow took the youngster to the nursery and saw that he was bundled warmly into his bed.

Lindbergh Returns Home Miss Gow made the rounds of the windows, closing shutters. There was one, warped by the weather, that could not be locked. She struggled with it unsuccessfully, then turned out the lights and went out of the room.

At 8:15 Col. Lindbergh arrived unexpectedly from New York. He was scheduled to have made an address at New York University, but he had become engrossed in business problems and had forgotten the engagement.

At 8:30 Whately announced dinner and the colonel and his wife sat down to eat. The meal finished, Mrs. Lindbergh went upstairs to prepare to retire. The colonel went to his study to work over some papers.

Study Under Nursery The stage now was set for the first move in a crime that was to shake the world and to cause more universal public interest than any other of modern days.

At approximately 9:30 Col. Lindbergh heard what he described as a "rather sharp crack." He didn't pay any attention to it for the whistling wind was breaking branches from trees outside.

At 10, nursemaid Gow, ready to go to bed, took one last look into the nursery. The baby wasn't in his bed. The nursemaid hurried to Mrs. Lindbergh's quarters, found that he wasn't there either and asked if it might be that Col. Lindbergh had taken him downstairs.

Family's Fears Confirmed "You had better ask Col. Lindbergh," said Mrs. Lindbergh. At the nursemaid's question, Lindbergh threw his papers aside and dashed upstairs, his long legs taking two steps a time.

A hasty search revealed what the Lindberghs and Betty Gow feared. The baby was not to be found.

While Col. Lindbergh was the nation's No. 1 hero and the baby the nation's No. 1 child, they had been out of the news for some time. Headlines of the day were concerned with sanguinary battles between the Japanese and Chinese.

President Hoover's special message to Congress and the investigation of the city government of Mayor James J. (Jimmy) Walker.

Colonel Searches Estate They were destined for the hell-box the second Col. Lindbergh called Whately and told him to inform police the child was missing.

A few hours later the whole world knew that the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped.

The Hopewell police already having been informed, Col. Lindbergh telephoned state police. Lindbergh now grasped a rifle and rushed out in the darkness in a futile trip over his estate.

The police arrived and went to the nursery. On the sill of the window whose shutter would not lock they found a footprint and a note.

Ransom Note Found The note said: "Dear Sir: Have 50 000\$ ready 25 000\$ in 20\$ bills 15 000\$ in 10\$ bills and 10 000\$ in 5\$ bills. In 10\$ 2-4 days we will inform you were to deliver the money.

"We warn you for making anything public or for notifying the police.

"The child is in gute care. "Identification for our letters are signature." The symbolic signature was composed of circles of red and blue with holes punched at certain points.

This note was the first clue in what was to become the greatest manhunt the United States ever has known.

\$1,200,000 Expended in Bringing Hauptmann to Trial

FLEMINGTON, N. J., March 31.—It took \$1,200,000 and more than two years of grinding work by police and Federal agents to bring Bruno Richard Hauptmann to trial in Hunterdon County Courthouse on Jan. 2, 1935.

At 9:45 a. m. on that day Hauptmann was led in from the jail by Lieut. Allan Smith of the New Jersey State Police and Deputy Sheriff Hovey Low of Hunterdon County.

The prisoner was seated in a folding chair, with a guard on each side of him. He had on a brown suit, blue necktie and brown shoes, but that wasn't what everybody noticed first. Hauptmann had changed the way he combed his hair—it was parted on the left side instead of the right.

"Your honor," said Egbert Rosecrans, defense counsel, "I move the admission to the New Jersey bar of Mr. Edward J. Reilly of Brooklyn, N. Y."

Reilly in Morning Coat Reilly stood up—Reilly who had won acquittals in 1000 homicide cases—a heavy, red-faced man in striped trousers and morning coat.

"We are glad to have you with us, Mr. Reilly," said Justice Thomas W. Trenchard.

The nation's most sensational murder trial was on. It took a day and a half to get a jury of four women and eight men.

Atty. Gen. David T. Wilentz had prosecuted a criminal case until he found himself in the courtroom at Flemington, where the heat of so many human beings packed into so small a space raised the temperature from 68 to 83 in three hours.

Mrs. Lindbergh Called He laid his lines carefully; minor witnesses established the fact that the crime was committed in Hunterdon County, and then Wilentz walked half-way across the courtroom and said:

"Mrs. Lindbergh, will you take the stand?" She had on a little black hat that tilted down over her nose and a black coat and dress. There was no rouge on her face and she seemed lost in the big, oak witness chair.

Wilentz carried over to Mrs. Lindbergh a scrap of cloth and asked her if that was part of the shirt her son was wearing the night he was kidnapped.

"Yes, that's the shirt," she said, gulping back her grief. "Your witness," said Wilentz. Reilly bowed to Mrs. Lindbergh and the court.

Mrs. Lindbergh's grief needs no cross-examination," said Reilly.

Colonel Next Witness Lindbergh was next. He had been in court all the time, sitting about eight feet from Hauptmann behind the prosecution table. He contributed two pieces of testimony. He said he heard a crash on the night of the kidnapping—"something like a crate breaking"—and the state let the jury assume that was the kidnaper's ladder breaking.

Then Lindbergh told of going on April 2, 1932, to St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx with Dr. John F. (Jafsie) Condon and a box full of ransom money. He heard a voice, he said, calling "Hey, doctor, over here," a voice guiding Condon to the rendezvous.

"That was Hauptmann's voice," said Lindbergh calmly.

Then came the "three old men"—witnesses who were so damaging against Hauptmann that Justice Trenchard recalled their testimony in his charge to the jury.

Points Out Hauptmann The first was Amandus Hochmuth, a former soldier in the Prussian army, who lived where Feathered Lane cuts into the main highway, a few hundred yards from the Lindbergh house. About noon on March 1, 1932, Hochmuth said he saw a green car, with a ladder on the running board, skid into the ditch. Inside was a tall, lean man "who looked like he had seen a ghost."

"Point that man out if he is in this room," suggested Wilentz. Hochmuth hobbled down from the witness chair, went slowly across the room and laid his right hand on Hauptmann's knee.

Albert Osborn was the second. So deaf that he used a mechanical ear device, he spent hours explaining to the jury the odd curlicues people make when they write. Internationally known as a handwriting expert, Osborn swore that Hauptmann wrote all of the ransom notes.

Jafsie Names Bruno Then came "Jafsie." He rubbed his hands on a handkerchief, glanced at the tiny American flag in his buttonhole and

and came to the conclusion that Hauptmann's tools were used in building the ladder that the kidnaper abandoned under the Lindbergh nursery window.

He went further than that; he swore that one rail of the ladder was ripped out of the flooring in Hauptmann's own attic.

"The state rests," said Wilentz. No Eyewitnesses Produced The state had woven a tight, strong web of circumstantial evidence. Hauptmann was seen near Hopewell on the day of the kidnapping; he was identified as the man who collected the ransom and wrote the notes; he was identified as the man in the two cemeteries.

He was caught passing ransom bills; ransom money was found in his own home. But the state could not produce a witness who saw Hauptmann climb into that window and kidnap the baby.

"It all reads like a movie scenario," shouted Reilly, opening for the defense.

Hauptmann could not have committed this crime, the defense contended, because on the night of March 1, 1932, he was sitting in a

bakery in the Bronx waiting for his wife to get through work so he could escort her home.

Several persons said they saw him there. Elvert Carlstrom saw him and remembered that Hauptmann laughed at him because he spoke broken English. Louis Kiss, then a bootlegger, saw Hauptmann there, too. Mrs. Hauptmann said he was there.

Defendant Guided by Reilly Then Hauptmann got on the stand. Under Reilly's guidance he explained that a man named Isidor Fisch, a former business partner, gave him the ransom money that was found in the Hauptmann garage.

Where Fisch got it, Hauptmann didn't know and no one else knew because Fisch went away to Germany and died of tuberculosis.

"Hauptmann, did you kidnap the Lindbergh baby?" asked Reilly. "No."

"Were you ever in Col. Lindbergh's house in your life?" "No, I never was."

"Did you build that ladder?" Hauptmann looked at the ramshackle ladder, laughed and said: "I am a carpenter."

Why did Hauptmann quit work and live in ease after the ransom was paid? Because he had made some money in the stock market.

Peter Sommer testified he was sure it was not Hauptmann who kidnapped the Lindbergh baby because he saw the actual kidnapers on the Weehawken ferry, escaping from New Jersey.

A woman was with them, he said, and she was Violet Sharpe, maid in the home of Mrs. Wright Morrow, who later committed suicide. She carried a blond, curly-haired baby. Isidor Fisch was with her.

"The defense rests," said Reilly. Wilentz walked up and down in front of the jury box, waving his arms.

"Hauptmann is public enemy No. 1 of all the world," he shouted. "He is the kind of man who would cut out your heart and then go upstairs to dinner. I hate to be in the same room with him. The state of New Jersey asks you to bring back the only verdict possible in

this case—murder in the first degree. "Judge not lest ye be judged," cautioned Reilly, reading the Bible to the jury. "Don't send this man to his death and then, years from now, learn that somebody else has confessed on his death bed."

The jury retired at 11:23 a. m., Feb. 13. At 10:28 p. m. the bell in the Courthouse tower tolled—signal that a verdict had been reached in a capital case.

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