

## A Brief Chronology of the Lindbergh Kidnapping

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**ABSTRACT:** A brief chronology of the Lindbergh kidnapping case is outlined.

**KEYWORDS:** plenary session, criminalistics, Lindbergh kidnapping case, chronology

- 1 March 1932 Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles Lindbergh, was taken from his second-story nursery at the Lindbergh Estate near Hopewell, NJ, between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. A handwritten note was left, a 19.05-mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.) chisel was found beneath the child's window, a three-section, hand-crafted ladder, was found approximately 23 m (75 ft) away, and several footprints were found in the soil adjacent to the home.
- The ransom note and those that followed clearly revealed the writer to have difficulty with English and to most likely be of German extraction.
- 16 March 1932 A Dr. Denton No. 2 sleeping suit was sent to the Lindberghs as evidence of having the child.
- 2 April 1932 On this date and through the efforts of a retired educator named John Francis Condon, who volunteered to act as a go-between, \$50 000 ransom was turned over to a man who called himself "John." The transaction took place at night in St. Raymond's Cemetery in New York City, after "John" had previously supplied Dr. Condon with a sleeping suit comparable to that which the child was wearing at the time he was kidnapped. Both Condon and Lindbergh, who had been in earshot of some of the conversation, described "John" as having an unmistakable German accent.
- 12 May 1932 Seventy-two days after the child's kidnapping, on a road approximately 3 km (2 miles) from the Lindbergh Estate, a truck driver named William Allen, stepping a short distance off the road to relieve himself, came upon the partially decomposed body of a child. The hair appeared to be blonde and some fragments of clothing still clung to the body. A burlap bag was also found a few feet away.
- 5 April 1933 President Roosevelt ordered the turning in of all gold certificates by May 1st. (Approximately two thirds of the ransom money was in the form of gold certificates, and a list of the serial numbers of all these bills had been printed and circulated to banks, and so forth.)
- 15 Sept. 1934 The driver of a 1930 Dodge sedan bearing New York plate 4U13-41 gave a

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- New York gas station attendant named Walter Lyle a \$10.00 gold note S/N A73976634A for 98¢ of gasoline. Lyle recorded the plate number on the bill's margin in the event the bank refused to cash it.
- 18 Sept. 1934 The Corn Exchange Bank located a few blocks from Walter Lyle's Warner-Quinlan gas station reported the finding of this ransom bill to the authorities, who retraced it to the gas station, and after obtaining verification of the penciled inscription as a license number, determined that New York plate 4U13-41 was registered to Richard Hauptmann of 1279 E. 222nd St., Bronx.
- 19 Sept. 1934 Hauptmann was arrested. A ransom bill was in his wallet, \$14 560 of ransom money was found in his garage, along with a carpenter's plane, later identified as having produced certain tool marks on portions of the ladder and Rail 16—the board that purportedly came from Hauptmann's attic. Dr. Condon's address and phone number was also found faintly written in pencil on an upright section of wooden molding in a small closet in the Hauptmann residence.
- 2 Jan. 1935 The Hauptmann trial begins in Hunterdon County Courthouse in Flemington, NJ.
- 24 Jan. 1935 At 12:20 p.m. this date, the State rested, with Arthur Koehler having been its last witness.
- 13 Feb. 1935 Hauptmann is found guilty and sentenced to die for the death of the Lindbergh baby, which occurred during the commission of a theft.
- 3 April 1936 Hauptmann is electrocuted at the Trenton State Prison.
- May-June 1977 The New Jersey State Police Laboratory re-examines certain items of physical evidence in their possession.
- 9 Oct. 1981 New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne issues Executive Order No. 110, directing the superintendent of the New Jersey State Police to make the investigative files, records, and exhibits within his custody relating to the investigation of the Lindbergh kidnapping available to the public.

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