

# Tracking Column

JULY, 2019

ISSUE N.4

THE WAY OF TRACKING © KYT WALKEN

## WANTED

INFORMATION AS TO THE  
WHEREABOUTS OF



### CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, JR.

OF HOPEWELL, N. J.

### SON OF COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH

World-Famous Aviator

This child was kidnaped from his home  
in Hopewell, N. J., between 8 and 10 p. m.  
on Tuesday, March 1, 1932.

#### DESCRIPTION:

Age, 20 months                      Hair, blond, curly  
Weight, 27 to 30 lbs.              Eyes, dark blue  
Height, 29 inches                  Complexion, light  
Deep dimple in center of chin  
Dressed in one-piece coverall night suit

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
COL. H. N. SCHWARZKOPF, TRENTON, N. J., or  
COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH, HOPEWELL, N. J.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE

March 11, 1932

COL. H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF  
Supt. New Jersey State Police, Trenton, N. J.



# The Lindbergh Kidnapping

## The Facts.

1932, March 1st. Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., 20-month-old son of Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, was kidnapped between 8:30 and 10 o'clock at the second floor of his home in Hopewell, New Jersey.

The news of the kidnapping spread easily and a lot of people came to the estate, destroying quite all the footprint evidence.

1932, May 12th. The child's corpse was discovered by a truck driver off the side of a nearby road to the property.

1934, September. Richard Hauptmann, a German Immigrant, He was declared guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to death; he was executed in the electric chair at the New Jersey State Prison on April 3rd, 1936.

## The Footprints Evidence.

1932, March 1st.

Briefly he (Colonel Lindbergh) told Williamson what had occurred. The chief telephoned first to State Police Headquarters at Trenton. Then he, his fellow officer and the Colonel began searching the grounds. Beneath the nursery window were marks *where a ladder had stood and the footprints of one person. There were no shoe prints. The kidnapper, apparently, had worn socks or moccasins.*

Sixty feet away in rocky ground at the edge of a wood the Colonel and Chief Williamson found a makeshift ladder. Its rungs were caked with mud. Colonel Lindbergh could not say whether it belonged on the premises.

He thought it might have been left there by the builders while the house was being constructed during his flight to the Orient last Summer with Mrs. Lindbergh.

*The searchers had no difficulty in following the footprints across the muddy ground. A second set of tracks joined them near the edge of the woods. They were much smaller. The two officers thought they might be those of a woman.*

The search was interrupted by the arrival of a detachment of State Troopers sent from the barracks at Lambertville and the hunt began anew. *The tracks were followed to the main highway, about half a mile from the house, where they disappeared. The kidnappers evidently had entered an automobile at that point.*



# The Lindbergh Kidnapping

## From Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"[...] During the search at the kidnapping scene, traces of mud were found on the floor of the nursery.

Footprints, impossible to measure, were found under the nursery window. Two sections of the ladder had been used in reaching the window, one of the two sections was split or broken where it joined the other, indicating that the ladder had broken during the ascent or descent. There were no blood stains in or about the nursery, nor were there any fingerprints.[...]"

## The mystery.

"Taken from "The Independent", 2012, Oct 20th.

"[...] For more than two years the trail went cold. Then, in August 1934, one of the marked gold-certificate bills used to pay the ransom was traced to Hauptmann, a German carpenter who lived in the Bronx with his wife Anna and 11-month-old son Manfred. Hauptmann was arrested, interrogated and charged, and tried in Flemington, seat of Hunterdon County where the crime was committed. His appeals exhausted, he was executed on April 3, 1936.

But two great uncertainties hung over the case, even then. Why would Hauptmann maintain his innocence, even when offered mercy if he told all? Then there was the matter of accomplices. Until his arrest, the Lindberghs, the police and the media all believed a gang had carried out the crime. Two sets of footprints were discovered at the Hopewell house, as well as a discarded ladder. Even the ransom notes talked of "we".

But once a solid suspect was in hand, the investigation was effectively closed down. Above all, police wanted to wrap up a case that had dragged on for two and a half years, causing them huge embarrassment, and which had already cost \$1.2m (£11m today). In court, Condon dropped his previous misgivings to identify Hauptmann as 'Cemetery John', while Lindbergh claimed to identify a voice he had heard utter words while waiting in a nearby car as the ransom was paid, as that of Hauptmann. Naturally this remarkable feat of memory went unchallenged. In the America of the time, the word of the hero 'Lucky Lindy', now smitten by terrible personal tragedy, was unassailable.

Undeniably, the Hauptmann case was a less than splendid advertisement for US justice. Whether or not evidence was planted, he was very harshly interrogated, without the presence of a lawyer. His defence lawyer in Flemington was an over-the-hill alcoholic in the pay of Hearst Newspapers, while anti-German prejudice (after the First World War) was rife.

