

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

The child has been kidnapped.

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:07,000

Tonight, a high-profile kidnapping grips the world

3

00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:10,000

when the infant son of an aviation legend

4

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:13,000

is snatched from his crib at home.

5

00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:15,000

We're speaking to you now from the Christ headquarters

6

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:18,000

at your in the Lindbergh case.

7

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:20,000

After a nationwide manhunt,

8

00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:23,000

the supposed culprit is brought to justice.

9

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:25,000

But did authorities get the right man?

10

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:28,000

Based on the circumstances, there are a lot of people

11

00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:30,000

who have been in an inside job.

12

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:32,000

Now we'll uncover the top theories surrounding

13

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:36,000

what's been called the crime of the century.

14

00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:39,000

How could this have succeeded without someone

15

00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:41,000

having inside knowledge?

16

00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:44,000

There are at least two or more accomplices

17

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:46,000

that never guide any attention.

18

00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:49,000

If I was Dr. Condon so heavily involved,

19

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:51,000

did he have something to do with this?

20

00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:54,000

Can new evidence finally reveal the truth behind this

21

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:56,000

American manhunt?

22

00:00:56,000 --> 00:00:59,000

The alleged confession said that I,

23

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:01,000

not Bruno Richard Heltman,

24

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:04,000

am the kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby.

25

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Who really is responsible

26

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:10,000

for the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby?

27

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Hopewell, New Jersey, 1932.

28

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

For the past year, world-famous aviator Charles Lindbergh

29

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:36,000

has called this area home.

30

00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:39,000

So Lindbergh has been a major celebrity

31

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:43,000

ever since he completed his first transatlantic solo flight

32

00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:45,000

in 1927.

33

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:50,000

In the drizzly early morning of May 20, 1927,

34

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

the spirit of St. Louis takes off from Roosevelt Theater

35

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:55,000

in Long Island.

36

00:01:55,000 --> 00:02:00,000

And after 33 and a half hours of flying alone,

37

00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:04,000

Lindbergh lands at Lavogé Field outside of Paris.

38

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:06,000

Does Lindbergh do something that no one else

39

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:08,000

has ever done before? Absolutely.

40

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,000

He flies across the Atlantic Ocean by himself solo

41

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

on a flight pattern that takes him 2,000 miles farther

42

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:17,000

than the last transatlantic flight,

43

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:20,000

a flight, by the way, which had two aviators.

44

00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Not one.

45

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

Lindbergh's flight proved that aviation had a future

46

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

for passenger transportation.

47

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

This also earns Lindbergh tons of accolades,

48

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:33,000

tons of awards, everything from the Medal of Honor,

49

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:35,000

the Flying Cross, the Congressional Gold Medal.

50

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:38,000

But there's no way Lindbergh would have reached this level

51

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:42,000

of fame and adulation without one thing, radio.

52

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:47,000

You have to understand, at the time, no smartphones,

53

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:49,000

no internet, no television.

54

00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:53,000

This is before almost any form of modern communication.

55

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Radio is revolutionizing the way the world connects.

56

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:59,000

So when Lindbergh is making this record-breaking flight,

57

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:02,000

this is the first time that an audience can actually follow

58

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:05,000

along with an historic event in real time.

59

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:08,000

This is a moment of instantaneous information,

60

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:10,000

not the delayed information,

61

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

we get a newsreel or a newspaper account or a book.

62

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:15,000

This is happening in real time.

63

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:18,000

And that's very impactful for people.

64

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:20,000

After this flight, he comes back home,

65

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

there's a tip-a-tip berate, hundreds of thousands of people.

66

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

He gets millions of telegrams congratulating him.

67

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:30,000

Lindbergh is instantly internationally famous.

68

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

But before long, the intensity of this public adulation

69

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

becomes overwhelming.

70

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

Lindbergh is batched constantly by the press.

71

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:41,000

Everybody wants a piece of him.

72

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:43,000

Charles Lindbergh and his wife decide

73

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

we've had enough of being in this crazy public eye,

74

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,000

so they bought some land in Hopewell, New Jersey.

75

00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,000

They purchase a remote 600-acre lot

76

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:55,000

where they plan to build an estate

77

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:57,000

that will be their primary home,

78

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

along with their 20-month-old son, Charles Jr.

79

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Construction on their new home begins in March of 1931,

80

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

but the Lindberghs are just so anxious

81

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:07,000

and so ready to leave New York

82

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

that they decide to head out to the house

83

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,000

before it's even completed.

84

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

And they start staying there a few days a week.

85

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

In addition to Charles and Charles Jr.,

86

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,000

they've got the nursemaid, Betty Gao,

87

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,000

their butler, Ollie Watley, and his wife, Elsie,

88

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:23,000

living in the house with them.

89

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:25,000

They're a pretty tight-knit group.

90

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

Lindbergh increasingly resents the intrusions

91

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:30,000

on his private life.

92

00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:32,000

The purpose of the construction of the estate

93

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:35,000

outside of Hopewell was to give the Lindberghs

94

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:39,000

some breathing room from the 24-7 press attention

95

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:41,000

that the family is under.

96

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:44,000

But before the Lindberghs find their respite,

97

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:49,000

on March 1, 1932, the unthinkable happens.

98

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:52,000

So shortly before 10 o'clock, the nurse, Betty Gao,

99

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

heads into the nursery to check on Charles Jr.

100

00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:01,000

She is horrified to find out that the crib is empty.

101

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,000

She runs to tell Lindbergh,

102

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:05,000

he follows her back to Charles Jr.'s room,

103

00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:07,000

and he finds out that she's right.

104

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:09,000

The baby is gone.

105

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:12,000

The house staff immediately begins searching the property.

106

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:14,000

They are combing the house high and low,

107

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

and while they're searching, Charles Lindbergh comes across

108

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:20,000

something that confirms his deepest, darkest fears.

109

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,000

Near the window of his son's room, he finds an envelope.

110

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:27,000

There's a problem with this particular window.

111

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:31,000

It's warped, which means that it doesn't close properly.

112

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

The latch doesn't actually catch,

113

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:35,000

so this is the only way that you could get into the house

114

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,000

without a key.

115

00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:39,000

This was the second floor window.

116

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:42,000

This wasn't one you could just walk up to the house

117

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:44,000

and climb through.

118

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:48,000

In the envelope is a poorly written, misspelled note

119

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:52,000

demanding \$50,000 for the return of the baby.

120

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:54,000

It's a ransom note.

121

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:57,000

The note reads,

122

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:09,000

After two to four days, we will inform you where to deliver the money.

123

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:13,000

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

124

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:15,000

The child is in good care.

125

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

At the bottom of the note,

126

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,000

the kidnappers leave a cryptic signature.

127

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:24,000

They had an image at the bottom that was two interlocking circles,

128

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:29,000

a couple of squiggly lines, and then three punch holes.

129

00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:31,000

It's a very strange pattern.

130

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

So the author of the letter actually says,

131

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,000

This particular symbol will let you know

132

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:42,000

that this is authentic correspondence from me and no one else.

133

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:44,000

As if this is some sort of secret code

134

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:47,000

to verify that the letters are genuine

135

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

and that, rather chillingly,

136

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

more letters may follow.

137

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:54,000

It was as if the kidnappers were saying,

138

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:56,000

This is just the beginning.

139

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:58,000

As they comb the property,

140

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:02,000

Lindberg and his butler, Ali, find a few additional clues.

141

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:06,000

There are also some scraps of wood from a broken ladder underneath the window,

142

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

and they also find a set of muddy footprints.

143

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:13,000

By 10.30 p.m., a small army of police officers arrive

144

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:15,000

and begin investigating.

145

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:18,000

The police realize they have very little to go on.

146

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:22,000

They've got no fingerprints. They've got no eyewitnesses.

147

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,000

And you're in the middle of nowhere.

148

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:27,000

At a massive estate.

149

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:29,000

So when it comes to this investigation,

150

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:31,000

where would you want to start?

151

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

On the inside. Of course.

152

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:36,000

It's only natural to start with those that are closest to the crime.

153

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:38,000

And based on the circumstances, there are signs

154

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:41,000

that may have indicated that this could have been an inside job.

155

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

First off, the precision of this kidnapping

156

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:46,000

and how it went down is a bit suspect.

157

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:49,000

It's as if the person or person is a person

158

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:52,000

who has been in the crime for a long time.

159

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:54,000

And how?

160

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Based on the scene outside, the footprints,

161

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,000

the wood from the broken ladder,

162

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:02,000

it appears that whoever took Charles Jr. went to one window only,

163

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:05,000

the window that led directly into the nursery.

164

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:09,000

We also know that Charles and Anne were awake at the time of the kidnapping,

165

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

so there's no way that there's going to be somebody outside of the property

166

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:14,000

moving a ladder from window to window,

167

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

trying to jimmy open every window before they find the correct one.

168

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:19,000

They would have been hurt.

169

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,000

There's a dog. The dog doesn't bark.

170

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:24,000

There's a baby. Baby's cry, but this baby did not cry.

171

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:27,000

So there's a general sense that there must be someone

172

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:30,000

who's familiar with the household has to be involved.

173

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:34,000

The nursery's condition is also suspicious.

174

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:37,000

The baby's blankets after Charles Jr. is taken,

175

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

they're not just left in the crib.

176

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

They're actually folded very neatly and placed on a shelf nearby.

177

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Why would a stranger that's kidnapping Charles Linn

178

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:48,000

Berg's baby even bother to do that?

179

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:52,000

That seems more like a routine of somebody that's in the house

180

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:54,000

that does this frequently.

181

00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Authorities figured that the kidnapper had to have had inside knowledge of the schedule.

182

00:09:00,000 --> 00:09:02,000

The Linn Berg's are creatures of habit.

183

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:06,000

They do not go to the house in the country all the time.

184

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:08,000

Normally they're on the weekend and they leave on Monday,

185

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:11,000

but Charles Jr. got taken on March 1, which was a Tuesday.

186

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:13,000

They stayed one extra day in the house,

187

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,000

because the baby had a cold and so they thought that the country air,

188

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:18,000

the fresh air, would be good for the baby.

189

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:22,000

And the question becomes how would a random person no doubt?

190

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:24,000

So if you're looking at this as an inside job,

191

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

your first three suspects should be obvious.

192

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

The Linn Berg's staff members, you've got Betty Gao,

193

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,000

you've got the butler Ollie, and his wife, Elsie Wotley.

194

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:35,000

The Wotley's have been with the Linn Berg's all weekend long,

195

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:37,000

so they pretty much have alibi.

196

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

Ollie was actually in bed and Elsie was downstairs

197

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:42,000

in the kitchen making lemonade.

198

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:46,000

But nurse maid Betty Gao has only arrived that afternoon.

199

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:48,000

Doesn't she have time to plan a kidnapping?

200

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,000

Please question her immediately.

201

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,000

According to Betty's statement on March 1,

202

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:56,000

Anne calls Betty and asks her to come to the weekend estate,

203

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:59,000

and Betty agrees, even though she had plans at the time

204

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:02,000

with her boyfriend, Henry Red Johnson.

205

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Betty says that she called her boyfriend to cancel her plans

206

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:07,000

because she had to go into work.

207

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:10,000

Police questioned Johnson, and he backs up his girlfriend's story.

208

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:15,000

However, in Johnson's car, they do find a bottle of milk.

209

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:20,000

This bottle of milk was really suspicious to police.

210

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:24,000

They wondered, you know, is that there to feed a baby?

211

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,000

There are some theorists that suggest that when Betty Gao

212

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:28,000

called her boyfriend to cancel the plans,

213

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:30,000

that's not actually what she was doing.

214

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:32,000

She was actually calling him to signal to him

215

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:34,000

that yes, he should kidnap the baby.

216

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Apart from a bottle of milk, police have no evidence

217

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

that implicates Johnson or Betty Gao.

218

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:44,000

Limburg intervenes to prevent the police

219

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

from really interrogating and bearing down

220

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

on the servants in his own household,

221

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:52,000

who he trusted without qualification.

222

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:56,000

And that meant that Betty Gao wasn't looked at any further.

223

00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:59,000

That line of inquiry goes cold, but then they find another.

224

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:10,000

When famed aviator Charles Limburg's infant son

225

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

is kidnapped on March 1, 1932,

226

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:17,000

it creates an unprecedented media uproar.

227

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:24,000

It's a cliché nowadays to call something a crime of the century,

228

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:25,000

but this really was.

229

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

This was one of the biggest cases,

230

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:31,000

not just in America, but in the world.

231

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:34,000

We have here a flash, which reads as follows.

232

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:37,000

News of the kidnapping leaks almost immediately,

233

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

and journalists just flock to the Limburg estate.

234

00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:41,000

It's a madhouse.

235

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:43,000

Of course, everybody wants to help.

236

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:47,000

One of the people who wants to provide criminal expertise

237

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:50,000

to this case is the notorious gangster Al Capone,

238

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:53,000

who currently residing in the Cook County jail.

239

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:56,000

He offers his criminal and gangster contact

240

00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:59,000

to help the police find the Limburg baby

241

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:03,000

if they will just temporarily release him from prison.

242

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:07,000

The police do not take Al Capone up on his offer.

243

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:14,000

That was indicative of just how widespread the story had gotten.

244

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:16,000

It was reaching everybody.

245

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

Al Capone, sitting in a cell in Chicago,

246

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

finds out about this news only 12 hours after it happens.

247

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:26,000

Mind you, there is no internet during this time.

248

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,000

But let's also remember, the ransom note specifically said,

249

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:32,000

do not make this a public deal.

250

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:34,000

Do not get the police involved.

251

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Is all the media attention jeopardizing the life of the child?

252

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,000

The Limburgs soon learn the answer to that question.

253

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,000

So on March 6th, another ransom note arrives.

254

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,000

And it follows the pattern of the first ransom note.

255

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:52,000

You've got the same handwriting,

256

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:54,000

you've got the same signature with the squiggly lines,

257

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:55,000

and you've got the three holes.

258

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:59,000

But the tone of this letter is much more threatening.

259

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:01,000

And it starts off by saying,

260

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:05,000

dear sir, we've warned you not to make anything public.

261

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Now you have to take consequences.

262

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:10,000

And the consequences are severe.

263

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:13,000

The kidnappers basically say that they're going to keep the baby

264

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:15,000

until things quiet down.

265

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:19,000

As long as this case continues to get as much attention

266

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:22,000

as it's getting from the police and the media and the newspapers,

267

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:27,000

Limburg is not getting his son back anytime soon.

268

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Because of that transgression, the kidnappers now have decided

269

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:36,000

that instead of a \$50,000 ransom, they want a \$70,000 ransom.

270

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:41,000

\$70,000 back then is like a million dollars today.

271

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:43,000

So they don't actually wait until things die down.

272

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:47,000

In fact, the story continues to get bigger and bigger as it goes on.

273

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

But regardless, within a couple of days,

274

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:51,000

the kidnapers carry on with their plan.

275

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:55,000

In a series of notes that were sent on both March 8th and March 10th,

276

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:59,000

the kidnapers are asking for a volunteer to serve as the go-between

277

00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:01,000

for the handoff of the money.

278

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:05,000

Ultimately, they agree to let a former school principal from the Bronx

279

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:06,000

be that volunteer.

280

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,000

His name is Dr. John Condon.

281

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:12,000

So probably seeking some fame for himself,

282

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

Condon placed an ad in his local paper offering up a \$1,000 reward

283

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:19,000

if the kidnapers were to give up the baby to a priest.

284

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

Apparently, the kidnapers saw this ad,

285

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:24,000

asked him to be the middleman, and he agreed to do it.

286

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:27,000

And at this point, the police have so few leads that they decide,

287

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

go with it. Why not?

288

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Let's see how this plays out.

289

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:34,000

With the support of the Lindbergs and police,

290

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:37,000

Condon begins corresponding with the kidnapers.

291

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:41,000

So over the course of two weeks, there's a chain of back and forth.

292

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:42,000

It's like cat and mouse game.

293

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Condon would put ads in the local paper,

294

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:47,000

and the kidnapers would respond with their letters.

295

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:51,000

And this back and forth keeps the Lindbergs hopeful that their son is still alive

296

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:55,000

and a solution will be reached where they'll be able to get him back.

297

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:59,000

They eventually arrange a meeting between Condon and the kidnapers

298

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:01,000

at a cemetery in the Bronx.

299

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:07,000

According to Condon, at this meeting, he finally learns the kidnapers' identity.

300

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:14,000

Condon says he meets a man who calls himself John,

301

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:18,000

whom the media and the police will soon dub, Cemetery John.

302

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:24,000

Cemetery John tells Condon he's part of a group of Scandinavian sailors.

303

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,000

The baby is being taken care of by these sailors on a boat.

304

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:33,000

He says the baby is safe and that we need to make an exchange for the ransom money.

305

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:40,000

This Cemetery John is about 30 to 35 years old, athletic build, 5'9".

306

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Based on Condon's description, police prepare a sketch of Cemetery John.

307

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:50,000

He has a light complexion, light hair, pointed chin, and he has a Scandinavian accent.

308

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Meanwhile, during the meeting, Condon wisely asks the kidnappers for proof that they have the baby.

309

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Cemetery John promises to send some evidence.

310

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:13,000

What turns up at Condon's house is a gray sleeping suit that Charles Jr. was sleeping in the night he was taken.

311

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:18,000

From here, you've got a number of things that are happening in quick succession.

312

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:23,000

There are several more exchanges between Condon and the kidnappers trying to haggle over what the actual ransom should be.

313

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:29,000

Condon and the kidnappers ultimately agree on the original \$50,000 ransom amount.

314

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Police decide to use gold certificates to pay the ransom.

315

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:39,000

This is actually a clever move by the authorities because those gold certificates have the same value as dollars.

316

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:45,000

But for the past 70 years, the United States had tied its currency to what was at the time the gold standard.

317

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:49,000

They were a legal tender of money, but they were a bit more unique.

318

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:53,000

So the idea that the police had was if they pay up the ransom in these certificates,

319

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:58,000

because there's so few of them in circulation now, if they're spent, they're easier to track down.

320

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:01,000

But that whole plan will have to come later.

321

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:04,000

Right now, the Lindbergs only care about getting their baby back,

322

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:08,000

and they firmly believe that tonight is the night that it happens.

323

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:15,000

On April 2nd, 1932, John Condon goes to do the money exchange to the kidnapper.

324

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:21,000

At the exchange, the kidnapper gives John Condon a letter and then disappears with the money.

325

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:25,000

The letter says that the boy's on a boat called the Nelly.

326

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:30,000

The Nelly's a small boat, about 28 foot, has two women on it who apparently know nothing.

327

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:33,000

They're just simply been hired to watch a baby.

328

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:40,000

And you can find this boat between Horsenet Beach and Gay Head near Elizabeth Island.

329

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:46,000

And when Condon shares this information, police race off to this marina at Martha's Vineyard to find this boat.

330

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Because you have to understand, these cops are trying to get there as quickly as possible because think about it.

331

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:57,000

If you're the first police officer to find Charles Lindberg's kidnapped baby, it's like you're

guaranteed to be a hero.

332

00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Police get to this marina and they search every slit, every boat.

333

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:06,000

Nelly is never found and the baby Lindberg is never found.

334

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:16,000

The thing about this Scandinavian gang theory and all this is they're assumed that we're going to get the baby back and that's not what happened.

335

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:20,000

But this really sets a new tone I think in relation to this whole experience.

336

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Because people now are really more concerned at some level about the fate of Charles Jr.

337

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:32,000

With their ransom paid, there is no further communication from the alleged kidnapers.

338

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:37,000

The kidnapper has the money, but the Lindbergs do not have the baby.

339

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:41,000

It was like losing Charles Jr. for a second time.

340

00:18:42,000 --> 00:18:46,000

Then on May 12th, the news everyone's feared.

341

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,000

This is about six weeks after the ransom dropped.

342

00:18:49,000 --> 00:19:00,000

A truck driver named Orville Wilson and his assistant William Allen pulled the truck over to the side of the road in Mount Rose, New Jersey, which is a little less than five miles away from the Lindberg estate.

343

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:04,000

William Allen was a black man who worked as a trucker.

344

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:11,000

One of the disgusting parts of American history is that he wasn't allowed to use the bathroom wherever he wanted.

345

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:16,000

So he pulled over to use the restroom in the woods.

346

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:24,000

He walked in a ways so as not to be spotted by anybody passing by and he noticed something on the ground.

347

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:32,000

At first he assumes is a dead animal, but as he gets closer he realizes it's a small child.

348

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:40,000

It's obvious that the head has been crushed and animals are starting to scatter that remains.

349

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:44,000

All that is really left is a tattered white t-shirt.

350

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:52,000

The men notify police who bring in the Lindbergs nursemaid, Betty Gao, to identify the body.

351

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:57,000

She confirms that the body is of Charles Lindberg Jr.

352

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:05,000

A funeral director conducts a rudimentary autopsy and declares that this child died from a blow to the head.

353

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:09,000

This funeral director establishes that the baby died probably two months ago.

354

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:18,000

That timeline means that much of the time that these notes were being exchanged around returning the baby, he was most likely already dead.

355

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Grieving parents Charles and Anne have their son cremated and the investigation turns from kidnapping to murder.

356

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:34,000

So naturally this marks a huge shift for police because if this child died the very night that he was kidnapped,

357

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:37,000

well this puts them back at square one.

358

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:43,000

And in this case square one means that maybe their initial instinct was right all along.

359

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:46,000

Maybe this wasn't inside job.

360

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:59,000

In May of 1932 the case of missing infant Charles Lindberg Jr. turns from kidnapping to murder.

361

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:02,000

The police are confident in demanding that Cemetery John is involved.

362

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:08,000

He and a group of accomplices send ransom to the man and eventually collect \$50,000.

363

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Once they pay the ransom Cemetery John is gone and they find the body of Charles Jr.

364

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:19,000

and find out that he apparently died the very night he was taken.

365

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:25,000

With no new leads police focus their attention on the Lindbergs extended family.

366

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:32,000

The lingering question is why baby Lindberg was targeted at all and why on a Tuesday when the Lindbergs were not usually there.

367

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:35,000

And how did the kidnapper know which window to enter?

368

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:44,000

As the investigators work through a long list of Lindberg family and friends and associates eventually they find someone whose story doesn't quite add up.

369

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:47,000

And they jump at the chance to label her a sussept.

370

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:55,000

New Jersey State Police question a domestic worker named Violet Sharp.

371

00:21:55,000 --> 00:22:02,000

Sharp is a 20-something immigrant from England who works for Anne's mother at her house serving her meals.

372

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Which means that she's working for the baby's grandmother.

373

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:09,000

So the minute they begin questioning her Violet becomes very nervous.

374

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:13,000

She doesn't want to answer questions. Sometimes she's a little belligerent.

375

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:20,000

It's obvious to the officers that she is being evasive but why?

376

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:22,000

And her story keeps changing.

377

00:22:22,000 --> 00:22:29,000

At first she says that she's on a blind date on the night of the kidnapping but she can't remember the name of her date or the other couple that she's with.

378

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:32,000

She claims she went to a movie but she can't remember which one.

379

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:35,000

And later she claims she went to a row house and not a movie at all.

380

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:39,000

So the police decide that they need to take a closer look at Ms. Sharp.

381

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:47,000

So they ask her for all of her bank statements and all of her financial records to see if there have been any large deposits that have been made.

382

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:53,000

They also ask her to come in and to give an official account of her whereabouts during the day of the kidnapping.

383

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:57,000

They're pushing so hard because they're convinced that Violet Sharp must know something.

384

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:03,000

So the police schedule several interviews with Violet Sharp.

385

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:06,000

And the last one she just doesn't turn up to.

386

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:11,000

And there's such a thing. Is she on the run? Is something spookier? Where is she at?

387

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:20,000

Sadly on June 10th one month after baby Lindbergh's body is discovered Ms. Sharp's body is also discovered.

388

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:24,000

She had ended up committing suicide by eating silver polish.

389

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:32,000

And ultimately after her death investigators are actually able to prove her alibi for the night of March 1st.

390

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Turns out she was on a date after all.

391

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:44,000

Eventually every member of the Lindbergh inner circle is questioned and discarded as a suspect.

392

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Everyone that is except for one Charles Lindbergh himself.

393

00:23:51,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Today when we have any kind of crime involving a child or a family the family members are the first

suspects especially in kidnappings.

394

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:04,000

The first person you would look at would be the parents.

395

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:16,000

In 1932 no one is going to question Lindbergh or imagine that the hero of the age could have anything to do with an exploit so sociopathic as the kidnapping of his own son.

396

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:23,000

One of the things that happens over time is that people thinking about the crime start to notice odd things about Lindbergh's behavior.

397

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:28,000

Theories start to emerge that perhaps Lindbergh is involved in some way.

398

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Lindbergh had tremendous influence over the investigators that were involved in this case.

399

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:44,000

In fact according to one story when the police arrived at his home Lindbergh is standing outside

with a rifle and he tells them if anyone disobeys me they're going to get shot.

400

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:53,000

And the only statement that Lindbergh actually gives is a one page account where he can't really attest to his own whereabouts the day before the event.

401

00:24:53,000 --> 00:25:00,000

Lindbergh has very strong connections to the New Jersey State police and it's documented that he wanted them to be in charge.

402

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:04,000

Some say that Lindbergh wants control of the investigation.

403

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:13,000

Here's another curious detail. When the police want to copy down all the serial numbers on those gold certificates Lindbergh strongly objects.

404

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Why would Lindbergh want to limit the scope of the search for his son's killer?

405

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:30,000

People have suggested that it was actually Lindbergh himself who was responsible for the murder of his own son in a prank gone wrong and the kidnapping was just a ruse after the fact.

406

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:40,000

Charles Lindbergh is a practical joker. He likes to pull pranks on people but it's not funny stuff. It's dangerous stuff.

407

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:46,000

There is a time where he actually put kerosene in an acquaintance's drink and let him drink it and he thought that was pretty funny.

408

00:25:47,000 --> 00:26:04,000

Lindbergh kidnapped his baby once before. Just a week earlier Lindbergh hid the baby in a closet and he allowed Betty and Anne to both get hysterical believing that the baby had been kidnapped and Lindbergh thought that was funny.

409

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:09,000

Anne Lindbergh wrote a letter to her mother-in-law the next day explaining what had happened.

410

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:17,000

She said that when she saw the empty crib her first thought was the child had taken the baby again as a joke.

411

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:23,000

Theorists suggest that this time the prank takes an even darker turn.

412

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:28,000

So the night of the kidnapping according to the weather report it was cold and windy.

413

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:40,000

What if Lindbergh actually was pranking his family again and what if during the course of that practical joke he actually fell down that ladder or worse dropped the baby.

414

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:47,000

This will be borne out by the autopsy results. The baby died from a skull fracture.

415

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:56,000

And Lindbergh immediately ordered that the child remains be cremated. There were never any toxicological tests done. There was no further examination.

416

00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:02,000

He concocted a cover-up of a kidnap story in order to save his own reputation.

417

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,000

But some think it wasn't an accident.

418

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:12,000

Some people have suggested that Lindbergh took his own child's life on purpose.

419

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:25,000

As police search for baby Lindbergh's murderer in the summer of 1932 a radical theory suggests Charles Lindbergh is the culprit.

420

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:36,000

In the 1930s the pseudoscience of eugenics has taken hold and Lindbergh is an avid believer.

421

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:47,000

In eugenics scientists what they do is they will deem certain genetic traits superior and any sort of deformities that show up in somebody are considered a weakness.

422

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:54,000

It's a concept that the Nazi party would actually use to justify in their genocide against the Jewish people.

423

00:27:55,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Lindbergh was definitely drawn to aspects of Nazism. He gave speeches, he published papers, he espoused all of these racist ideas in front of Congress.

424

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:10,000

Could these controversial political beliefs have led to the death of baby Lindbergh?

425

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:21,000

Charles Junior was born with some mild deformities. Things like Ricketts, his legs bowed. He didn't have a whole lot of strength in his lower body.

426

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:25,000

He seemed to be a little slow on development in that area.

427

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:34,000

It didn't seem as though Charles Junior fit the mold of what Charles Lindbergh was saying was the perfect person.

428

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:45,000

So people do ask if Charles Lindbergh was worried that he had an inferior baby, would he be capable of carrying out the horrible act of murdering him?

429

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:52,000

The idea of Charles Lindbergh doing something so heinous was absolutely inconceivable.

430

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:59,000

Nobody could assign something so evil to such a celebrated man.

431

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:07,000

And that includes investigators. They stopped looking into the Lindbergh family and the case goes cold.

432

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:18,000

In the two years after the Lindbergh baby's death, police questioned nearly a thousand persons of interest with no luck.

433

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:25,000

Then, in the summer of 1934, detectives finally catch the brick they've been looking for.

434

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:30,000

It's all due to a seed they planted at the very beginning.

435

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:41,000

They put together that \$50,000 in ransom money with gold certificates and they wrote down the

serial numbers so they would be easy to locate.

436

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:49,000

So the more that those are spent, the better the odds that somebody's going to notice.

437

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:53,000

Months later, they start to surface in New York City.

438

00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:03,000

It takes a while to really figure out exactly where all the bills are being spent, but when they do, they realize that it's along a specific path.

439

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:10,000

They're being spent along the Lexington Avenue subway. This subway connects the Bronx to the east side of Manhattan.

440

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:22,000

One turns up at the East River Savings Bank, another at the Lowe's Sheridan Square Theater, another comes from the grocery store in the Yorkville neighborhood, and another at the exquisite shoe store.

441

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:31,000

Ultimately, \$5,100 worth of ransom bills are recovered, but it's one in particular that cracks the case wide open.

442

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:43,000

September 18th, 1934, one of those gold notes pops up at a bank in Manhattan, but this gold certificate has something different.

443

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:52,000

It has a number written in the margin. For you, 1341NY. It's a license plate number.

444

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:56,000

The bill is traced to a local gas station.

445

00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Station attendant Walter Lyle said that that gold certificate caught his attention and it felt suspicious to him.

446

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:09,000

He thought that that customer might have been a counterfeiter, so to help him remember, he wrote down the license plate right there on the spot on that bill.

447

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

Police run the plate and get a name.

448

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:22,000

For two years, police only had a sketch of their prime suspect in the Lindberg kidnapping.

449

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Now, they finally have a name.

450

00:31:28,000 --> 00:31:37,000

The police tracked down the car, which belongs to one Bruno Richard Hauptmann. The police now believe they know the true identity of Cemetery John.

451

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:51,000

Hauptmann is a German-born immigrant illegally living in the United States, and he was actually charged with multiple burglaries in Germany, but he escaped by stowing away on an ocean liner.

452

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:58,000

He currently lives on East 222nd Street in the Bronx with his wife Anna and their young child, and he works odd jobs as a carpenter.

453

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:06,000

As soon as investigators connect the bill to Hauptmann, they immediately put him under constant surveillance, hoping that he'll slip up and incriminate himself.

454

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:09,000

At some point, Hauptmann realizes that he's being watched.

455

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:17,000

Now, maybe he knows he's guilty, or maybe he's worried about his status in the United States. Either way, he decides to jump in his car and make a break for it.

456

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:30,000

And it's a straight-ahead gangster film chase, driving through the streets, police cars after him, running through traffic. It's something right out of the movie.

457

00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:33,000

He's finally pinned in on Park Avenue in the Bronx.

458

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:38,000

Hauptmann is arrested, and authorities begin a search of his car and his house.

459

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:46,000

They're searching through all his belongings, not finding much of interest, until they look inside this old garage at the edge of the property.

460

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:52,000

There, in a stack of old gas cans, police finally find their smoking gun.

461

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:58,000

They open some jars and what do they find? \$14,600 in gold certificates.

462

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:07,000

And once they find the cans of ransom money in Hauptmann's garage, it's a race to the finish to build a case against him, and the evidence is pretty damning.

463

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:17,000

Detectives check the serial numbers on every bill found at Hauptmann's place, and indeed, these are the certificates that were given as part of the ransom.

464

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:21,000

In Hauptmann's attic, there is more evidence.

465

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Remember, the night Charles Jr. goes missing, they find those broken pieces of wood underneath the nursery window that come from a ladder.

466

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:31,000

Well, in Hauptmann's attic, they find a ladder.

467

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:37,000

Not just any ladder, a handmade telescopic ladder designed to collapse in on itself.

468

00:33:38,000 --> 00:33:44,000

This allows one person to carry it easily, while being long enough to reach the height of Lindberg's second-story window.

469

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:49,000

Was it the ladder used to kidnap the Lindberg baby?

470

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Hauptmann is a carpenter, and so he has his own tools. He has the ability to build a ladder.

471

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:03,000

And during the attic search, investigators find a section of floorboards that have been cut.

472

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:11,000

A team of experts study the wood from the floorboards and forensically compare it to the wood from the ladder.

473

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:21,000

And this gets them thinking. The wood grain in one rail of the ladder, dubbed rail 16, seems to match up perfectly with that cut section from Hauptmann's attic floor.

474

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:25,000

And the nail holes also match the nails used to construct the attic.

475

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:31,000

So experts are convinced that the ladder is made from slats in the floor of Hauptmann's attic.

476

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:34,000

But police need more for a conviction.

477

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:42,000

Of course, owning a ladder isn't a crime, but then investigators find one more clue.

478

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:49,000

They found a phone number written on the wall in the closet in the kitchen. Whose phone number was it?

479

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:55,000

Dr. John Condon, the same man who was the intermediary for the ransom hand-off.

480

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:04,000

Finally, investigators commission handwriting analysis between Hauptmann's handwriting and the writing that appeared on the ransom notes, and they find multiple similarities.

481

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:13,000

Both sets of writing contained backward ends, curls on the Ys. Additionally, he spelled some of the same words wrong.

482

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:21,000

On September 24th, Hauptmann is indicted for extorting the \$50,000 ransom from Charles Lindberg.

483

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:28,000

Shortly after, on October 8th, he's also indicted for the murder of Charles Lindberg Jr.

484

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Hauptmann is represented by Eddard J. Riley, an attorney actually hired by the New York Daily Mirror for exclusive rights to Hauptmann's story.

485

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:52,000

The trial brought hundreds of reporters into town. People couldn't find hotel rooms for miles. It was huge.

486

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:58,000

He quit his job the day he collected the \$50,000. The very day!

487

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:08,000

After a conviction and two failed appeals, Hauptmann is executed by the electric chair on April 3rd, 1936.

488

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:16,000

And that's it, everyone. Mystery solved. We now know the truth of what happened. Or do we?

489

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:29,000

Even after the conviction of Richard Hauptmann for the murder of Baby Lindberg, not everyone's convinced he's solely responsible.

490

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:38,000

Obviously, the police want to close this case as neatly and as efficiently as possible. And looking at the evidence they have, Hauptmann appears extremely guilty.

491

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:41,000

It seems very likely that he was involved in these crimes.

492

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:46,000

But even the highest authorities wonder, did he act alone?

493

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:56,000

While Hauptmann is awaiting execution, the governor of New Jersey himself, Harold Hoffman, visits him in his cell.

494

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

He also brings along a translator who speaks fluent German.

495

00:37:00,000 --> 00:37:06,000

While there were no notes released from this talk, it seems like it was a pretty influential talk.

496

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:13,000

After talking with Hauptmann, the governor implores court officials and the police to keep on investigating.

497

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:16,000

He ended up granting him a reprieve.

498

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:21,000

Governor Hoffman felt that there was more to the story than what the state had put forward at the trial.

499

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:26,000

And he wanted to make sure that everyone who was involved was identified and brought to justice.

500

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:31,000

As we know, of course, that request from the governor isn't followed upon.

501

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,000

And Hauptmann takes the fall as the one and only perpetrator of that crime.

502

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:41,000

Hoffman doesn't give any more reprieves and the execution takes place four years after the kidnapping.

503

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:49,000

For the next six decades, Hauptmann's guilt is generally accepted, along with the idea that he acted alone.

504

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:55,000

Then in 2003, a state police archivist makes a startling discovery.

505

00:37:56,000 --> 00:38:00,000

Sitting right there in the archive is a board with a signed confession written on it.

506

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:08,000

It's written in German, but it translates to, I was one of the kidnapers of Lindbergh's baby, not Bruno Richard Hoffman.

507

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:13,000

It goes on to state that some of the ransom money was buried in a town of Summit.

508

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:23,000

What's more intriguing still is that there's a series of screw holes, like a table leg or a brace, was removed with a large circle around it.

509

00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:32,000

And when a comparison is made to the ransom note, these holes line up perfectly with the holes that were found in those ransom notes.

510

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

The board was apparently reported to the state police in 1948.

511

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

A man found it attached to the bottom of the table he had recently purchased.

512

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:47,000

Authorities did not take this seriously because there had been dozens of confessions.

513

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:54,000

Dozens of people had said that they were involved, some cases that they were actually the baby.

514

00:38:55,000 --> 00:39:00,000

Handwriting comparisons are made between Hoffman's writing and the writing on the wood, and they

don't match.

515

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:03,000

If Hauptmann didn't write it, who did?

516

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:09,000

In 2012, author Robert Zorn offers a potential lead on who might have written this note.

517

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:18,000

In his book Cemetery John, he reports that his father Eugene may have witnessed Hauptmann conspiring with two other men in 1932.

518

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Growing up in the South Bronx, Eugene lived next to a John Knoll.

519

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:34,000

And one day at an amusement park, Eugene claims to have seen John Knoll along with his younger brother Walter and Hauptmann in the amusement park speaking in hushed tones in German, plotting something.

520

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:42,000

He recognized the words Bruno, which was Hauptmann's first name, and the word Englewood, which was the suburb where Lindbergh's family lived in New Jersey.

521

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Zorn puts a few more details together for this story as well.

522

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:55,000

John Knoll was a stamp collector, and the Lindbergh ransom notes used a variety of odd stamps.

523

00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:03,000

And the Knolls residence on the South Bronx was along the same Lexington Avenue subway route of which the gold certificates were spent.

524

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:08,000

If you look at the sketch, Knoll and Cemetery John show a striking resemblance.

525

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:12,000

Could John Knoll be the real Cemetery John?

526

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:20,000

While this information is revealing and interesting, at this point it's impossible to prove that

John Knoll was Cemetery John.

527

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:29,000

It's possible they sent the Roman to the electric chair, or there were at least two or more accomplices that never guided any attention.

528

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:36,000

For a mystery that's supposedly already solved, there are still a lot of questions that people have that linger about this case.

529

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:44,000

How could this have succeeded without someone having inside knowledge? What about the inconsistencies at the crime scene?

530

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:50,000

Why was Dr. Condon so heavily involved? Did he have something to do with this?

531

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:54,000

What about the death of Violet Sharp? What about John and Walter Knoll?

532

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:58,000

And of course the biggest question of all, could Lindbergh have possibly orchestrated the whole thing?

533

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:05,000

For now, we're left with the official story. At least, until a new clue appears.

534

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:15,000

As of today, less than 20,000 of the original \$50,000 ransom paid to Cemetery John has been recovered.

535

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:21,000

If the rest ever turns up, will it tie back to Hauptmann, or will it point to a new suspect?

536

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:28,000

I'm Lawrence Fishburne. Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.