

# LINDBERGH FAMILY SAILS FOR ENGLAND TO SEEK A SAFE, SECLUDED RESIDENCE; THREATS ON SON'S LIFE FORCE DECISION

## SOLE PASSENGERS ON A SHIP NOW AT SEA

Hope for Tranquillity to Allow Normal  
Life for Son and to Permit Parents  
to Work in Peace.

## COLONEL WON'T SEVER HIS CONNECTIONS HERE

And Will Keep Citizenship, but Recently Renewed  
Flood of Violent Letters Compelled Him and  
Wife to Establish New Home.

By LAUREN D. LYMAN.

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Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh has given up residence in the United States and is on his way to establish his home in England. With him are his wife and 3-year-old son, Jon.

Threats of kidnapping and even of death to the little lad, recurring repeatedly since his birth, caused the father and mother to make the decision. These threats have increased both in number and virulence recently.

Although they do not plan to give up their American citizenship they are prepared to live abroad permanently, if that should be necessary. Where they will live in England when they get there not even their closest friends know, and it is probable that neither the Colonel nor his wife knows. They have many friends there and expect to visit at first until they can find a place that suits them.

### Chose England for Regard for Law.

They chose England as the place of refuge for a number of reasons, the most important being their belief that the English have greater regard for law and order in their own land than the people of any other nation in the world.

The Colonel has twice visited England, the first time just after his historic flight to Paris in 1927, and the second time in 1933 when with Mrs. Lindbergh he flew to England from the United States by way of Greenland and Iceland. The consideration with which they were treated by every one then, even during the excitement that immediately followed their arrival, impressed them, and they hope that there they can find the tranquillity and security which have been denied them in their own land.

They want especially to provide for Jon a normal childhood, free from fears and with opportunities to grow and develop naturally. So far that has been denied him here.

They wish also to do some things themselves. Mrs. Lindbergh has her own studies and writing, which she enjoys. The Colonel would like time to do research and reading himself.

### Won't Sever Connections Here Completely.

So far as could be learned yesterday Colonel Lindbergh does not expect to sever connections completely with either Pan American Airways or Transcontinental and Western Air. He is a technical adviser to both companies.

A year ago at his own request his salary from Transcontinental and Western Air was stopped. With the development of new planes for them he felt that there was no pressing need for his active service. Now with the clipper ships of Pan American spanning the Pacific on regular schedule and with the same great flying boats built under his eye ready to start test work on the Atlantic it is understood that he feels free to terminate his active work with this company also.

While it was only with the greatest reluctance that Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh reached the decision to leave their home, their friends and their manifold interests here, once they had made it they acted quickly.

A week ago the Colonel obtained his passports secretly in Washington. With the cooperation of government officials as well as the representatives of Great Britain at the port from which they sailed their plans were kept secret until after their departure. The name of the steamship on which they sailed and its sailing day, together with the fact that the Lindbergh family had booked passage was kept a secret through the cooperation of the steamship company. Even the police of the port were not informed.

### Slipped Quietly From Englewood.

When the time came for them to go they slipped quietly away from Englewood, journeyed to their port of departure and, unaccompanied by servants, went aboard. There were no goodbyes save to the immediate family. They will spend Christmas at sea and may even see the passing of the old year at sea.

The three Lindberghs are the only passengers on the ship. This arrangement was made possible, it was understood, because at this season of the year the passenger traffic on the North Atlantic is not particularly heavy.

While it may be a lonely Christmas and New Year for them, it will be free from fear such as the family has never been without since Jon was born in August, 1932.

Even before that there were threats. It was recalled last night that shortly after his famous solo flight to Paris Colonel Lindbergh was threatened. The threats came for the most part from cranks, sometimes from persons definitely insane, but now and then from men who were clearly after money and nothing else.

### Forced by Threats to Carry Pistol.

At the insistence of friends, who thought that the famous flier should have a bodyguard—which he refused to have—the Colonel started carrying a pistol. Then as the furor over his great achievement faded somewhat the threats became less until they almost ceased.

Two years after his flight came the announcement of his engagement to Anne Spencer Morrow, the daughter of Dwight W. Morrow, then American Ambassador to Mexico. They were married on May 27, 1929, and along with congratulations from all over the world there came a resurgence of the threateners, some insane, some merely cranks and some which the postoffice authorities regarded as potentially dangerous.

Here and there arrests were made but they were accomplished unobtrusively for the most part and when, as was often the case, the writers were found to have mental twists they were turned over to institutions for treatment. These conditions were not new either to the police of the larger cities and the States, or the government agents.

In greater or lesser volume these letters are sent to all prominent people and knowing this the Lindberghs did not regard them as par-

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# **Lindbergh Family Sails To Set Up Home in England**

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ticularly important even when they poured in by the hundreds. For the most part they were stopped by the postoffices and sent to Colonel Lindbergh's office in New York where they were sorted and turned over to the proper authorities for investigation.

## **Sought Isolation for His Home.**

This was the condition of affairs in the Winter of 1932. Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. was approaching his second birthday. His father, flying back and forth across the country, had picked himself a forested region near Hopewell, N. J., for a home and encircling it on his flying map with his pencil had said to his friend and lawyer, Colonel Henry Breckinridge, "Please buy me that."

It was done. The land was assembled from two counties. The home was built, and little by little the family was moving into it. Here the boy would grow up in his own woods and fields without the artificial existence usually forced on a child of famous parents in the more complicated existence of towns and cities. So they dreamed and planned.

Save for the fact that the home was built and save for mention from time to time of a flying trip the Lindberghs were obtaining the retirement from the public eye that they sought and with this came a further drop in threatening letters, almost a cessation.

## **Threats Came After Kidnapping.**

Then came the kidnapping, and all that has followed it. At once as the news was broadcast the letters climbed from tens to hundreds and then to thousands. Some were merely notes of condolence. Some were well meant proffers of aid. But hundreds were from persons obviously unbalanced, and among these came the threats.

As the weeks and months passed the tide of letters receded somewhat to rise again when in August, 1932, Jon was born.

They contained a new note, a sinister note, specific threats against the new baby. There were not many at first, but there were enough to cause concern, and among them were the letters from criminals, bent on extortion. Many of these latter have been run down and at least a dozen arrests have been made.

Once more the tide dropped until the arrest of Hauptmann. It did not rise then to any formidable extent, but since his conviction and as the date of execution approached the threats began to grow in number; not many as compared to the days just after the kidnapping, but enough to cause real concern.

It had been suggested after the kidnapping that the Lindberghs might leave the country, but from sources close to the family it was learned that they had entertained no such suggestion in their own minds. They planned to stay right in this country where the Colonel found the work he enjoyed the most—the technical side of air transport.

## **Aftermath of Hauptmann Trial.**

It had been noted that the letters from the unbalanced as well as the criminal type jumped in number with the publication of sensational stories, and so it was expected by the authorities that this would be the case when Bruno Richard Hauptmann went to trial.

The Lindberghs were pleasantly surprised when the number failed to increase as they had anticipated. There were some but not enough to cause great concern. Then the conviction of Hauptmann and his sentence to death and the publication of sensational stories brought an increase with more and more definite threats against Jon.

The looked-for recession in the wave of threats finally came although the letters did not stop and the fear they provoked was always present.

Through all this time the State, Federal and local authorities gave the family every possible protection, acted with promptness when any especially sinister document appeared and watched over the Lindbergh family with unceasing vigilance.

## **Tension Followed Child to School.**

Jon was entered in a nursery school and was driven there daily. But the tension that surrounded the child was bound to go with him to school and to create a fear there. It was as though the Lindbergh family were living alone on a frontier, their home surrounded by savages. In a sense it was worse, for the frontiersman could recognize the savages, but this borderland family had no such protection.

Still they saw nothing to do but to go on. They were flying in a fog, with hidden dangers all about them, but they had to keep on flying.

Then two things happened.

When the Supreme Court refused to entertain the Hauptmann appeal and it seemed that the Bronx carpenter, sentenced to die for the murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., was a step nearer the carrying out of the sentence imposed, the case according to many observers was suddenly made a matter of political importance.

Doubts credited to Governor Harold G. Hoffman were cast on the verdict. The Governor promptly denied he had voiced such doubts, but at the same time stated what he termed the "doubts of others" in extended interviews.

## **Tide of Threats Rises Again.**

At once threats against the Lindbergh family began to show up, threats from the unbalanced and also from the merely criminal.

The rising tide came at the same time as an unfortunate and disturbing incident.

Not long ago, as Jon was being taken by automobile from his school to his home, a large car containing several men came close alongside and crowded the car containing the lad to the curb, forcing it to stop.

Men jumped down. A teacher accompanying the little lad clutched him tightly. Suddenly cameras were thrust into the child's face and clicked. Then the visitors jumped into their machine and sped away, leaving a badly frightened teacher and little boy.

Since then Jon has not been to school.

Since then the Hauptmann case, with the execution date less than a month away, has received more than a little attention, especially when it became known that the Governor had been a secret visitor to the condemned man's deathhouse cell.

The letters are coming once more, the demands for money, the threats of kidnapping and murder, and so the man who eight years ago was hailed as an international hero and a good-will ambassador between the peoples of the world is taking his wife and son to establish, if he can, a secure haven for them in a foreign land.