

TROOPER
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Cpl. Joseph A. Wolf # 571
"B"

STATION
DATE

Lambertville N.J.
March 1st, 1932.

MAJOR INITIAL REPORT:

CRIME : Kidnapping.
VICTIM : Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., white, age 20 months and 10 days,
29 inches tall, 27-30 lbs., light complected, dark blue eyes and
blonde curly hair.
ACCUSED : None at this time.
SUSPECTS : None at this time.
PLACE : Lindbergh home located on the Hopewell-Weartsville road, East-
Annell Township, Hunterdon County N.J.
DATE : March 1st, 1932 approximately between 8.00PM and 10.00PM.
DISPOSITION: Under investigation.

A: DESCRIPTION OF CRIME.

The Kidnappers consisted apparently of a party of at least two or more persons. They are believed to have driven to the vicinity of the Lindbergh home in a car and parked the car as close as possible without being detected. Apparently two members of the party proceeded on foot to the east side of the Lindbergh residence and assembled a three piece home made extension ladder which they brought along. The was then placed in position against the east side of the house so that one of the kidnapping party was able to enter a window of the victims nursery which is located on the second floor in the southeast corner. Apparently one person climbed the ladder, removed Charles Lindbergh Jr. from his crib and left with the victim in the same manner. The ladder was then taken apart and thrown some distance southeast of the house, the kidnappers proceeded to the waiting car and left with their victim for some place of hiding.

B: SURROUNDING PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

The Lindbergh home is located at the end of a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile cinder drive-way leading west off the Hopewell-Weartsville road. This is the only entrance available to vehicles. On the east of the house is an open field extending to the Weartsville road, same is dotted with small clumps of trees and brush which are quite heavy near the house. On the south the same condition exists as on the east. On the north and west there is a cleared space for about 75 feet from which pint heavy woods extend for several miles. The garage is attached to the house and the only outbuilding is a small stone purphouse located about 30 feet west. The front of the Lindbergh residence faces south. For a distance of about 90 feet on the east and south the grounds have been levelled off with fresh dirt which was wet at time of crime and showed footprints etc.

1: DESCRIPTION OF SCENE.

The room from which the baby was taken is 14'x 12'. In the center of the north wall is a door leading into the hallway, to the right of door is a bureau on top of which were toilet articles, hanging on the wall over this bureau are three shelves loaded with small toys. To the left of door stands a small wooden table bearing a white metal tray containing antiseptics, powder etc. Approximately in the center of the south wall there is one "French" window which opens in from the center, directly under this there is a built-in chest extending out into the room, on top of which was a small toy dog and a number of childrens picture books. On the floor to the left of chest was a toy "Ark". At the south end of the west wall a door leads into the bath room while at the opposite end is a door opening into a clothes closet. Against the wall between the two doors stands the baby's four poster wooden crib (head of crib facing south). There was a sun lam standing at head of bed toward center of room and circling both was movable screen. Between the foot of crib and closet door stood a cream colored portable baby's toilet chair.

SHEET # 2.

In the center of the east wall there is an open fireplace in front of which there is a safety screen, there were three toy birds standing on the shelf above the fireplace. Standing on the floor to the right of the fireplace was a three wheel Kidlear while on the left was a small chair and an electric heater (reflector type). There was a window on either side of the fireplace (both were regular sliding windows). The catch also shutter on left window were securely fastened. The window on the right of fireplace was closed but not locked and looking out the right hand shutter was open and the left half closed, beneath this window there was a small wooden chest on top of which rested a black leather suit-case and lying on the top side of the suit-case was the top half of the roof belonging to the toy "Ark". The inside sill to this window is about a foot wide and on the left side of the sill there was an antique beer stein while in the center there was a message sealed in a plain envelope. This message having been left by the kidnapers. The floor of nursery was covered by a drab colored rug. On the suit-case and floor beneath this same window there was a mark left by muddy feet although they were small and indistinct. In the center of nursery stood a small wooden table and two childrens chairs.

The ground on the east side of the house was muddy and showed the imprints of the base of the ladder when placed against the wall also apparently two sets of fresh foot prints leading off in a southeast direction. The three sections of the ladder were lying about 75 feet from the house, parallel with the foot print. A carpenters wood chisel was also found nearby the ladder.

2: GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.

The Lindbergh home is located about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the Hopewell-Weartsville road, in the southeast corner of East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County N.J. This spot is about two miles directly north of Hopewell N.J.

3: SKETCH MAP OF LOCAL SURROUNDINGS. Attached.

4: SKETCH MAP OF INTERIOR FLOOR PLAN. Attached.

5: CONDITION OF WEATHER.

At time crime was committed it was very dark and the sky was overcast, a strong wind was blowing temperature was about 35-40 degrees above zero.

6: PROBABLE TIME OF COMMISSION.

Sometime between 8.00PM and 10.00PM, March 1st, 1932. The baby was seen by the Nurse, Miss. Gow when she put him to bed for the night shortly before 8 PM. and the next visit to the nursery by Miss. Gow was made approximately 10.00PM when it was discovered the baby was missing.

7: TIME CRIME WAS DISCOVERED AND BY WHOM.

The crime was discovered by Miss. Betty Gow at approximately 10.00PM March 1st, 1932. Miss. Gow is the child's nurse.

8: DESCRIPTION OF METHODS EMPLOYED BY CRIMINALS:

It is obvious that the kidnapers arrived in a car which was left parked some distance from the house either in the vicinity of the Lindberghs private lane or a rough road known as Featherbed Lane which runs parallel to the Lindbergh lane about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile south. They then proceeded on foot to their object and assembled a three section extension ladder which was placed against the east side of the house. Apparently one person climbed the ladder and entered the nursery on the second floor, took the child from its crib, leaving in the same manner and carrying the victim back to the waiting automobile escaped to an established hiding place. It is obvious that this crime has been carefully planned and the layout also routine of the Lindbergh home studied.

SHEET # 3.

- D: PROBABLE MOTIVE.
Avarice, to hold the child for payment of ransom.
- E: COMPLETE LIST OF SUSPECTS. None at this time.
- 1: COMPLETE LIST OF WITNESSES.
Col. Charles A. Lindbergh and Mrs. Anna Lindbergh, father and mother of the kidnapped child.
Mr. & Mrs. Olly Whitley, white, both are 47 years of age and are employed at the Lindbergh home as Butler and Cook.
Miss. Betty M. Gow, white, age 27 years. Is employed as Nursemaid at the Lindbergh home for the kidnapped child.
Spec. Officer Harry H. Wolf of West Broad St; Hopewell N.J. and Special Officer Charles E. Williamson of Center St; Hopewell N.J. Both men are Officers of the Boro of Hopewell, Mercer County N.J. and are employed by that Boro. Both went to the scene of crime together after Williamson received a call from the Lindbergh home reporting the baby was missing. These men have no jurisdiction as the residence is in Hunterdon County, they examined the nursery and made a general survey of the scene also questioned the Lindbergh household before my arrivall.
- 2: COMPLETE LIST OF EVIDENCE.
A home made wooden extension ladder, consisting of three sections each measuring eighty and one half inches in length. (80- $\frac{1}{2}$). The bottom section has four rungs and is 14 inches wide, the center section is 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide with five rungs and the top section was 11 inches wide with four rungs.
One carpenters wood chisel measuring 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, the blade being $\frac{5}{8}$ inch wide, the handle was of wood and the blade of cast steel.
One plain letter envelope containing a note left on the window sill in the nursery by the kidnapers. All the above evidence is in the hands of the investigating Authorities at Hopewell N.J.
- F: ACTION TAKEN.
At 10.30PM March 1st, 1932 while patrolling the River Road, I made a patrol stop at Guarnieri's roadstand and was advised to phone Lambertville Sta. Upon phoneing Lambertville Station I was advised by Tpr. Carmody that Lt. Dunn had received a phone call at the Training School from Col. C.A. Lindbergh reporting Chas. Lindbergh Jr. was kidnapped from his nursery between 7.30PM and 10.00PM this date. Detailed Tpr. Carmody to get in touch with Tprs. Cain and Sullivan who were also on patrol and have them report as soon as possible at the Lindbergh home. Was advised at this time that a teletype alarm had already been broadcast re. the kidnapping.
Left at once and proceeded to the Lindbergh residence located in the Sourland Mts. on the Weartsville-Hopewell Road, arriving there about 10.55PM. Found that Special Officers Wolf and Williamson of Hopewell N.J. were already there having arrived about 20 minutes previous. Interviewed Col. Charles A. Lindbergh who stated his son Charles Jr. age 20 months was taken from his crib by some unknown person and carried away from the house, this happened from sometime about 7.30PM at which time the nurse, Miss. Gow placed him in the crib for the night to about 10.00PM when she again visited the nursery on the second floor and found him gone. Mr. Lindbergh immediately visited the nursery and found the right hand window in the east wall of the nursery was unlocked and the right half of the outside shutter was open, upon the window sill on the inside he saw a plain letter envelope which had been left there by the person or persons who carried away his son. He did not disturb anything in the room and a further examination of the ground on the east side of the house revealed fresh footprints and sections of a ladder some distance of the house. Mr. Olly Whiteley the Lindbergh butler telephoned the home of Spec. Officer Williamson at Hopewell N.J. requesting he come to the house at once.

SHEET # 4.

ACTION TAKEN CONTINUED.

A short time later he phoned the State Police Training School at Wilburtha N.J. and reported the kidnapping, then Mr. Whiteley was sent to Hopewell in a car to secure flashlights. Whiteley returned when he met Officers Williamson and Wolf as they had brought lights with them.

I then asked Col. Lindbergh whether he had any suspicion as to who committed the crime or whether he could recall any incident such as strange noises or actions of his dog which was in the house that night. He stated he had no suspects or was he able to recall anything at the time by which he might be able to fix the time of the crime. I advised Mr. Lindbergh that the scene must be left untouched until the arrivall of members of the Identification Bureau, who would bring equipment necessary to take any finger prints left by the kidnappers, he also thought this was advisable. I then phoned Lambertville Station and detailed Tpr. Carmody to get in touch with Trenton Hdqs. and make sure Col. Schwarzkopf had been notified of the crime also learn if Morristown Hdqs. was notified.

Col. Lindbergh and myself visited the nursery where I noted the unlocked window and open shutter with the envelope lying on the inside window sill. The blankets on the crib were still pinned to the sheet at the top to prevent same from coming off the sleeping infant, this indicated that the person who took the child which I was advised was clad only in a "Dr. Denton Sleeping suit", by simply pulling him from between the covers without bothering to remove the pins. I noticed a small muddy mark on top of the suit-case lying under this window also on the hard wood floor directly underneath. We then left the room and returned downstairs where I questioned Col. Lindbergh as to who was in the house, he stated there was Mrs. Lindbergh and himself, Mr. & Mrs. Olly Whiteley employed as butler and cook and the nursemaid Miss. Betty Gow, no one else had been there and left that night.

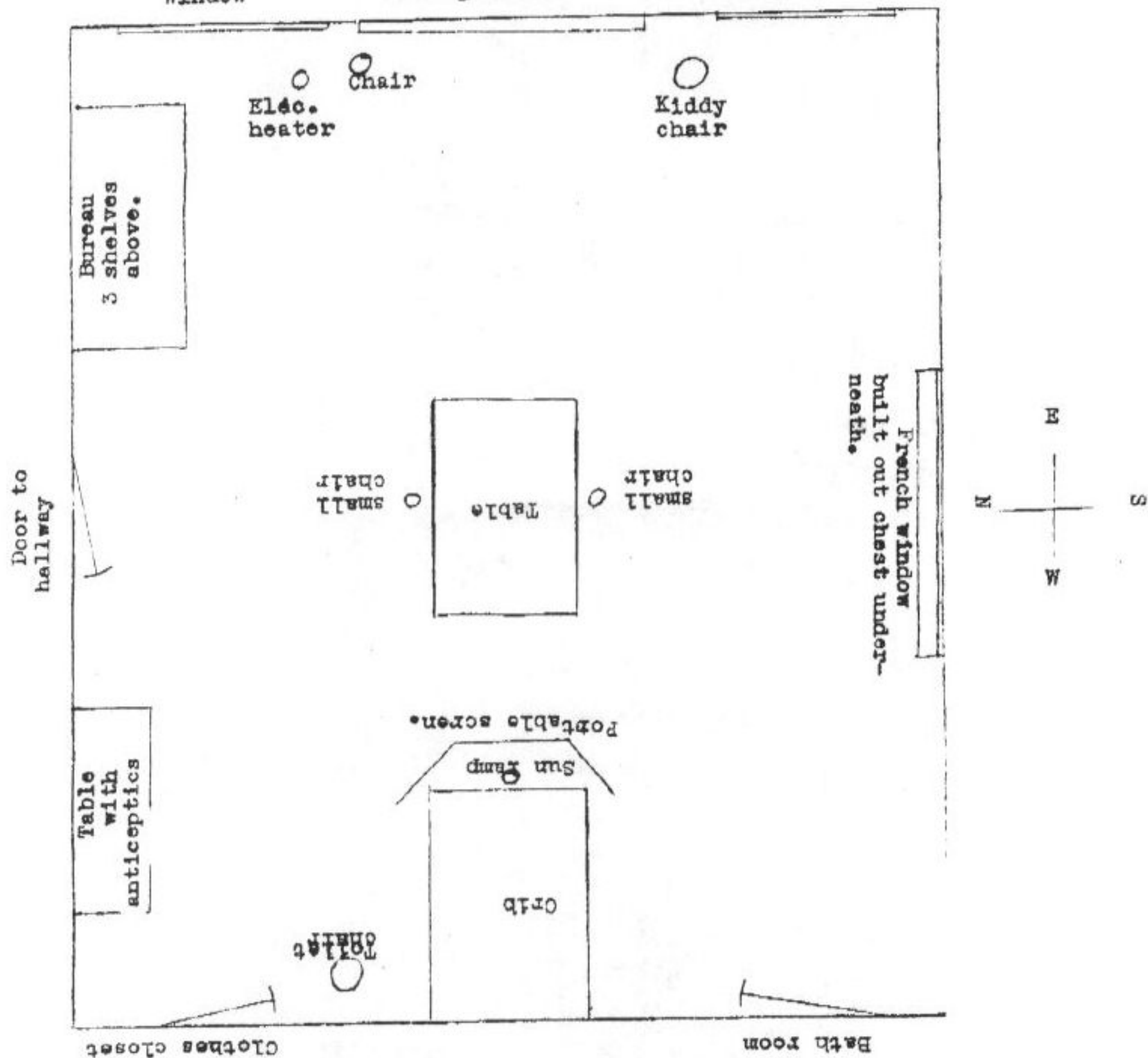
At approximately 11.25PM Troopers Cain and Sullivan of Lambertville Station and Tprs. Borman and Digatano arrived from the Training School. I detailed Tpr. Sullivan to return to the main gate to give directions to arriving Officers and Tpr. Cain was instructed to prevent any person to approach the immediate vicinity of the house to avoid any clues being destroyed. Trooper Borman started to question members of the household. Sometime about midnight Det. Leon and Tpr. Kelley arrived from Morristown Hdqs. I accompanied Tpr. Kelley to the nursery and advised him of the letter. About this time Major Schoeffel and Lt. Keaton arrived on the scene, taking command of the investigation. Both proceeded to the nursery where Tpr. Kelley had opened the letter with a nail file, was examining same for prints. The contents and signature of the note were revealed to my Superior Officers. I returned to the front of the residence where a number of Reporters had already arrived. I was later detailed by Lt. Keaton to accompany himself, Sgt. Haussling, Det. Horn and Col. Lindbergh in an attempt to secure information from nearby neighbors. No definite information was secured and we returned to the residence about 4.30AM. Shortly after daylight I was detailed by Cpt. Lamb with Tprs. Rutter, Jackson and Perry to make a search of the woods for several miles west of the Lindbergh home, returning from this detail about 1.30PM without success in finding any clue or securing any information from persons interviewed regarding suspicious cars or persons having been noticed in this section any time previous to the time crime was committed. Investigation continued by Investigators under Supervision Col. Schwarzkopf, see Secondary Reports to follow.

Col. J. A. Wolf #371

Window through which kidnapers supposed to come.

Window

Fire place.



Plan generally accurate according to facts given by Wolf. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1 foot. We can only estimate measurements of tables - bureaus etc. Points of compass given for location of articles in room only.