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LINDBERGH JOINS AM- ERICA FIRST



In 1932, shortly after the kidnaping, Anne Morrow Lindbergh had given birth to a second son, christened Jon. When Bruno Hauptmann was sentenced to die, the Lindberghs began receiving thousands of crank letters, threatening kidnaping and death to this second child. Finally, in desperation, the Lindberghs made a decision that shamed and shocked their countrymen. In utmost secrecy, they packed bag and baggage and left this country to take up residence in England. Most Americans understood and condoned the action. Lindbergh had paid the most dreadful penalty possible for being a public figure; any repetition of that tragedy must be avoided at all costs, even if it meant flight from home and country.

For three years the Lindberghs lived abroad. They traveled extensively in Europe during the pre-war years—the Scandinavian countries, Germany, France, Italy, Russia. And it was during this period that America heard disturbing things about Colonel Lindbergh. He was picking strange companions. In Italy he hobnobbed with all the Fascist bigwigs. In Germany he met Hitler, Goering and the rest of the Nazi hierarchy. They showed him everything and he aroused everyone's ire by pronouncing the German

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Air Force best in the world. He showed such a marked preference for the company of Fascists that—for the first time in his life—the American press began to censure him. When Hermann Goering hung the Service Cross of the Order of the German Eagle With Star around his neck (Nazi Germany's second highest decoration) there was a tremendous hue and cry in the democratic nations.

When the Second World War broke out and the Lindberghs returned to this country, a brand new Charles A. Lindbergh emerged from the



shadows of his semi-retirement. Lindy had always been admired for his ability to keep his mouth shut. Now he showed a remarkable faculty for opening it—and making strange sounds. He came out for absolute isolationism and non-intervention. That was his prerogative—voicing his opinions as a free citizen in a free republic. But as Lindbergh got deeper into the isolationist movement his words began to sound dangerously like the words of Adolf Hitler: “Racial strength is vital—politics a luxury.” “It would not be best to see Germany defeated.” “Before this war is over England herself may turn against us.” And finally in a famous speech in Des Moines he went the whole hog. Now the whole lunatic fringe of bigots and bundists rallied round this new Lindbergh. And wherever he spoke, his shy wife stood by his side. Many people felt she had already come out for dictatorship over democracy, in her book called “The Wave of the Future.”