

### MEDALIST FOR 1953

*For pioneering achievements in flight and air navigation.*



### CHARLES AUGUSTUS LINDBERGH

Seldom has any man caught and held such long-time world-wide attention and respect as Charles Augustus Lindbergh, whose solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic on May 20-21, 1927, electrified all the peoples of the globe.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, on February 4, 1902, he entered the University of Wisconsin in 1920. He left college in 1922 and enrolled in a flying school at Lincoln, Nebraska. He received instruction first from Ira Biffle; later from E. G. Bahl and Harold Lynch. He accompanied the latter two pilots on barnstorming trips, as mechanic, wing-walker, and parachute-jumper.

During a night air-mail flight in the fall of 1926, after reading of Raymond Orteig's offer of a \$25,000 prize, he first considered a non-stop flight from New York to Paris. After many difficulties, he obtained financial backing and purchased a Ryan monoplane with a single engine, at San Diego, California. He took off from San Diego on May 10, 1927, and after a stopover at St. Louis, reached Curtiss Field, Long Island, on May 12, establishing new records.

On May 20, 1927, he left Roosevelt Field, Long Island, on the 3,600-mile flight which ended at LeBourget airport, Paris, the following day. This pioneering achievement brought world-wide praise and spectacular receptions in Paris, Brussels, London, Washington, New York, and St. Louis. Subsequently he made an air tour of the United States under the auspices of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics.

As technical advisor to Transcontinental Air Transport and Pan American Airways, he then surveyed new domestic and Latin-American air routes. He explored the great-circle Arctic route to Asia and the Greenland-Iceland route to Europe. Mrs. Lindbergh, the former Anne Spencer Morrow, whom he married on May 27, 1929, accompanied her husband on many of these flights.

In December 1935, following the kidnapping and death of their oldest son, the Lindberghs went to live in England, and later moved to France. Invited to Germany to view the development

## Daniel Guggenheim Medal

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of the German air force, the flier gave the American Government valuable information on the strength and condition of the Luftwaffe.

Returning to the United States in the spring of 1939, he went on active duty with the Air Corps, in which he held the rank of Colonel. In 1944 he went to the Pacific theater of operations as a civilian technician. Following the capitulation of Germany he spent two months with a United States Navy mission to study German developments in jet aircraft, rocket and guided missile warfare.

After the war he served as a consultant for the Air Force, visiting various bases in America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. He died August 26, 1974, in Hawaii.