



This is one of the last pictures of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan. Note that map is of course on which they were lost.

IS AMELIA EARHART

THE judge's voice had the tone of unwilling finality:

"With all the evidence before me," he said, "I can reach no other decision. Amelia Earhart Putnam died on or about July 2, 1937. . . ."

And so, in the court of Superior Judge Elliot Craig at Los Angeles on January 5, 1939, ended another tragic chapter in the dark glories of aviation.

Ended? Indeed not! For the very next morning the postman arrived at the home of George Palmer Putnam in North Hollywood with his usual batch of strange letters from psychics and others who said: "She is *not* dead" . . . "I spoke to her last night" . . . "I saw Amelia in a dream." There were more

telegrams for a file already choked with some 500 wires. There were phone calls, local and long distance, from persons who challenged: "No court can govern nature. She is still alive."

What is the answer to this mass controversy? Is Amelia Earhart alive? Did she find a refuge on some remote, uninhabited island? These are the questions that emerge from deeply moving appeals—more than 3,000 of them—to Mr. Putnam since America's premier aviatrix vanished with her navigator, Captain Fred Noonan, in the sunlight of a South Seas morning months ago.

Hundreds of writers, asking neither publicity nor reward, insist they have seen Amelia Earhart in their dreams.

Many others claim they have talked to her in an astral world. One man in New Mexico insists Amelia told him she was murdered, not drowned. And Mr. Putnam himself, on several occasions, has conversed with weird spirit voices, at least one of which was supposed to be that of his lost wife. All the letter writers ask the question: "Mr. Putnam do *you* believe she is alive?"

Now at last, 20 long months after the disastrous flight, her husband has given the answer he feels deep in heart and mind—an answer echoed by a court of law: "NO."

In that agonizing interval George Putnam has had some of the most extraordinary experiences ever allotted to one