

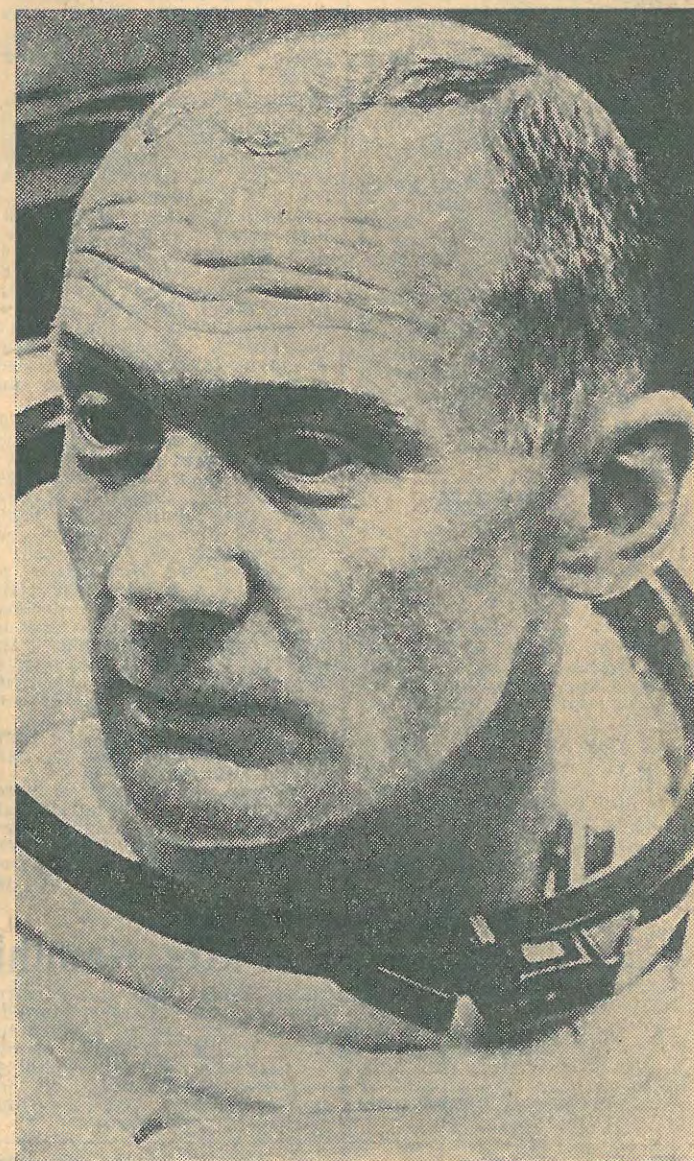


2am: 'We'll walk now'

MAN IS ON THE MOON



NEIL ARMSTRONG



EDWIN ALDRIN

DATELINE:

Sea of

POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER



"I rather think they've arrived."

LATEST

TV-Radio programmes
Page 9

BOY HURT ON PEAK
Boy of 13 who was injured on Snowden flown to hospital at Bangor by R.A.F. rescue helicopter.

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TWO hours after landing on the moon last night Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin decided that they would step on to the lunar surface at 2 o'clock this morning.

Mission Control in Houston, Texas, signalled: "O.K.—we are ready to support you on that."

The moon walk was brought forward by 5 hours 12 minutes mainly because Armstrong and Aldrin were in tremendous form.

But there was also some concern about possible trouble from pressure in the fuel pipes of the descent engine.

The spacecraft had touched down on the moon at exactly 9.18 last night. Armstrong called the earth: "The Eagle has landed." First reports to Mission Control in Houston said it was a perfect landing.

Armstrong, the mission commander, said:

ROBIN ESSER, ROSS MARK
AND RICHARD KILIAN
REPORTING FROM
HOUSTON, TEXAS

"We are in a crater the size of a football pitch. It looks beautiful from here... the Sea of Tranquillity base."

Then Aldrin came through with a report of what they saw on the moon as they looked from the spacecraft's windows: "It looks like a collection of every variety of shape, angularity, granularity... a collection of just about every kind of rock."

"Colour depends on what angle you're looking at... rocks and boulders seem as though they're going to have some interesting colours."

Armstrong said he could see a hill about a mile ahead... "and literally thousands of little craters."

But there were also craters varying in estimated width from five to 70ft. across, ridges, and angular blocks of rock probably 2ft. across... "and very large boulders."

Armstrong came through again: "The colour of the surface is grey, very white, and then chalky grey as I look further out. It's considerably darker grey as I look towards the sun."

Some rocks, apparently broken open by the blast from the descent engine showed a darker grey inside. Armstrong said they could be basalt,

a rock which in earthly form has been transformed by volcanic activity.

Ground control told the astronauts they had landed a little north or south of their planned landing site, in the Sea of Tranquillity, but that they were within the east and west limits. They were four miles from the planned landing point.

Armstrong told Houston that in the tense last minutes the job of landing Eagle in the rough surroundings had kept them so busy... Aldrin cut in: "We did not know exactly where we were."

Armstrong again: "I HAD to take over manual control to fly it over the rock area." Mission Control in Houston reported: "It looked beautiful to us."

Officials at Houston gave the time taken on the flight from earth to the moon as 102 hours, 45 minutes and 42 seconds. With the landing confirmed, a controller said: "We're breathing again. But we've got a bunch of guys here at Houston about to turn blue."

Ground Control said the landing took place 81 seconds earlier than scheduled. They told the two men that all systems of their craft "look pretty good" after the touch-down.

But there were two problems. Some fuel had been trapped in the pipe line feeding the descent rocket engine. Ground Control "did not think it critical." And their clock had jammed. It was repaired later.

Within limit

Reports on the way in which Eagle had landed said it was resting at an angle of 4½ degs. That is well within the limit set for a safe take-off to rejoin Michael Collins in the command module after Armstrong and Aldrin complete their moon walk today.

All the way down the last few miles the signals flashing to earth from Eagle indicated smooth progress.

Aldrin, who piloted Eagle most of the way, called Houston and said: "Looks real good." And the flight directors replied: "Yes, everything is looking good to us."

With seven minutes to go to landing Mission Control called Armstrong and told him: "Continue your powered descent." Eagle signalled back: "We have the moon right outside our window."

Armstrong reported that they experienced no trouble in descending from a weightless condition in space to the one-sixth gravity of the moon—where they will weigh only one-sixth of what they do on earth.

Michael Collins orbiting 60 miles up in the command craft asked Houston to tell Eagle to switch to a transmitting antenna that would enable him to hear Armstrong and Aldrin talk "or I will miss all the action."

Armstrong called to him: "Just keep that orbiting base ready for us to rejoin you in time."

Then Armstrong gave man's first description of earth as seen from the surface of the moon: "It's big and bright and beautiful."

The astronauts tested the temperature and the pressure inside their craft. As Mission Control sweated over reports of these checks, the new American base in the lunar Sea of Tranquillity was completely tranquil.

Armstrong again reported: "I can't see any

And the Russian robot is just 10 miles up

RUSSIA'S mystery unmanned moon ship Luna 15 switched orbit last night and swung in to just 10 miles above the lunar surface—much closer to the point where the Americans touched down.

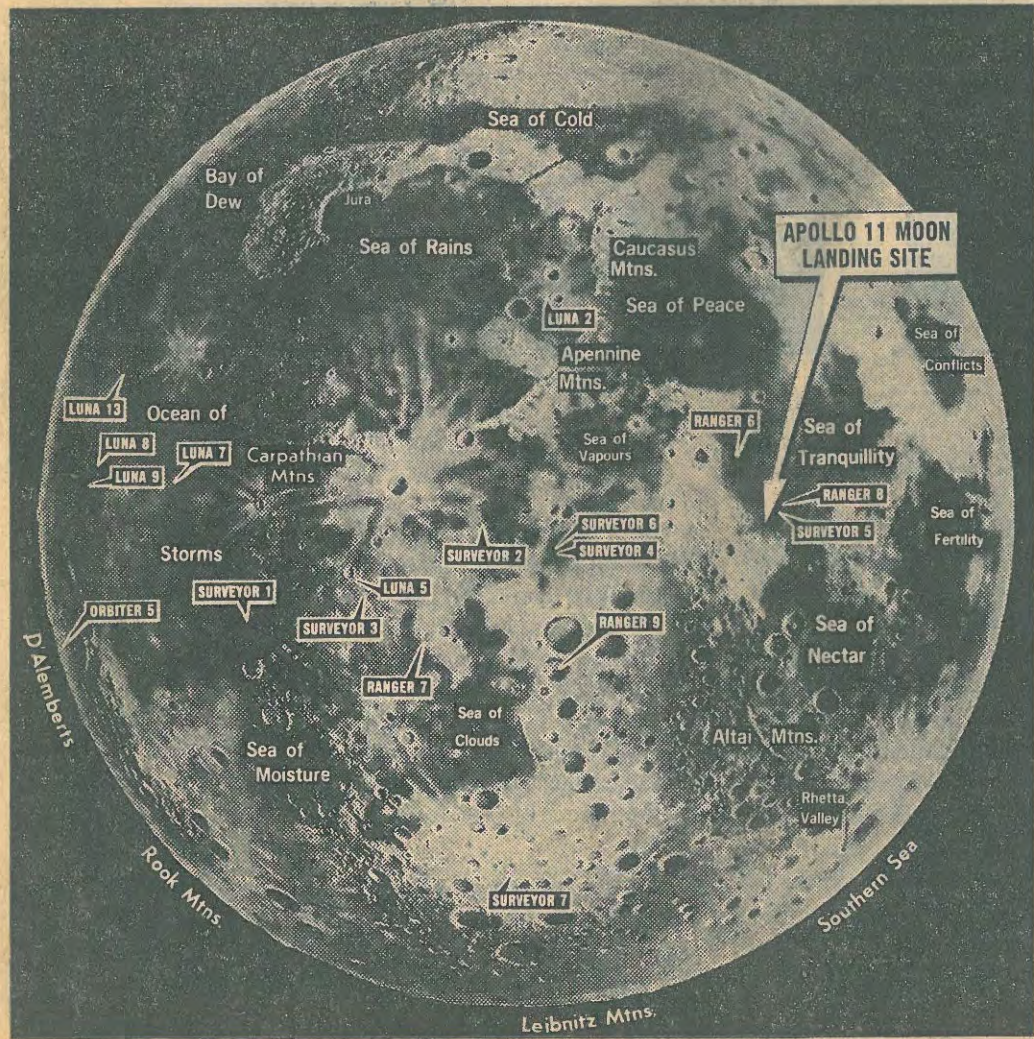
But there was still no indication that it was going to land, or what its real mission is.

A Tass announcement said no more than that the spacecraft is continuing "scientific exploration of near-moon space."

At JODRELL BANK, where Luna's activities are being monitored, director Sir Bernard Lovell commented:

"It could still land or explore moon space—including a close reconnaissance of the American landing site."

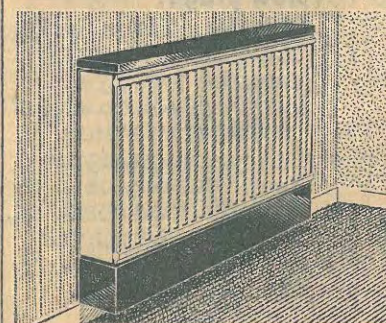
Sir Bernard, speaking on TV later, said the Luna mission seemed "insignificant" compared with Apollo 11.



MAP BY JOHN BODLE

Continued on Page 2

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