Daily Mirror

5d. Monday, December 23, 1968 ✦ ✦ ✦ No. 20,216

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MAO FLU RIDDLE ON MOON FLIGHT

Sickness SOS, then Borman says: We're all fine now

AS the three Moon-bound astronauts hurtled past the half-way mark yesterday, there were fears that the Mao flu germ which has been sweeping America might have "stowed away" in their Apollo 8 Spacecraft.

By ARTHUR SMITH in London and BRIAN HITCHEN in New York

But mission commander Frank Borman, who had complained of nausea, reported later: "All fine now."

And, from 138,000 miles out in Space, the astronauts sent back television pictures — which were shown last night in Britain.

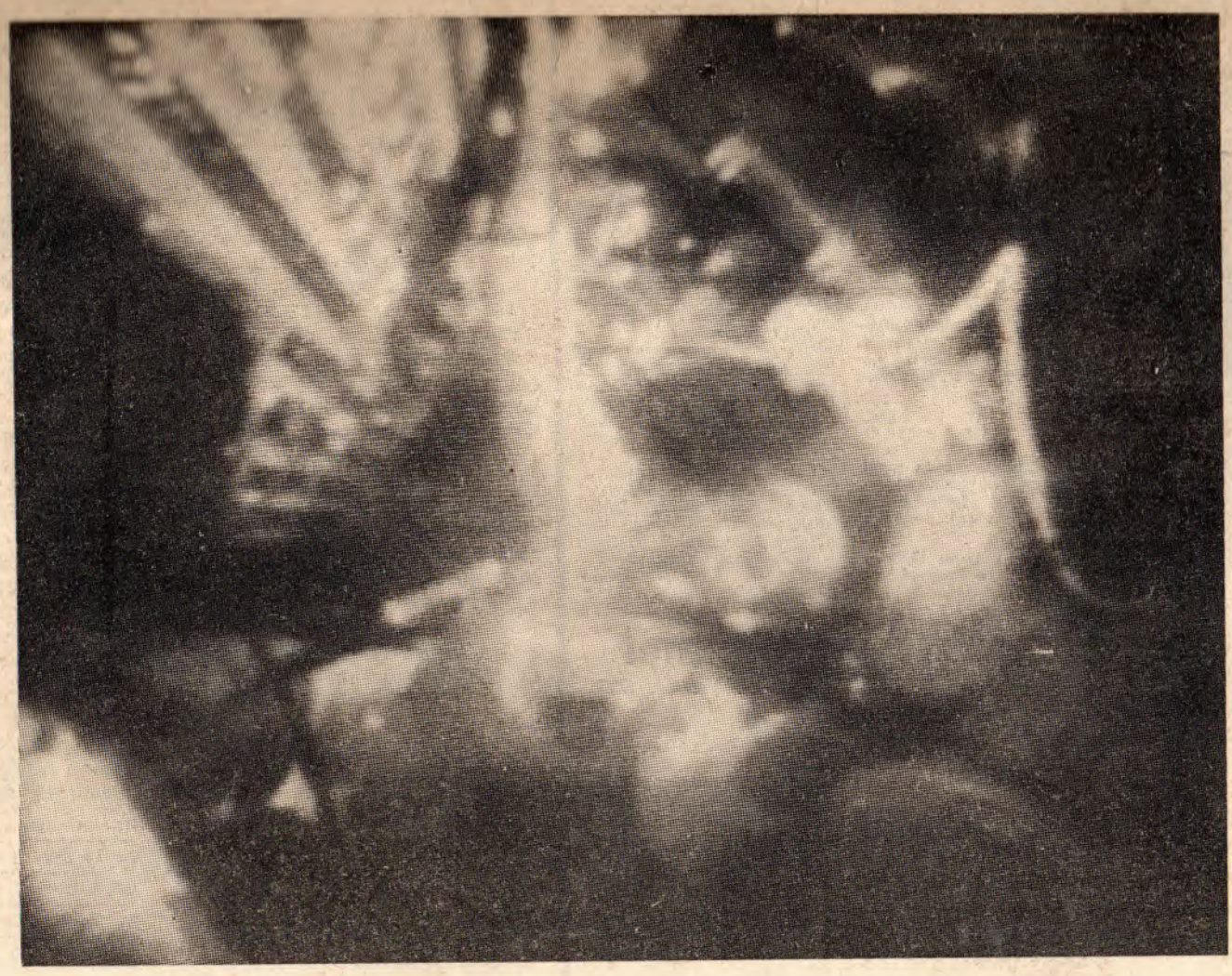
The fears over Mao flu began when Borman reported that he had suffered from nausea, headaches and vomiting—and had a fever.

He also said that astronaut William Anders was not feeling his best.

But then Borman said: "I feel a lot better now. I think I had a case of 24-hour flu . . . intestinal flu."

Borman also said that the roof of his mouth had been sore, but he had slept yesterday morning and the nausea had gone.

"Everything is in good shape now —we're all fine now," he added.



Borman, pictured 138,000 miles out in Space, as British TV viewers saw him last night

Afraid

The first report of Borman's queasiness had prompted Mr. Paul Haney, the public affairs director at the Space centre in Houston, Texas, to comment: "I'm not a doctor, but it sounds like the Asian flu to me."

Although at first afraid that the two astronauts were suffering from Mao flu, the medical men at Houston's Space Control back-pedalled hours later in an apparent effort to assuage the fears of a worried American public.

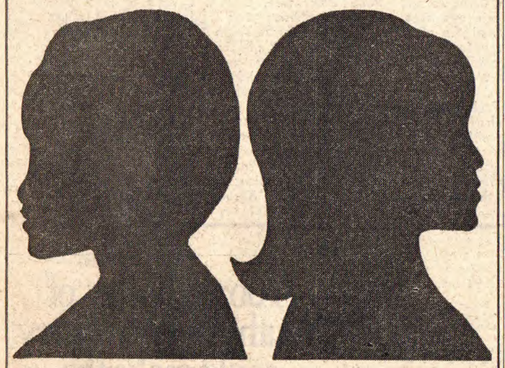
The control switchboard was jammed with hundreds of calls from Americans anxious for the safety of the men and the mission.

Most medical people at Houston and at Cape Kennedy were convinced that the symptoms relayed back to Earth from the astronauts were those evident in Mao flu cases.

Before lift-off on Saturday, the astronauts were vaccinated against Mao 'flu—as were all the 1,200 Space technicians

Continued on Back Page

What will your child be like?

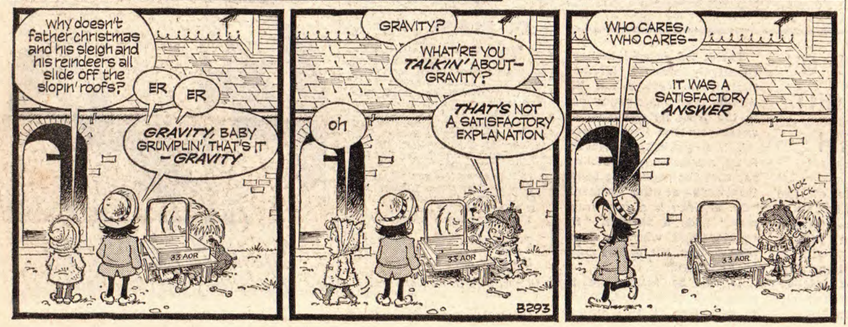


How will your baby grow up?
More like father or mother?
Will he have blue eyes and fair hair?
How tall will he become?
What will be the likely shape of his nose?
In an unusual article in Reveille this week,
Christine Garbutt tells parents-to-be
how they can find out these things.
Do not miss this intriguing article,
just one of many good things in this week's

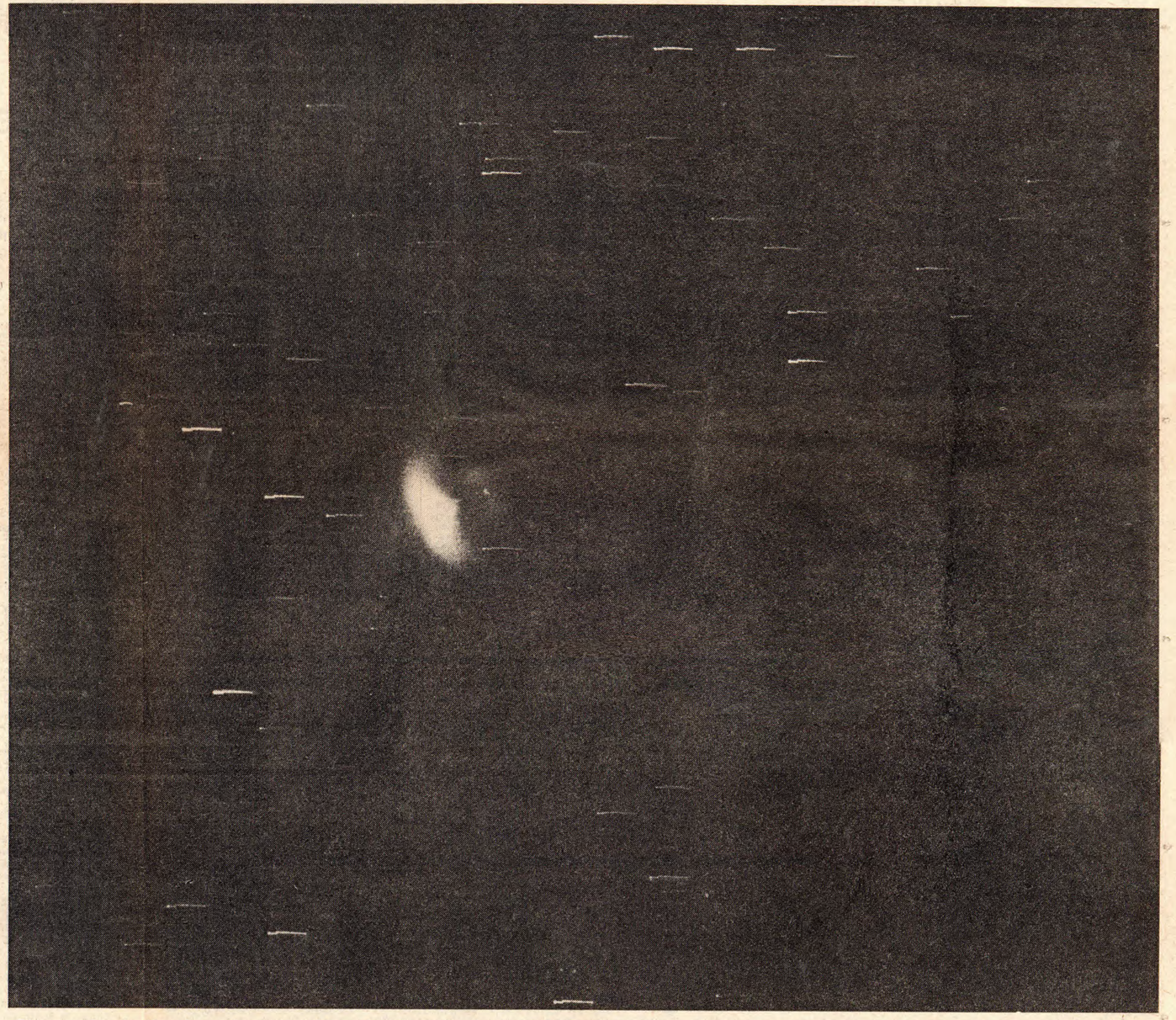
Reveille 6d

family reading at its best

The Perishers



From 19,000 miles . . an English view of the Moon flight



The smudge in the sky . . the astonishing view from England, 19,000 miles below, as the Spacecraft Apollo 8 heads out towards the Moon

THE SMUDGE THAT MARKS THE EXIT OF APOLLO 8

By Science Correspondent ARTHUR SMITH

JUST a bright smudge on a star-streaked sky . . . but this extraordinary picture provides a unique record of one of the key moments in the fantastic Moon voyage of the Apollo Spacecraft.

For this is the moment of departure, with the craft breaking away from its Earth orbit and heading out towards the Moon, as seen from an English country garden—19,000 miles away.

The picture was taken by Commander Henry Hatfield, an eminent amateur astronomer, using a camera attached to a twelve-inch telescope in the observatory he has built in the garden of his home at Sevenoaks, Kent.

It is five hours, seven minutes and fifty-four seconds after lift-off from Cape Kennedy, and astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders are travelling at many thousands of miles an hour as they rapidly leave the Earth behind.

The bright cone-shaped smudge is a huge cloud of oxygen which has just been pumped out of the S-IVB, the third stage of the Saturn V rocket.

To the right of it is a smaller smudge of light, which is sunlight reflected off the S-IVB as it is pushed out into an orbit round the Sun.

The Apollo 8 itself is just below the cone. It is not visible in the photograph, but the 47-year-old commander could clearly see it through his telescope.

He said yesterday: "As I watched, I could see irregularly flashing lights."

At this time, Frank Borman was manoeuvring the Apollo around the S-IVB. Undoubtedly, what the commander saw were the tiny flashes as Borman fired his control rockets.

How could the cloud of liquid oxygen be seen from Earth when it is an invisible gas?

Experts agree that it was probably because the Spacecraft and the S-IVB were then passing through the Van Allen radiation belts which surround the Earth. The radiation in the belts caused the oxygen to glow by ionising it.



The cameraman . . . Commander Henry Hatfield, pictured in his observatory.

Atlas

Over an hour before the picture was taken, the Apollo 8 was a prominent object in the sky.

That was when the craft and the S-IVB separated and, as Frank Borman reported, unused fuel gushed out and caused another luminous cloud.

Commander Hatfield, who has already published a photographic atlas of the Moon, took his picture with a Pentax camera fitted with a 150mm. lens.

The exposure was about three minutes and the stars appear as streaks because they move at different speeds—and in different orbits—from the Spacecraft.

The commander was delighted with his picture. So were officials at the Manned Spacecraft Centre in Houston, who asked for a copy when I told them about it.

This stage of the flight simply could not be seen from America. Leaving Commander Hatfield with a remarkable scoop of a historic moment.

Krist, across the swamps of Florida.

After his arrest on Hog Island, he was taken to hospital in Fort Myers,

blonde Ruth Eisemann Schier, 26, was still being hunted by the FBI.

Barbara's "grave" was

was weak so the FBI man was holding her with an arm around her in the back seat of the car."

South-East the highest temperature for nearly a month—50 deg F—was recorded on the Norfolk coast.

men whether they made any confessions while in captivity as the North Koreans claimed.

A MAO FLU RIDDLE IN SPACE

Continued from Page One

But shortly before this, a twenty-four-hour 'flu virus had swept Cape Kennedy.

The sore throat, sore mouth, headache, diarrhoea and aching limb symptoms relayed back to Earth by Borman were felt by medical men in Washington to be far more symptomatic of Mao 'flu than a lesser twenty-four-hour virus.

Medical experts believed that the Space Agency was hoping to alleviate public worry. Mission controllers have until 12.46 p.m. B.S.T. today to decide whether any immediate alterations need be made to the flight plan.

Up to that time, it would be quicker to end the mission by turning the Apollo round, firing the service module rocket and bringing it back to Earth direct.

Mild

After that time, it would be quicker to allow the Apollo to continue its journey, and be slung round the Moon by its gravitational field—and so back to Earth.

Although flu is a mild illness, everybody who has suffered from it knows that it leads to depression and fatigue.

The astronauts would be in no position to carry out highly delicate manoeuvres if they were flu victims.

Events

As he was hurtling towards the Moon, astronaut William Anders radioed a message to his six-year-old son: "We saw Santa Claus earlier this morning, and he was heading your way."

The Santa Claus "sighting" report came after the Spaceship passed the 120,000-mile mark.

After reporting the world's major news events to the astronauts, control technicians at the Space Centre in Houston reminded Anders that his son, Greg, had asked him to talk to Santa Claus while in Outer Space.

Young Greg hopped up and down with delight when he heard the news from his father.

A unique Apollo picture—
See Centre Pages.

MP to quit after 25 years

MR. George Rogers, 62-year-old Labour MP for North Kensington, London, since 1945, will not stand for re-election at the next General Election.

He said yesterday: "I shall have done 25 years by the next General Election, and I think that is enough."

Mr. Rogers used to be a Parliamentary Whip. He had a majority of 5,000 over the Tory candidate at the last General Election.

Printed and Published by DAILY MIRROR NEWSPAPERS, Ltd. (01-353 0246) at, and for IPC Newspapers, Ltd., Holborn Circus, London, E.C.1. Monday, December 23, 1968.