

# Suit leak may limit second lunar walk

SPACE CENTER, Houston—Lunar explorers Alan B. Shepard and Edgar D. Mitchell explored a moon valley covered with brown talcum-like dust and truck-sized boulders for a record 4 1/2 hours Friday. But a slight oxygen leak in Mitchell's spacesuit all but ruled out hopes that their second moonwalk on Saturday could last even longer.

America's third team of lunar explorers landed in Fra Mauro Valley,

making a near-perfect landing despite a faulty control button that forced them to use emergency procedures.

Four and a half hours later, with much of the world watching the live color television pictures they beamed back, Shepard stepped into the thick dust and said: "It's been a long way but we're here."

Four and three-quarters hours later, he and Mitchell, covered with dust from

head to toe and laughing about it, re-entered the gold and silver Antares landing craft that showed up so clearly on TV.

Then ground controllers discovered the leak in Mitchell's moonsuit.

"It might not be dangerous, but it's higher than we expected to see," said flight director M.P. "Pete" Frank. "I think it's quite likely it will have an effect on the second scheduled moonwalk."

If the leak remains constant, Frank said Saturday's moonwalk likely would be held to 4 hours and 15 minutes rather than the maximum 5 hours mission planners had hoped for.

Frank said, however, that the leak probably would not spoil plans for Mitchell and Shepard to climb 400-foot high Cone Crater and study the big boulders on its rim.

At times the two moonwalkers seemed almost giddy in the near-weightlessness of moon's gravity.

"I think they put champagne instead of iodine in the LEM (Lunar Landing Module) water this time," Mitchell explained shortly before bounding across the lunar surface with kangaroo strides.

## 'It's been a long way' but Shepard made it

SPACE CENTER, Houston—Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr., America's first man in space who had to wait a decade for a second flight, collected the payoff on years of sacrifice and frustration Friday when he landed on the moon.

"It's been a long way, but we're here," he said almost matter-of-factly when he stepped from the Apollo 14 lunar lander on to the moon's grainy surface.

He's known as a cool guy, but his low-key comment belied just how much the landing meant to him—how hard he had worked for it and what he had given up.

Self-discipline, drive, hard work, perseverance. They won him the honor of being the first American to soar into space May 5, 1961, when he made a 15-minute suborbital hop from what was then Cape Canaveral.

The same characteristics finally got him a second flight and the realization of a long-held dream to go on to the moon.

A lesser man would have given up. Now 47 and the oldest American astronaut, Shepard stayed in the space program even when an inner ear disorder

kept him from flying even so much as an airplane without a copilot.

He admitted to some disappointment in those long, dry years behind a desk, watching one mission after another go to someone else. But he also said "If I didn't think I could go back, I wouldn't be here."

Shepard finally underwent a secret operation in 1968 to overcome the balance problem. Back on flying status, he pushed himself even harder to be the best trained, best informed, best conditioned astronaut.

When he finally won command of Apollo 14, he redoubled his efforts. Conscious of his age, he worked out daily on a strenuous exercise regimen to keep himself physically ready.

He sold off a lucrative banking business to give him more time to train for the mission.

"I think if a person wants something badly enough, he's just got to hang in there and keep at it," Shepard explained. Al Shepard hung in there.

## Prestige Rolls not yet doomed

LONDON—The gleaming Rolls-Royce and its somewhat "cheaper" cousin, the Bentley, may not be things of the past just because the prestige auto maker went bankrupt, auto officials said Friday.

Jensen Motors, a small British company, said it is seeking to set up a consortium to buy the car-producing section from the bankrupt company, whose car sales reported a \$16.8 million profit last year.

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## Troops preparing for drive on trail

SAIGON—U.S. helicopter crews flew through fog and drizzle Friday on supply missions for a big allied offensive in the Khe Sanh area. Front reports said some crossed into Laos in support of a long-awaited South Vietnamese strike against Communist bases in Laos.

"No U.S. personnel beyond this point," was the flat signpost command on Highway 9 at the Laotian frontier 10 miles west of the reactivated Khe Sanh base. A 9,000-man U.S. task force was mobilized on the South Vietnamese side

of the highway and American officials said it would not cross.

But under U.S. policy American airpower, including helicopters, may be used anywhere in Indochina to support allied ground troops and protect American lives.

The American task force at Khe Sanh was operating with a 20,000-man force of South Vietnamese troops whose commanders were not covered by the U.S. border strictures. Saigon headquarters said late Friday the South Vietnamese force, despite Communist reports, had not moved across the jungle frontier in a possible strike against the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Official announcement of such a U.S.-supported foray has been expected since Thursday when headquarters lifted a six-day news embargo on the Khe Sanh operation. The purpose would be to stem the flow of North Vietnamese war material over the trail, Hanoi's lifeline to Communist forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

## Wilmington disrupted

WILMINGTON—Officials held several meetings here Friday to map strategy to restore order after a night and morning in which several firms were hit by firebombs and firemen were targets of snipers.

Authorities reported that firemen answered a call about 2:30 a.m. Friday at a grocery in a black neighborhood, and according to police routine a patrol car went to the scene.

The firemen were shot at by snipers.

No one was injured, and the snipers were not arrested.

The troubles apparently stemmed from a controversy by black students at two area high schools who began protests last week about treatment of blacks in the schools.

The students issued a series of demands, including a holiday on the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King and black studies programs.

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