

356902

"Fifteen Days in Space"

PICTURE

DESCRIPTION

- Scene 1. LS Night Launching Pad.
- 2. SS Liquid Oxygen truck arrives.
- 3. SS Technician working on Mercury-Redstone rocket.
- 4. SS Sign LIQUID OXYGEN.
- 5. SS Activity ground base of rocket.
- 6. SS Side Angle rocket, workers.
- 7. LS Rocket on pad, smoke.
- 8. Longer Shot same.
- 9. SS Workers on rocket.
- 10. SS Another Angle Technicians, rocket.
- 11. SS Another Angle Rocket.
- 12. LS Truck carrying Astronaut arrives at launching pad.
- 13. LS Rocket on pad.
- 14. LS Astronaut emerges from truck and walks to elevator that will take him up the side of the rocket.
- 15. SS Elevator door closes and elevator rises to the top of rocket.

Cape Canaveral, the United States

... July 21, 1961 ...

... A Mercury-Redstone rocket is posed on its launching pad ...

... ready to drink in the liquid oxygen that will ...

... send it hurtling into the ...

The rocket will carry America's ...

... second Astronaut into space.

The launching is another milestone ...

... in mankind's journey to the stars.

It is a culmination of long months ...

... of careful planning and painstaking preparation.

It is some three hours before the scheduled launching that the transport van carrying America's second man in space arrives at the launching pad.

A sudden surge of excitement ...

... tension ... apprehension ... grips the men that follow their appointed pre-launch talks.

Virgil Ivan (Gus) Grissom ...

35 ... married ... father of two sons, Scott, 11, Mark, 7, has been selected as today's voyager in space.

A former test pilot he begins his epic journey with an elevator ride to the level of his space capsule sixty-five feet above the ground.

Scene 16. Closer Same Exterior Top of Launching pad.

Emerging from the elevator inside the so-called "Green Room" ...

17. Side Angle Shot Grisson into capsule, technicians in foreground.

... Grisson ^{Called the Liberty Bell 7} enters his capsule ... wearing a silvery space suit ... water-tight ... bouyant ... weighing twenty pounds. He is to lie on his back on a contour couch with a picture window to give him a breathtaking view on his heavenly journey.

18. Closer Shot Exterior top of launching pad.

Although he will be in the sealed capsule for more than three hours, he is, at all times, in radio contact with the control center that directs the launch.

19. LS Base of rocket -- workers, smoke.

When preparations are completed in the "Green Room" ...

20. CU Doors of Gantry move back

... the arms of the gantry open ever so slowly ...

21. LS Same

... the spiderweb of steel moves back ...

22. MS Same

... with measured ... methodical ... unhurried speed.

23. CU Top of rocket

At this time, a device called a "cherry picker" is elevated into position until it takes its place right beside the capsule atop the rocket.

24. LS Rocket ... "cherry picker" out of smoke, moving up to rocket.

The purpose of the "cherry picker" is to provide Astronaut Grisson with a method of escape from his capsule should anything go wrong in the final stages of the count-down.

25. Closer same.

26. Extreme LS Rocket and pad.

Night is gradually giving way to dawn ...

27. SS -- Sunrise.

... as the countdown reaches its final, fateful seconds.

(more)

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Scene 28. Missile Launch, vapor trail.

At 8:20 a. m., July 21, 1961, the rocket and its lonely passenger rise majestically from the pad ... breaking their earthbound chains ... beginning a distant journey of high adventure.

As the rocket rises higher and higher into the sky it suddenly flashes a vapor trail that scars the sky.

29. LS Truck, people watching.

As the rocket continues up ... and up ... and up ... onlookers see ...

30. LS Separation of booster and capsule.

~~and as, through a remarkable photographic lens ... a truly spectacular scene ... the capsule separating from the booster rocket ... with a brilliant burst ... two and one-half minutes after launch~~

31. LS Blast Off.

NOTE: This is a repeat of the blast in Scene 28, providing another angle for editing purposes.

32. LHS Press vans and launch area.

NOTE: Scenes 32 thru 55 are provided now to show world-wide coverage of the event. Included are representative faces and observers, representative press, radio and television coverage from the United States and Abroad. The scenes also include further rocket in flight shots, including a truly spectacular scene -- 50 -- that actually shows -- in greater detail than scene 30 -- the capsule separating from its booster rocket ... with a brilliant burst ... two and one-half minutes after launch. Throughout the actual flight, Grissom is in constant and continual radio contact with the control center, reporting "It is such a fascinating view out of my window that you just can't help but look out."

33. CU Sign VOICE OF AMERICA.

34. CU NBC TV-NEWS.

35. CU CBS Project Mercury Headquarters.

36. LS Press Area.

37. MS Back Angle Photographers.

38. CU Mexican Cameraman.

39. MS Same.

40. MS Spectators.

41. LS Rocket in flight.

42. Pan up TV cameras point to sky.

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- Scene 43. CU Girl looking.
44. MS Pan Cameramen.
45. LS Rocket --start of vapor trail.
46. MS Cameras on building.
47. MS People watch.
48. CU Man looks.
49. MS Cameramen
50. LS Rocket separates from main capsule.
51. LS Spectators.
52. CU Commentator on phone
53. General shot spectators
54. MS Commentator
55. LS Press Area
56. LS Aircraft Carrier Randolph
57. Another Angle same
58. LS Helicopter leaves carrier deck to recover capsule.
59. LS Capsule in the water.
60. LS Helicopter approaches capsule.
61. Another Angle helicopter over capsule, astronaut in the water.

During his sixteen minute ride ...
 ... Astronaut Grisson ...
 ... reached a height of 118 miles ...
 ... above the earth ...
 ... and traveled at a speed of more ...
 ... than 5200 miles per hour.
 He was weightless for five minutes ...
 ... underwent 6.3 times the force of ...
 ... gravity on his flight ...
 ... and eleven times that force ...
 ... on re-entering the atmosphere.

Three hundred miles from the launching site at Cape Canaveral ...

the aircraft carrier Randolph is waiting for the capsule to land in the Atlantic Ocean.

A helicopter fleet spins from the carrier's deck and swings toward the expected landing area.

In the distance, the capsule is spotted as it is landing in the choppy water.

One of the helicopters approaches the capsule as it bobs on the water.

Through the landing is smooth, a hatch on the capsule is blown off a few moments after impact and, when water begins to flood the Libert Bell 7, Astronaut Grisson following carefully prescribed safety procedures leaves the capsule and bobs in the water.

Scene 62. IS Grisson in water, near to capsule.

There are a few anxious moments as the astronaut waits to be rescued.

63. Another Angle Same.

But so practical and precise are the recovery techniques ...

64. Grisson in the water.

... that in only a matter of minutes ...

65. Helicopter over Grisson in water.

... before the helicopter ...

66. IS Helicopter starts picking up Grisson.

... is hovering over the astronaut ...

67. Same

... dropping a line to him ...

68. Same

... and slowly beginning to ...

69. Helicopter approaching carrier Randolph.

... yanking him out of the ocean to a safe and happy landing in the ~~English~~ carrier Randolph.

70. Copter landing on carrier.

Although the capsule sinks, American space officials report that they have already obtained most of the vital flight data on Liberty Bell 7 through instruments and that radiorated sound-by-sight readings to recording devices on the ground.

71. Crewmen on carrier.

There is a hero's welcome ...

72. Sailors watching.

... for the space traveler ...

73. Scene shot of Grisson leaving helicopter.

... who was on emerging from the carrier, "like as something to blow my nose. My head is full of sea water."

74. Sailors

But otherwise, the

75. US Sailors

traveler is in excellent condition

76. US Grisson walking into and out of camera.

... after a journey that unlocked still more of the secrets of the heavens.