

As the anxious millions around the world watched and listened, the astronauts and the ground crews at the Cape and mission control in Houston busied themselves with the last minute preparations. The flight began smoothly as the towering Saturn V rocket rose from the pad amidst a billowing cloud of flames and exhaust.

As the rocket hurtled the trio of Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin Aldrin into space, the men of USS HORNET waited patiently on station in the primary abort area some 1650 miles south, southwest of Hawaii.

