



Alan Shepard, With Fellow Astronaut Donald Slayton, Laughs Joviously After Flight

# Shepard Is 'Man Of The Hour'

## Champagne Is Used To Toast Flight

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND, May 5 (AP)—Spaceman Alan B. Shepard's "perfect flight" was toasted in champagne when he arrived here Friday, but doctors waiting to check him over did not allow him to participate.

Flashing a Grand Canyon-sized grin, the hungry Shepard accepted a huge shrimp cocktail, roast beef sandwich and red wine.

Harmed into isolation of a hospital guarded by a sniry young astronaut then began at least 24 hours of complete medical and psychological checks, and detailed reports on all technicalities of his historic mission.

"He looks great, feels great. He's jolly and joking as he always is," said Capt. Virgil Grisson, a fellow astronaut who admits he was a bit envious and certainly hopes he

will be chosen for the next rocket ride.

Astronaut Donald Slayton called the flight "perfect"—Shepard said with a flourish couldn't have been any better," he told Shepard, "you pulled it off, I bet good" in a back-slapping greeting at the

airport on this pine and palm-island.

"Everything went fine," Shepard said with a flourish of reporters. He waved, but no interviews were permitted.

When an hour after Shepard arrived here, he had rain in his high spirits when he

beat a tattoo on the white roof of the aluminum portable space capsule was recovered from the ocean.

LI. Col. John Powers, spokesman for the astronaut, said he had never seen Shepard more cool and calm.

After an extensive physical checkup, Col. William Douglas, personal physician for the astronaut, declared that Shepard was "in excellent

shape and health." He said further tests would be made but he doubted that they would show any ill effects due to the flight.

Col. Douglas said Shepard also was examined by a physician, Dr. George Ruff of the University of Pennsylvania, and he found "nothing startling or outstanding" in what was pleased and somewhat down in the most carefully

annals of mankind—the history of courage.

## In Gamble With Death Pilot Adds To History Of Courage

By J. M. ROBERTS AP News Analyst

Courage is a word for which every man provides his own definition, based on his own experience.

What went on in the mind of Alan B. Shepard Jr. during those three hours he sat alone on the nose of the rocket, waiting to go on his gamble with death, or during the long days of waiting after he knew he had been selected?

accurately record such moments, any more than it does extreme pain, or agony of watching a loved one approach the critical crisis of illness.

Many men know, however, that time to think with life at stake is an agony in the history of science, or of war. Or of many other things. It surely goes down in the most carefully

annals of mankind—the history of courage.

**WEATHER**  
Forecast for Tucson: Mostly clear; windy afternoon.  
Temperatures  
Yesterday: HIGH 78 LOW 49  
Year Ago: HIGH 71 LOW 50  
U. S. Weather Bureau

**The Arizona Daily Star**  
An Independent Newspaper Printing The News Impartially  
TUCSON, ARIZONA, SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1961  
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TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

## JFK Press Conference At A Glance

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP)—Here are the highlights of President Kennedy's news conference Friday:

**SECRETARY UDALL**—The President said that Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall had tried to recall a letter which used his name to solicit the oil and gas industry to buy tickets to a Democratic party dinner. "I think this whole question of trying to use funds for campaigns is a very difficult one," Kennedy said, "and it leads to embarrassment." He urged federal financing of political campaigns.

**INTERNATIONAL POSITION**—"Well, I think we have grounds for encouragement," He cited several items which he considered bright spots on the horizon:

## U.S. Still Lags, Says Kennedy

**But Leader Pledges Redoubled Efforts**

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP)—President Kennedy publicly and proudly recognized Friday America's lagging of a man into space. But he tempered elation with word that more money must be poured into redoubled efforts to explore space.

"Minutes after Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr. returned from flashing 115 miles into the skies, Kennedy issued a statement saying 'All America rejoices in this successful flight—but it also should provide an incentive for redoubled efforts in this vital field.'"

## Truce Negotiations Open Delegates Spar At Laos Talks

HIN HELP, Laos, May 5 (AP)—Military negotiators for Laos' warring factions Friday held the first major meeting to work out details of a cease-fire but were unable to agree on a site for future talks.

Political leaders in Vietnam at the same time proposed that talks begin Saturday in the royal capital of Luang Prabang. Presumably these would be top-level negotiations on forming a coalition government.

The government pointedly ignored rebel proposals that political questions be discussed on the front. Only a military team, led by Brig. Gen. Sing Rattanasamey, was sent to discuss matters relating to Wednesday's cease-fire, such as armistice lines.

## JFK Signs Act Hiking Farm Surpluses Sale

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP)—President Kennedy signed Friday a Congressional act increasing \$2 billion the authorization for sale of U.S. farm surpluses overseas for foreign currencies.

The added funds will be available for foreign sales of farm commodities until the end of this year, when the basic act, known as Public Law 480, is scheduled to expire.

The negotiators, six Royal officers and six sent by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao rebels and ex-Premier Souvanna Phouma's self-styled neutralists, met in an abandoned house on the north bank of the Nam Lik River, in no man's land 55 miles north of Vientiane.

## Twister Rips Oklahoma Killing 14, Injuring 40

POTEAU, Okla., May 5 (AP)—Storm clouds that blanketed eastern Oklahoma late Friday, spat out a vicious tornado that tore through two town communities near here, killing at least 14.

Ten were reported dead at Howe and four at Reichert. The death toll could go higher as rescue workers dug into the debris. The twister was not of the type that an answer could be expected by Sunday.

In London, the British Foreign Office announced Britain and the Soviet Union have agreed an International Control Commission will go to Laos in the near future to supervise the truce. The two powers, as co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva conference, control the commission.

Prime Minister Nehru of India said in New Delhi, however, he had received no word when the commission will leave India for Laos.

## Mighty Stride Forward Nation's First Astronaut Arches Through Space

### President Lauds Trip From Cape

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP)—President Kennedy congratulated Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr. by radio telephone Friday after the astronaut's historic space flight, here is what they said as recorded at the White House.

The President: "Hello commander. 'Yes, sir.'"

Kennedy: "I want to congratulate you very much."

Shepard: "Thank you very much, Mr. President."

Kennedy: "We watched you on TV, of course, and we are awfully pleased and proud of what you did."

Shepard: "Well, thank you, Mr. President. As you know by now, everything worked out just about perfectly. And it was a very rewarding experience for me and for the people who made it possible."

Kennedy: "We are looking forward to seeing you up here, commander."

Shepard: "Thank you very much, sir, and I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future."

Kennedy: "Thank you, commander, and good luck."

### Steel Firm Donates Aid To Education

PITTSBURGH, May 5 (AP)—The United States Steel Foundation said Friday it will contribute \$2,725,000 for aid to education this year.

The money will go to 732 colleges, universities and institutions, and to 27 organizations. Chairman Roger M. Brough of the foundation said the donations are to provide "a broad and specific aid to education."

### Nevins To Speak

TEMPLE, May 5 (AP)—Political prize-winning historian Allan Nevins will be the main speaker at Arizona State University's annual honors convocation May 12. The convocation will feature several commencement activities.

## Doctors Report Pilot's Health Is 'Excellent'

### Space Flight In Brief

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., May 5 (AP)—Rebounding "Boy what a ride" astronaut Alan B. Shepard returned safely to earth Friday after blasting 115 miles into space—a perfect flight that gave the United States a mighty stride forward in the space race with Russia.

"What a beautiful sight," the 37-year-old test pilot exulted at the top of his 15-minute hop into space and back.

His 840-foot space capsule reached speeds of 5,100 miles an hour before plunging back down into the Atlantic 302 miles southeast, where it was plucked from the waves by a helicopter.

Shepard was flown immediately to the carrier Lake Champlain, where physicians began checking him over for ill effects.

"See full page of pictures and stories on B-1."

Aboard a helicopter taking him from the water to the USS Lake Champlain, Shepard said: "Boy, what a ride!"

The calmest man in the whole operation.

President Kennedy's telephone congratulations to Shepard within minutes after the astronaut's arrival on the carrier and told him of the hero's welcome awaiting him in Washington.

The President said this is an historic milestone in our own exploration into space.

A U.S. Space Agency official said Shepard's feat is only the beginning of America's exploration of space. Deputy Administrator Hugh Dryden said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is planning to send an astronaut into orbit around the earth soon. Later, he said, one of those will travel to the moon and back.

The Redstone rocket used as a booster for Friday's flight blasted away from its pad here at 9:34 a.m. (EST). Nineteen minutes later, Shepard climbed out of the capsule's escape hatch and was rocked up by helicopter.

"It's a beautiful day," he told the tower crew.

"Boy, what a ride!"

Exciting as it was, the flight was still secondary to the test of Ranger 7 (Gagarin), who last April 12 was hurled into orbit—10,000 miles high in acceleration and again in descent, when he was subjected to crushing pressures.

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## End Of Historic Trip

In this shot taken from a recovery copter, Astronaut Alan Shepard dangles in a harness at the end of a cable as he is lifted from his space capsule after Friday's historic flight. The capsule, at lower left, still floats in the Atlantic. It was recovered later. At upper left is the head of a crew member. (AP Wirephoto)

## Dramatic Report During Journey Navy Man Calm, Alert In Space

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dramatically, in the calm, clipped syllables of a veteran pilot, Space Man Alan B. Shepard Jr. described his reactions to his flight through space Friday.

Here is a partial text of what he and the Mercury control spokesman at Cape Canaveral said during the 15-minute ride, as heard by millions of radio and television listeners.

At takeoff, 9:34 a.m. (EST): "A-OK full go."

Then . . .

"Cabin pressure A-OK." (A-OK—a rocket engineer's term meaning double O.K. or perfect.)

"Fuel system go."

"Oxygen go."

"All systems go." This at about 9:35 a.m. EST, a minute after blast-off.

"One has fired."

"Two has fired."

"Three has fired."

"Excellent voice communication from pilot."

"Retro-rocket packet has gone."

"Pilot reporting facts and figures about the engineering manner of a test pilot. This at about 9:40 a.m. six minutes and 40 seconds after blast-off."

"Pilot's condition appears to be excellent."

"Other astronauts are in entry into the earth's atmosphere."

"Retro-rocket cloud covering Cape Hatteras."

"Initiating retro-rocket sequence." This at about 9:38 a.m.

"One has fired."

"Two has fired."

"Three has fired."

"Excellent voice communication from pilot."

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"Pilot reporting facts and figures about the engineering manner of a test pilot. This at about 9:40 a.m. six minutes and 40 seconds after blast-off."

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"New G coming down OK." This at 9:41 a.m.

"Peak G 11.0 OK."

Then at 9:43 a.m. it was announced he was 30,000 feet on the way down.

"Reading him load and clear." This an announcement descending with Shepard and the capsule was where it was supposed to go.

Shepard's voice became muted once during the time, in acceleration and again in descent, when he was subjected to crushing pressures.

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