

As the astronauts approach the Moon, during the Apollo 11 mission, they make ready to separate the lunar landing module from the main ship. Even if things go right, it's a dangerous mission. Mission control asks for a "go, no go" from the individual controllers.

Descending too fast, Eagle (the landing module) could overshoot its landing target. Will that cause trouble for the astronauts?

THEN ... a program alarm goes off. It is a "1202."

The astronauts have no idea what the alarm means. Should the descent be aborted or should the alarm be overridden? During tension-filled moments, the decision comes down to one man.

What should the astronauts do?

A decision to override allows the lunar landing module to continue its descent. The astronauts are "go for landing."

Armstrong looks out the window, and his heart rate skyrockets. About a thousand feet above the Moon's surface, the landing craft is heading straight for a crater filled with boulders. Those boulders are about the size of Volkswagens.

What if the alarm has actually signaled a major problem?

See, also:

Part 1 - Launch and Journey to the Moon

Part 3 - Lunar Landing and Return to Earth

Credits:

Clip from the BBC series, *Days that Shook the World - Moon Landing*.

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