



1
00:00:06,389 --> 00:00:03,270
alan shepard was a probably

2
00:00:08,150 --> 00:00:06,399
class one astronaut he was bright family

3
00:00:11,110 --> 00:00:08,160
was important to him he was really a

4
00:00:13,190 --> 00:00:11,120
wonderful human being he was proud man

5
00:00:15,509 --> 00:00:13,200
sometimes arrogant but

6
00:00:17,029 --> 00:00:15,519
testifieds are always that way you want

7
00:00:19,269 --> 00:00:17,039
him to be that way it's the first step

8
00:00:21,029 --> 00:00:19,279
we had to make and he did it well when

9
00:00:31,669 --> 00:00:21,039
you talk about the right stuff he was

10
00:00:36,150 --> 00:00:34,150
i remember my father saying when the

11
00:00:38,150 --> 00:00:36,160
original seven astronauts were first

12
00:00:40,470 --> 00:00:38,160
chosen was that

13
00:00:44,069 --> 00:00:40,480

they were very competent

14

00:00:47,190 --> 00:00:44,079

very competitive and it was going to be

15

00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:47,200

a good fight to win the prize as they

16

00:00:52,069 --> 00:00:50,160

called it it was friendly competition

17

00:00:54,229 --> 00:00:52,079

but was intense competition i certainly

18

00:00:55,910 --> 00:00:54,239

wouldn't deny that he was very confident

19

00:00:58,470 --> 00:00:55,920

in what he could do

20

00:01:01,110 --> 00:00:58,480

and he pushed himself he he really did

21

00:01:04,229 --> 00:01:01,120

go beyond what he could possibly do i

22

00:01:07,270 --> 00:01:04,239

mean he just did that extra 101

23

00:01:09,590 --> 00:01:07,280

shepherd was a standout

24

00:01:11,670 --> 00:01:09,600

from the very beginning for me he was a

25

00:01:14,149 --> 00:01:11,680

very bright

26
00:01:16,310 --> 00:01:14,159
guy probably the brightest to the bunch

27
00:01:19,190 --> 00:01:16,320
glenn of course i had known before

28
00:01:21,910 --> 00:01:19,200
shirai had known before because of our

29
00:01:23,429 --> 00:01:21,920
of our navy connections

30
00:01:25,350 --> 00:01:23,439
so i knew there was a lot of talent

31
00:01:27,109 --> 00:01:25,360
there and

32
00:01:29,510 --> 00:01:27,119
i knew that uh

33
00:01:32,469 --> 00:01:29,520
it was going to be a tough fight

34
00:01:34,310 --> 00:01:32,479
to win the prize all seven astronauts

35
00:01:37,429 --> 00:01:34,320
were in one room

36
00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:37,439
uh bob gilruth came in and said okay al

37
00:01:40,870 --> 00:01:39,040
shepard you have the first one gus

38
00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:40,880

grissom you have the second john glenn

39

00:01:45,270 --> 00:01:43,360

you are the backup for both

40

00:01:47,350 --> 00:01:45,280

and dr gilruth walked out of the room

41

00:01:49,830 --> 00:01:47,360

and said good luck and so daddy's in the

42

00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:49,840

room by himself with all seven original

43

00:01:54,389 --> 00:01:52,240

well including himself six

44

00:01:57,190 --> 00:01:54,399

set of eyes looking at him

45

00:01:59,030 --> 00:01:57,200

and he thought how elated he was but he

46

00:02:01,670 --> 00:01:59,040

had almost immediately afterwards

47

00:02:03,429 --> 00:02:01,680

feeling sorry for my buddies

48

00:02:06,870 --> 00:02:03,439

because there they were i mean they were

49

00:02:09,749 --> 00:02:06,880

trying just as hard as i was

50

00:02:12,070 --> 00:02:09,759

we all shook each other's hands

51
00:02:13,990 --> 00:02:12,080
we all shook al's hands

52
00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:14,000
pretty soon i was the only guy left in

53
00:02:18,550 --> 00:02:15,280
the room

54
00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:18,560
we jokingly later on

55
00:02:22,470 --> 00:02:21,280
uh confided in each other that

56
00:02:27,990 --> 00:02:22,480
the choice

57
00:02:29,589 --> 00:02:28,000
al shepard was just plain dumb because

58
00:02:33,190 --> 00:02:29,599
because it should have been

59
00:02:34,790 --> 00:02:33,200
me everybody said the competition ended

60
00:02:36,790 --> 00:02:34,800
once that decision was made and

61
00:02:38,390 --> 00:02:36,800
everybody wanted to make every flight an

62
00:02:40,869 --> 00:02:38,400
absolute success

63
00:02:42,309 --> 00:02:40,879

he was obviously

64

00:02:46,470 --> 00:02:42,319

ready to fly

65

00:02:46,480 --> 00:02:49,270

and

66

00:02:49,280 --> 00:02:55,110

it was a hell of a day

67

00:02:59,350 --> 00:02:56,790

daddy what if they put you up in that

68

00:03:01,270 --> 00:02:59,360

rocket and they can't get you back down

69

00:03:03,110 --> 00:03:01,280

and he said julie they're not going to

70

00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:03,120

put me up in that rocket if they can't

71

00:03:12,949 --> 00:03:09,589

on may 5

72

00:03:14,229 --> 00:03:12,959

the atmosphere at the cape was

73

00:03:16,949 --> 00:03:14,239

upbeat

74

00:03:20,229 --> 00:03:16,959

a little subdued especially

75

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:20,239

for al because yuri gagarin had

76

00:03:24,070 --> 00:03:21,920

had flown before

77

00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:24,080

that was sort of the

78

00:03:32,789 --> 00:03:30,830

but

79

00:03:34,070 --> 00:03:32,799

nevertheless

80

00:03:36,229 --> 00:03:34,080

the day came

81

00:03:39,110 --> 00:03:36,239

our entire front yard in virginia beach

82

00:03:41,270 --> 00:03:39,120

is covered with reporters alice came in

83

00:03:42,949 --> 00:03:41,280

and woke me up and she says

84

00:03:44,630 --> 00:03:42,959

julie mother must have done something

85

00:03:46,710 --> 00:03:44,640

they're all these policemen out in our

86

00:03:49,030 --> 00:03:46,720

front yard they didn't tell us our

87

00:03:50,869 --> 00:03:49,040

father was going up first because we

88

00:03:52,630 --> 00:03:50,879

would blab it everything went just the

89

00:03:54,550 --> 00:03:52,640

way we had planned it his

90

00:03:57,509 --> 00:03:54,560

the testing of the suit putting that on

91

00:03:59,429 --> 00:03:57,519

first there was a classic picture of him

92

00:04:01,509 --> 00:03:59,439

when he reached the launch pad it was

93

00:04:04,070 --> 00:04:01,519

accompanied by dr bill douglas who was

94

00:04:05,670 --> 00:04:04,080

the astronauts physician it was all in a

95

00:04:07,910 --> 00:04:05,680

silver space suit

96

00:04:08,789 --> 00:04:07,920

with the with the air conditioner in his

97

00:04:12,070 --> 00:04:08,799

hand

98

00:04:15,429 --> 00:04:12,080

i remember saying to myself well

99

00:04:16,550 --> 00:04:15,439

i'm not going to see this redstone again

100

00:04:19,670 --> 00:04:16,560

and you know

101
00:04:21,509 --> 00:04:19,680
pilots love to go out and kick the tires

102
00:04:23,510 --> 00:04:21,519
and it was sort of like

103
00:04:25,590 --> 00:04:23,520
reaching out and kicking the tires on

104
00:04:28,150 --> 00:04:25,600
the redstone because i stopped and

105
00:04:29,749 --> 00:04:28,160
looked at you know looked back and end

106
00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:29,759
up

107
00:04:35,749 --> 00:04:33,440
at this beautiful rocket and uh well

108
00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:35,759
okay buster let's go and get the job

109
00:04:41,189 --> 00:04:38,000
done what a sight

110
00:04:41,199 --> 00:04:43,990
it was that was

111
00:04:54,830 --> 00:04:45,430
probably one of the most exciting

112
00:05:00,790 --> 00:04:57,830
exciting almost every flight has delays

113
00:05:03,749 --> 00:05:00,800

you expect them there was a time during

114

00:05:05,909 --> 00:05:03,759

the countdown when

115

00:05:07,350 --> 00:05:05,919

there was a problem with the inverter in

116

00:05:08,950 --> 00:05:07,360

the redstone

117

00:05:10,629 --> 00:05:08,960

and then the weather came

118

00:05:12,950 --> 00:05:10,639

turns out al shepard had been in that

119

00:05:16,870 --> 00:05:12,960

spacecraft for more than four hours

120

00:05:18,390 --> 00:05:16,880

waited and waited well um

121

00:05:21,510 --> 00:05:18,400

if that's the case then i would like to

122

00:05:23,749 --> 00:05:21,520

not relieve myself that was funny

123

00:05:26,150 --> 00:05:23,759

you want to get out urinate vampiran

124

00:05:27,909 --> 00:05:26,160

says the astronaut will stay in the nose

125

00:05:30,710 --> 00:05:27,919

cone

126

00:05:33,510 --> 00:05:30,720

you just go ahead and do it

127

00:05:34,230 --> 00:05:33,520

and of course with a cotton undergarment

128

00:05:36,790 --> 00:05:34,240

and

129

00:05:39,189 --> 00:05:36,800

with 100 oxygen

130

00:05:41,510 --> 00:05:39,199

flowing through that spacecraft

131

00:05:44,710 --> 00:05:41,520

uh it was i was totally dry by the time

132

00:05:49,990 --> 00:05:48,230

t minus 10 9 8 7

133

00:05:50,950 --> 00:05:50,000

6 5

134

00:05:52,070 --> 00:05:50,960

4

135

00:05:53,110 --> 00:05:52,080

three

136

00:05:54,230 --> 00:05:53,120

two

137

00:05:55,909 --> 00:05:54,240

one

138

00:05:59,110 --> 00:05:55,919

zero

139

00:06:13,830 --> 00:06:00,790

liftoff

140

00:06:13,840 --> 00:06:17,430

launch is okay

141

00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:18,550

roger

142

00:06:23,710 --> 00:06:20,880

his performance is perfect velocity's

143

00:06:26,550 --> 00:06:23,720

okay pitch one eight degrees i'll be at

144

00:06:29,670 --> 00:06:26,560

365 valve

145

00:06:32,950 --> 00:06:29,680

roger 2g kevin holy

146

00:06:34,390 --> 00:06:32,960

freedom 7 is still go the trajectory

147

00:06:36,230 --> 00:06:34,400

you couldn't have told

148

00:06:37,670 --> 00:06:36,240

the difference between the flight and

149

00:06:39,830 --> 00:06:37,680

the simulation

150

00:06:41,990 --> 00:06:39,840

freedom 7 with astronaut alan b shepard

151
00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:42,000
reports the fuel system is go

152
00:06:46,629 --> 00:06:43,600
4g

153
00:06:49,270 --> 00:06:46,639
cabin 5.5 pounds per square inch oxygen

154
00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:49,280
go all systems go

155
00:06:52,469 --> 00:06:51,120
capsule separate

156
00:06:54,070 --> 00:06:52,479
great command

157
00:06:57,670 --> 00:06:54,080
pilot on manual

158
00:06:59,430 --> 00:06:57,680
drawing right his control motions

159
00:07:01,430 --> 00:06:59,440
that he did in flight compared to what

160
00:07:03,270 --> 00:07:01,440
he did at the simulator

161
00:07:05,029 --> 00:07:03,280
right on top of each other

162
00:07:06,309 --> 00:07:05,039
astronaut alan b shepard is still

163
00:07:08,629 --> 00:07:06,319

talking to us

164

00:07:11,029 --> 00:07:08,639

working like a test pilot reporting

165

00:07:13,270 --> 00:07:11,039

facts and figures reporting procedures

166

00:07:22,309 --> 00:07:13,280

in the precise engineering manner of a

167

00:07:27,510 --> 00:07:25,110

all the voice reports were right on at

168

00:07:29,749 --> 00:07:27,520

the same time you expected them okay

169

00:07:31,589 --> 00:07:29,759

retrofire completed the mercury

170

00:07:37,510 --> 00:07:31,599

spacecraft is beginning to re-enter the

171

00:07:43,350 --> 00:07:41,350

right he's just starting now 50 seconds

172

00:07:46,550 --> 00:07:43,360

going through big g now he is still

173

00:08:02,790 --> 00:07:46,560

talking saying okay

174

00:08:04,869 --> 00:08:03,670

okay

175

00:08:05,589 --> 00:08:04,879

very good

176

00:08:07,670 --> 00:08:05,599

the

177

00:08:09,430 --> 00:08:07,680

shepherd recovery operation was probably

178

00:08:11,830 --> 00:08:09,440

one of the smoothest

179

00:08:15,270 --> 00:08:11,840

and one of the quickest we've ever had

180

00:08:17,350 --> 00:08:15,280

you just hit the water a moment ago

181

00:08:18,950 --> 00:08:17,360

a chair went up from the ship company

182

00:08:20,950 --> 00:08:18,960

watching here from all decks on the

183

00:08:23,189 --> 00:08:20,960

aircraft carrier

184

00:08:27,350 --> 00:08:23,199

it was a perfect day

185

00:08:28,790 --> 00:08:27,360

perfect day for him perfect day for us

186

00:08:30,629 --> 00:08:28,800

first time we ever put anybody into

187

00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:30,639

space and i was a good person to

188

00:08:35,190 --> 00:08:32,640

represent us on that

189

00:08:36,709 --> 00:08:35,200

he was outstanding

190

00:08:39,909 --> 00:08:36,719

and he

191

00:08:42,149 --> 00:08:39,919

he deserved it we're always proud of him

192

00:08:44,389 --> 00:08:42,159

and his abilities and what he did do i

193

00:08:47,829 --> 00:08:44,399

never heard my father say this is hard

194

00:08:50,550 --> 00:08:47,839

it was a challenge at least you tried

195

00:08:53,190 --> 00:08:50,560

who wouldn't want to follow that type of

196

00:08:57,590 --> 00:08:53,200

fellow american into whatever you are

197

00:09:01,990 --> 00:08:59,190

alan shepard

198

00:09:06,310 --> 00:09:02,000

was a close friend of mine

199

00:09:12,949 --> 00:09:10,070

and i was damn proud to be uh

200

00:09:15,269 --> 00:09:12,959

in that position with him

