It started off like any normal day - except it wasn’t. Whilst I was sleepily poking at my breakfast, a familiar voice floated into the kitchen from my living room. This voice did not belong to anyone in my house, it was being emitted from my brand new television. Leaving my breakfast behind, I decided to go and check out what was happening.

“Good morning, man is about to launch himself on a trip to the moon from this Florida launch complex,” came the crackly voice of Walter Cronkite.

All week, I had been watching the preparations for the Apollo 11 mission with a growing wave of excitement. Today was the day every single American had been waiting for because it was the day we would launch human beings to the moon for the first time in history.

“My palms are sweaty,“ Walter continued.

I knew exactly how he felt. Since waking up about an hour earlier, I had been experiencing: an increased heart rate; sweaty palms and trembling, jelly like knees. Little did I know just how exhilarating things were about to get…

Within two hours, I was standing on one of the specially designed viewing platforms to watch the launch. The Saturn V rocket looked like a monumental giant sitting patiently on the launch pad. Yet this was all about to change. All of a sudden, a thundering voice came over the loudspeakers to begin the countdown. “TEN….NINE….EIGHT.” As the booming voice bellowed “six”, the ignition was activated and colossal clouds of black smoke swept over the surrounding landscape. The patient giant was no more; it had unleashed its fury. A swarm of mighty flames erupted from the engines which would have made hell itself look tame. “THREE…..TWO…..ONE.” As the rocket abandoned the launch pad and gained altitude, the reactions of the audience were indescribable. Jaws dropped open, eyes stared in wonder and hands were thrown over mouths in disbelief. The towering hulk that we had been watching just minutes before was shrinking before our very eyes until eventually, I had to squint to see it. Left behind was the smouldering after effects which looked like the result of a volcanic eruption.