

Buzz Aldrin's face visible on TV during the Apollo 11 EVA

The source for these images is a copy of a videotape of the scan-converted 525 line 30fps feed – almost certainly recorded at Sydney Video on an Ampex VR-660. At this point, the TV from Parkes is being relayed.

To reduce the noise in each picture – the three NTSC frames corresponding to an individual frame of 10fps Slow Scan TV were aligned, stacked and processed, producing an image equivalent to that of the original Slow Scan TV, though with lower resolution. Image levels were also adjusted.

After Buzz Aldrin raises his sun visor, his face can be seen. It is believed this has been not previously recognised.



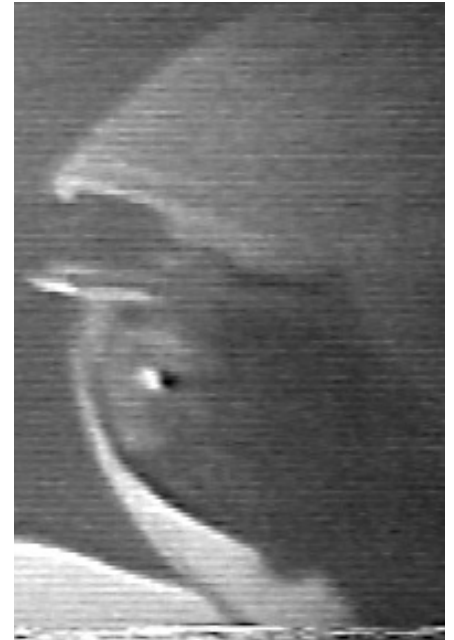
As Neil reads the text of the plaque, Buzz (left) raises his sun visor to see better in the deep shadow of the LM.

109:53:14 GET



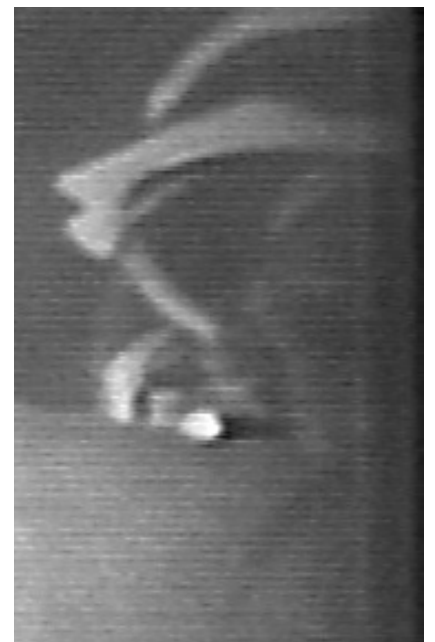
As Buzz rounds the ladder, his face and Snoopy cap are clearly visible.

109:53:43 GET



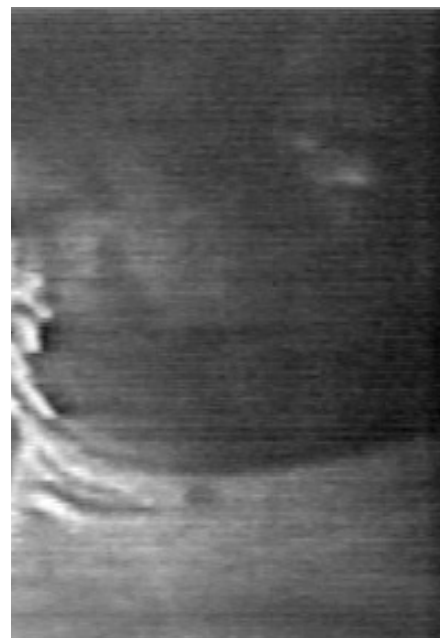
Buzz looks straight down and describes the lunar surface below him. His face is in profile and we can see his Snoopy cap and nose.

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Buzz holds his left glove in front of the camera to show the smudges from the powdery lunar soil. His nose and right eye, along with his Snoopy cap, are just visible at the right of the picture.

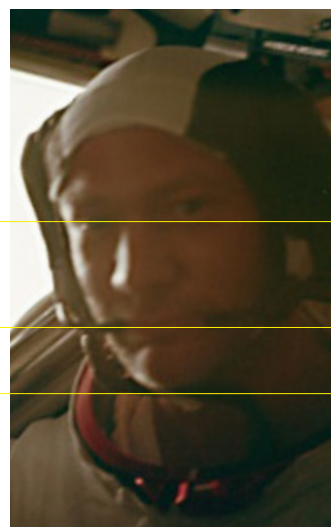
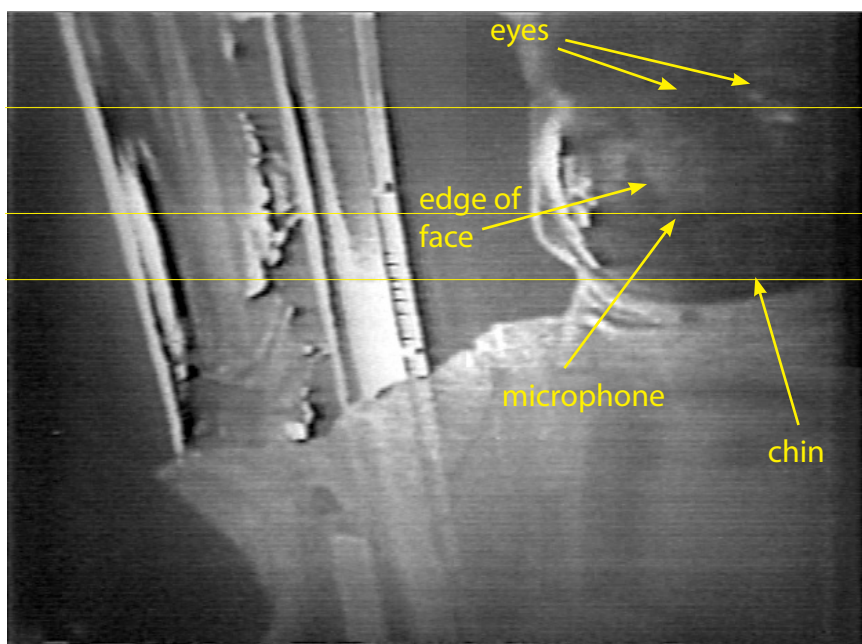
109:54:20 GET



Neil asks Buzz to pull out some of the TV camera cable for him.

As Buzz moves from right to left in the camera's field of view, we get a brief glimpse of his face.

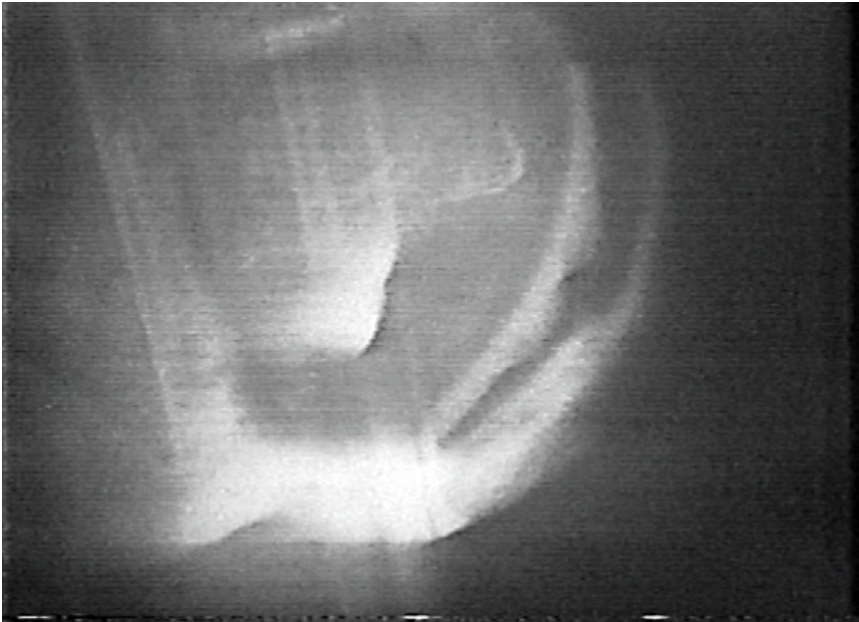
109:54:40 GET



To aid in orientation, this image is labelled and a post-EVA photo is provided for comparison.

In the TV frame, Buzz is looking slight more directly towards the camera.

(The colour photo is modified from AS11-37-5530.)



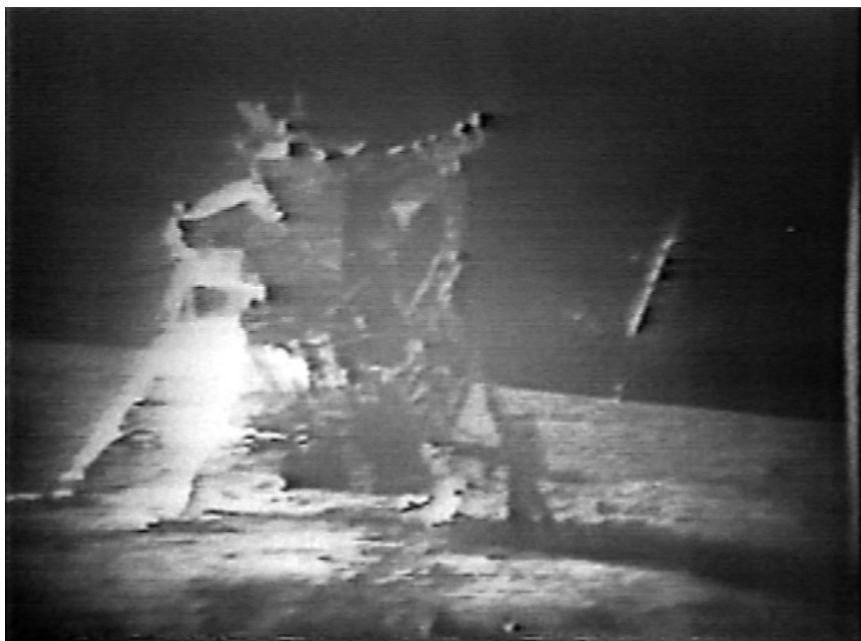
As Neil begins to carry the TV camera away from the MESA, we get a sideways glimpse of his LEVA helmet. The image is blurred through motion.

109:55:02 GET



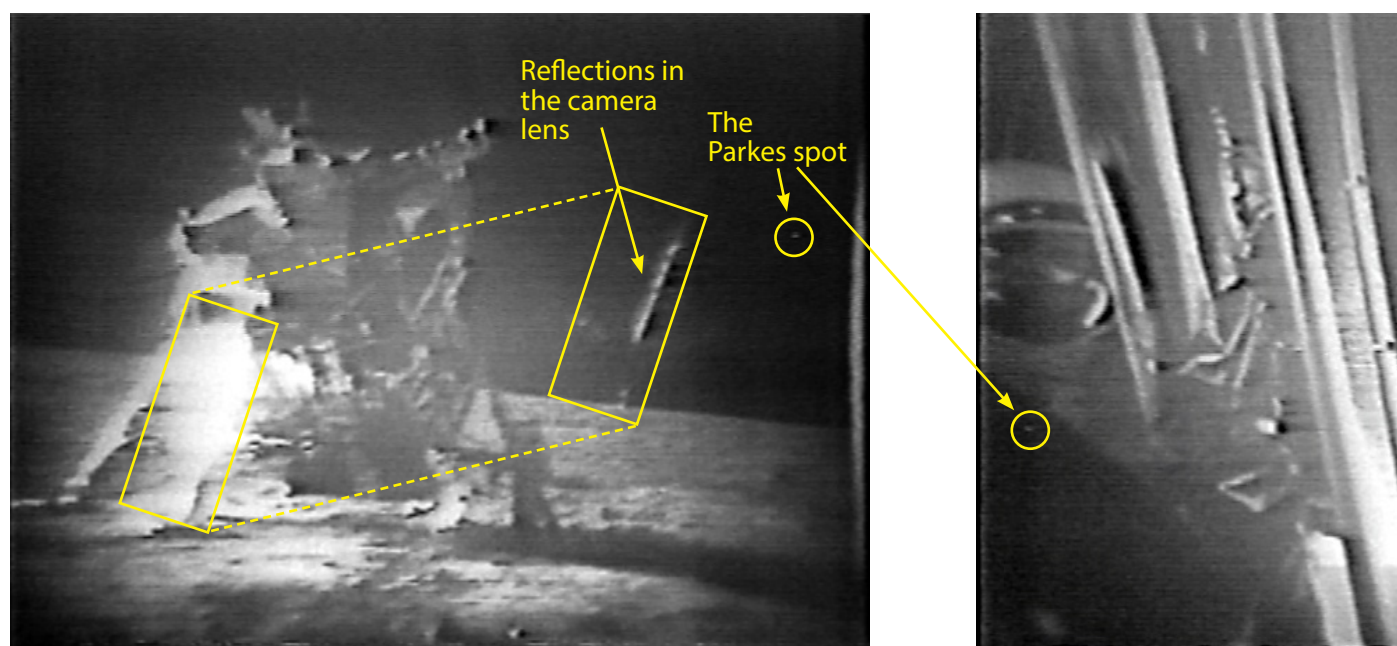
Neil's legs and lunar overshoes are seen as he tilts the camera down to check its temperature.

109:55:25 GET



Neil has carried the TV camera out to its final position, approximately 18 metres from the LM. Before he begins to take a series panorama images with it, he captures this, the only TV view of all of *Eagle* sitting on the lunar surface. Buzz is standing near the ladder.

109:57:45 GET



Note on artifacts seen in this image:

- The “Parkes spot” is a defect in the imaging sensor in the scan converter which processed the Slow Scan TV coming via Parkes. This scan converter was in the Sydney Video switching centre in the Overseas Telecommunications Commission gateway exchange building in Paddington, Sydney.
When the TV camera was mounted upside-down in the MESA, the spot was on the left hand side of the picture. Other, less obvious, spots can be seen on some of the Parkes video. (There was a different spot on the Goldstone scan converted TV; none are visible on the video from Honeysuckle Creek.)
- Reflections in the camera lens are the very bright reflections from the Lunar Module’s +y leg and associated support struts. The reflection of these very bright features moves as Neil positions the camera. The final location of the reflection in the TV picture (when the camera is pointed lower) is just to the right of the flag, which is not yet erected in the image above.

With thanks to Kipp Teague for his copy of the Sydney Video recording.

Image processing and this document by Colin Mackellar, November 2007. www.honeysucklecreek.net