

# Introduction

## Lies travel long distances

It is 21 July 1969 at around 0340 hrs Central European Time. On a distant heavenly body a window opens in a strange spindly-legged vehicle. Like an odd-looking beetle a human being slides out on his stomach; in his clumsy spacesuit he somewhat resembles the famous Michelin Man. Hand over hand he slowly descends the ladder till he ends up standing on one of the large landing feet of the vehicle. Hopping down off this he says: 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.'

Here was sensationalism at its most accomplished – the Americans the first to land on the moon having beaten the Soviets to it. That Neil Armstrong/Buzz Aldrin team was followed by five more. All six conducted scientific experiments there, brought back with them a total of 382 kg of moon rocks and then lived happily ever after, if not on the moon then on the earth. And if they are not dead, then ... But did this really happen? Did twelve American heroes really land on the moon before returning safely to earth, as President Kennedy had decreed in 1961? Or was it all nothing more than a strategic lie as an increasing number of sceptics maintain? A lie intended to establish ideological and political dominion over the globe once and for all?

We shall see. In my search for the truth I will begin before the summer of 1969, for the story of the moon landing obviously does not begin in 1969, nor in 1965 or 1963. It begins in 1961 at the latest, which was the year when the first manned flight in space was launched with the Russian Yuri Gagarin on board. More than any other, this event was the one that finally set off the race to reach the moon by providing the USA with the ultimate justification for its multi-billion dollar programme of manned space exploration. So to

whet readers' appetites, let me begin with a brief consideration of the beginnings of manned space travel in the USSR. As we shall see, it was not solely a matter of two great powers battling against one another, for their space programmes were also complementary. However much they may have been serving their contradictory interests in their rivalry, in terms of public interest the show they put on amounted to a collaboration. The space adventures of cosmonauts and astronauts alike held the attention not only of the two power blocs but of the whole world for decades. The two blocs gathered their populations around their own heroes and their own political leaders, getting them to hold their breath in anticipation of the next showdown in space, causing them to forget their day-to-day problems and – above all – the billions and billions-of-billions seeping away in the military and industrial complexes of each country. At the sight of those beaming heroes very few thought to ask where the huge sums of taxpayers' money had gone; that would have appeared small-minded and unpatriotic.

Those heroic deeds have long since found their way into school and history books and now belong to the cultural heritage of humanity as a whole. Both in the USA and in Russia the adventures of the space travellers have attained cult status. Especially in the United States schoolchildren are systematically primed concerning the heroic deeds of the astronauts with whom they are expected to identify. The adventures of both astronauts and cosmonauts are not forgotten but have become obligatory components of school curricula, important for unifying the nation.

So what is the psychological and propagandistic significance of Yuri Gagarin's flight as the basis of America's moon programme? Having undertaken what I found to be an exciting trip into the beginnings of Soviet manned space flight we shall then, in Part Two of this book, endeavour to leave no stone unturned (on the moon, of course) in following up almost all known and not yet known indications that point to a faked landing on the moon. I want to clear up a number of unjustified doubts while also uncovering some new

and hitherto not yet investigated absurdities. My leading question will not be *whether* the USA faked the moon landings, but whether they *only* faked them. Obviously they had to be simulated initially for training purposes, but the question remains as to whether they then subsequently actually took place. This is a peculiar question, is it not? For surely the former cold war enemies have recognized each other's achievements in space without any envy? Has not every space flight been photographed a thousand times and documented as well? Haven't the heroes been passed from hand to hand the world over on lecture and interview tours?

Yes, they have. Yet the doubts continue to multiply. The supposition is growing that there have been lies and swindles, fibs and fakes everywhere. In Part Three, finally, I shall show how civilian space travel has been used as a cover for achieving domination over the whole world, and what we can expect from space in the future. The book will ask what has been done – in addition to or instead of the so-called 'conquest of space' – with regard to conquering the earth. I shall show how, under the cover of civilian space travel, the powers exploring space, first and foremost the USA, have transformed the orbit into a battlefield of the future, with the ultimate aim of shackling the whole globe.

### Space – the perfect place for a falsehood

There are many reasons why the 'history' of space travel should be taken with many pinches of salt. I have already mentioned one of those reasons: the free and easy way in which the USA has been treating truth. Another is the fact that information about space travel emanates almost exclusively from Soviet and American propaganda machines. 'The information reaching the public is at best filtered, and not unusually falsified by propaganda,' we read for example on the jacket of Harro Zimmer's book *Der rote Orbit* (The red orbit).

Propaganda and falsification are integral parts of military

operations as depicted in the space activities of the superpowers. In every case careful decisions are made about which aspects of an operation are to be disclosed to the public and which not, for what the public knows is also known to the enemy. This means that in principle the public and the enemy can be seen as essentially one and the same thing.

It goes without saying that the space programme of the USA is first and foremost a military programme. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) emerged from NACA (the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics), an agency devoted to researching military aeronautics. The men who landed on the moon were officers bound by the mechanisms of command and obedience. The rockets used by both blocs for the first 'civilian' missions were modified intercontinental rockets.

The best (tall) story about a military operation is the one that says it is not a military operation at all. This is how the idea of 'civilian' manned space travel came into existence.

The reason why we intuitively believe in American space travel more than in the Soviet variety is because the 'information policy' of the USA was quite different. Whereas the Soviet Union released information extremely sparingly, the exact opposite applied to America's strategy which was positively loquacious. Especially as regards the moon landings they bombarded journalists with fat press kits while also publishing detailed drawings of the spacecraft involved. In comparison with Soviet handling of information, the public following American space travel were thoroughly smothered in it. Everything appeared to be taking place in full public view. With their mystification and contradictory carry-on the Soviets created one gap in their credibility after the other, whereas in America any similar potholes were immediately filled in with vast quantities of information – whether true or false being initially of secondary importance. So much eloquence certainly made it appear that there could be no secrets, and definitely no murky secrets.

The question, however, is: With all this seeming or actual open-

ness, how was the American side handling its crisis management? While the secrecy of the Soviet Union served to hush up awkward incidents or mishaps, the Americans appeared to be courting the danger of spectacular failure before the very eyes of their ideological enemy. If the Soviet publicity machine was used for crisis and reality management, how were the Americans handling the matter of crisis and reality management? For it is surely obvious that for their propaganda specialists, too, this would have to be the most important task.

How were the United States dealing with the huge dangers of the moon missions? What precautions had they taken with regard to reality management? Did they really take the risk of failing in spectacular fashion before the very eyes of the whole world? Having built up their astronauts for years and years as national heroes, did they really send them to the moon as the whole of humanity watched in real time – while leaving the result open – like an open-ended military mission in which they subjected themselves to a kind of ‘divine judgment’ as to victory or defeat? Are we really expected to believe this? Or was there a back door somewhere, as it were a ‘win-win situation’ which to this day we know nothing about, or at least nothing specific?

There was nothing that either of the two sides ‘needed less than dead astronauts or cosmonauts. Only survivors could be used to demonstrate superiority,’ says Matthias Gründer quite rightly in his book *SOS im Weltall* (SOS in space).<sup>2</sup>

And finally there is also another reason for scepticism, namely, that outer space is a theatre like no other in the history of humanity. Apart from the powers involved in space travel, no one can go there to check whether everything is in order or perhaps to see if all those stories about heroic space missions are true. So space is the perfect place for a falsehood. As ever, the adventures undergone there are described virtually exclusively by those who underwent them, a typical characteristic of what is known on earth as the seafarer’s yarn. In respect of the truth this bodes nothing good.

## **PART ONE: THE SOVIET UNION**



## Lost in space

San Maurizio Canavese near Turin, 2 February 1961. In a room in their father's house, Villa Bertalazona, the Italian brothers Achille and Gian-Battista Judica-Cordiglia have rigged up an amateur radio station for monitoring Soviet satellites. They have named the station Torre Bert after the villa. Torre stands for one of the villa's towers, Bert for Bertalazona. For months they have been hunting for the beeping of Soviet 'Sputniks'. But what they hear today takes their breath away. There is a clear sound like groaning or sighing coming from orbit. And the sound of a human heartbeat is also reaching them through the loudspeakers of their small listening station. They stand there electrified: the Soviets have sent a human being into space! This was the beginning of manned space travel – and not Yuri Gagarin's flight – if we are to believe the descriptions of Gian-Battista and Achille Judica-Cordiglia (today in their mid-sixties and early seventies respectively). They are still fighting for their version of the history of manned space travel to be recognized. Listening to these two Italians makes you doubt your own ears. According to their reports, Yuri Gagarin was not the first man in space. Long before his flight on 12 April 1961 the Soviets had begun to send people into space. And always listening closely were the Judica-Cordiglias, two sons of a medical doctor from San Maurizio Canavese.

However much the Soviet empire tried to shut itself off, as soon as a spacecraft went into orbit and began to transmit radio signals it was in principle possible for anyone to pick them up. Having once spoken with a sheep-breeder in Australia, a professor in San Francisco or a scientist at the South Pole, someone from Central Europe couldn't help becoming hopelessly hooked on amateur radionics. But the prospect of being able to listen-in to a satellite flying in space was frankly unheard of.

However, it is not as difficult as it sounds to listen to a satellite. The altitude of a few hundred kilometres at which it flies is nothing like as far as the normal reach of an amateur radio enthusiast.



*The Judica-Cordiglia brothers at their listening station (left) and today (right)*

On 23 May 1961 Gian-Battista and Achille now pick up something that officially does not exist: the voice of a woman in space. Until this moment the only people supposed to have travelled into space are Russian Yuri Gagarin (12 April 1961) and the American Alan Shepard (5 May 1961). But the Judica-Cordiglias stick to their story of hearing from space, through much crackling, the desperate voice of a woman:

Listen! Listen!  
Come in! Come in! Come in!  
Listen! Listen! Come in!  
Come in! Come in! Talk to me!  
Talk to me! I am hot! I am hot!  
What...? Forty-five? What?...  
Forty-five? Fifty?  
Yes... Yes... Yes... Breathing...  
Breathing... Oxygen...  
Oxygen... I am hot...  
Isn't this dangerous? ... It's all...  
Isn't this dangerous? ... It's all...  
Yes... Yes... Yes... How is this?  
What? ... Talk to me!

How should I transmit? Yes... Yes... Yes...  
 What? Our transmission begins now...  
 Forty-one... This way... Our transmission begins now...  
 Forty-one... Yes... I feel hot...  
 I feel hot... It's all... It's hot...  
 I feel hot... I feel hot... I feel hot...  
 I can see a flame! ... What?  
 I can see a flame! ... I can see a flame!...  
 I feel hot... I feel hot...  
 Thirty-two... Thirty-two... Forty-one... Forty-one  
 Am I going to crash? ... Yes... Yes... I feel hot!  
 I feel hot! ... I will re-enter! ... I will re-enter!...  
 I am listening! ... I feel hot!...  
 (English translation from Russian)<sup>3</sup>

At the time, the record written down by the two doctor's sons from Piedmont was taken entirely seriously. The story of space travel was still young and had not yet coagulated to a viscous mass that has since gummed up school books and encyclopedias. The international media were regular visitors to the brothers, feeling this to be the most likely place to garner the latest news about the satellites of the 'Reds'. To a good many of them the brothers seemed more trustworthy than the Soviet and American PR machines, both of which appeared not only obscure but also driven by selfish interests. The Judica-Cordiglias were regarded as an independent source – though nowadays we never hear anything about them. A long article about them in the *Readers Digest* is only one example of countless media reports. Under the title 'Italy's Amazing Amateur Space Watchers' we read: 'With home-made electronic equipment, two young Italians are keeping tabs on Russian satellites and making some startling discoveries.'<sup>4</sup> Already 'on 17 May 1961, the voices of two men and a woman were heard in desperate conversation,' says *Readers Digest*: '“Conditions growing worse. Why don't you answer? We are going slower. The world will never know

about us...” Then silence. The same words were picked up in Alaska and Sweden. Their meaning? No one will know until the Russians choose to talk.’

The problem was that officially the Soviets had no three-man spacecraft at that time. The most moving message was undoubtedly the wordless one in February 1961: ‘Tapes, which I myself heard at Torre Bert,’ continued the *Digest* reporter, ‘recorded the racing beat of an over-exerted heart (the hearts of all astronauts are monitored automatically) and sounds of laboured breathing. The Judica-Cordiglia brothers took the tapes to famed heart surgeon Dr A.M. Dogliotti. His verdict: “This is the heart of a dying man.” The brothers are convinced that the Russians were very lax in the way they dealt with human lives in their quest for success in space. Collected evidence points to at least ten deaths.’<sup>5</sup>

The revelations of the brothers posed such a threat that the propaganda machine of the mighty Soviet superpower turned its attention onto the two young radio amateurs: ‘In March of the present year the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* published an article about “Soviet cosmonauts who perished in space”,’ thundered Radio Moscow on 7 April 1965:

The article is based upon statements made by the Judica-Cordiglia brothers, who allegedly received signals and recorded conversations in space by a number of Soviet cosmonauts who did not return from their flights... Two years ago the same nonsense could be found in the pages of the *Washington Post*... A few organs of the bourgeois press, in an attempt to give their cosmic lies an appearance of truthfulness, mention data provided by the American information services... However, such data do not reflect the truth. And with this statement we could close the whole matter. But we want to add a few words about the Judica-Cordiglia brothers. This is not the first time that they got involved in the reception of these signals... No one can doubt the safety of our space vehicles any more.<sup>6</sup>

So the propaganda machine of the Soviet Union was thoroughly rattled by the two young Italians. No wonder, for they were behaving like an uninvited theatre critic who kept reporting on failed rehearsals for a new play. The Soviets, however, wanted to tell only perfect tales, tales of clean heroes fulfilling their duty in space without any hitches before receiving a red-carpet welcome by the party leadership, as happened in Yuri Gagarin's case.

Today, every school textbook tells us that Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space. Full stop. But if their reports are true the history written by the Judica-Cordiglia brothers and other sources is rather different. According to them, Soviet manned space travel began in 1957 with suborbital flights in which a capsule is shot into the sky more or less vertically and falls back to earth almost immediately. Soviet experiments with orbital flights began in 1960, when manned spacecraft began to orbit the earth. But according to the reports and research of the Cordiglia brothers, by the time Yuri Gagarin and Gherman Titov went into space in 1961 a number of human guinea-pigs had already been sacrificed in space flights.

Can this really be true? Is it really possible that the Soviet Union led the world by the nose to such an extent? In principle it is, for this practice was rife in the whole of Soviet space travel, not only in manned flights. Only successes or else staged events were made public. In the case of Soviet probes and lunar missions, *Mission Mond* (Moon Mission), a popular moon lexicon, tells us how things went:

When a successful entry into an orbit was achieved, the probe was given the name Luna plus a running number. But when a rocket crashed during launch or soon after, it remained without an official name. If a launch was successful but the probe failed to leave the earth's gravity it was officially included as a satellite in the sequence of countless Sputnik or Cosmos launches. In this way the West remained ignorant for a long time as to the true number of failures.<sup>7</sup>

In other words, the Soviets simply swept failed missions under the carpet. So why should they not also apply this method to the much more ticklish manned missions? After all, such failures would be far more embarrassing and damaging to national prestige than failures of unmanned flights.

### SOS to the entire world

An especially sinister report came from the Judica-Cordiglias as early as 28 November 1960, i.e. four-and-a-half months before the official inauguration of the age of manned space flight by Yuri Gagarin. They described it as a message in Morse code saying: 'SOS to the entire world.' What the brothers found unusual about it was the presence of the Doppler effect. The Doppler effect is a distortion of radio frequency from which one can deduce the speed and direction of a spacecraft. And the Doppler effect in this case, they said, showed that the message came not from a spacecraft in orbit but from one that was travelling away from the earth:

We confirmed the presence of the Doppler effect in amounts very similar to what we later detected during reception of signals from such moon probes as the Luniks. Clearly the signal was not coming from an orbiting satellite, but rather from something that was moving away from the earth. The signal was very weak.

And then Gian-Battista Judica-Cordiglia described a scenario that gives one the shivers. In order to re-enter the earth's atmosphere from orbit, a Soviet spacecraft had to be turned to point its retro-rockets forward in the direction of flight prior to ignition.

We surmised that the capsule may not have executed the attitude reversal at the time of retro-rocket ignition, gaining speed in the process. Starting at a speed of about 8 km/sec, the spacecraft may have been pushed into a higher orbit, even reaching sufficient velocity to escape the earth's gravitational pull. If my recollection