



**Bellcomm**

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to Distribution  
from J. W. Head  
subject: Informal Names for Surface  
Features in the Apollo 15  
Landing Area - Case 340

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MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

A series of informal names has been assigned to surface features in the vicinity of the Apollo 15 landing site (Figure 1). These names were chosen by the Apollo 15 crew members prior to June 26, 1971, to provide more easily recognizable named landmarks along traverse routes and in areas such as the Apennine Front and Hadley Rille where extensive verbal descriptions will be made. It is hoped that the names will aid in real-time location of the crew and analysis of their descriptions.

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INFORMAL NAMES FOR SURFACE FEATURES IN THE  
APOLLO 15 LANDING AREA

- Alligator Chain - Chain of craters resembling an alligator.
- Apennine Front - Part of the Apennine Mountain Range.
- Arbeit - German for toil or work; a crater near a complex station.
- Arrowhead - Several craters forming an arrowhead pointing north from the South Cluster.
- Blinky - Astronaut nickname.
- Brandy - Named for the liquor.
- Bridge - Crater in Rima Hadley; the rim appears to form a bridge across the rille.
- Canyon - Crater at edge of Hadley "canyon".
- Chain - Named for the chain of craters (rio) leading away from the southern rim of the crater.
- Cliff - Crater located on edge of Rima Hadley.
- Contact - A crater located on the geologic contact between the Apennine Front and the mare.
- Contour - A crater high up on the Apennine Front located on the contours of the topographic map.
- Crescent - A half-moon shaped crater in the South Cluster.
- Crook - Crater located at crook in elbow.
- Crystal - Crater named for geology term "crystal".
- Dandelion - Crater named for a R. Bradbury novel "Dandelion Wine".
- Diamond - A small crater on the edge of Ring crater.
- Distant - Crater located on the far side of the rille.
- Dome - Geologic term often applied to volcanic structures.

Domingo - Spanish for Sunday, the day this EVA traverse will take place.

Dune - Crater named for the classic science fiction novel by Frank Herbert; also for a dune-like structure on the southeast rim of the crater.

Durins Bridge - Place name from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Eaglecrest - Named for high area in the North Complex.

Earthlight - a crater named for an Arthur C. Clarke novel of the same name.

Elbow - Crater and area at bend in Rima Hadley resembling an elbow.

Epic - Signifying the journey to the moon.

Exupéry - From "The Little Prince," a story about a little prince who came from asteroid B-612 (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry).

Fan - Crater located at the front of a geologic feature mapped as a possible ancient flow, slide, or debris fan deposit.

Fifty-one - The year Lunar Module Pilot James Irwin graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy.

Fifty-four - The year Apollo 15 Commander David R. Scott graduated from the U. S. Military Academy.

Fifty-five - The year Command Module Pilot Al Worden graduated from the U. S. Military Academy.

Flow - Crater located on a geologic feature mapped as a possible ancient flow or slide deposit.

Front - Large crater located along base of Apennine Front.

Gateway - This crater is on the traverse route leading to the North Complex, at the "gateway".

Ghostbead - Named for a musical composition.

High - A crater high up on the Apennine Front.

Icarus - Crater named for character in Greek mythology. Icarus with Daedalus, escaped from the Cretan labyrinth by building wings with feathers and wax.

- Index - A prominent crater near the landing site serving as a landmark from orbit and upon landing.
- Kimbal - For Kimbal Kennison, a hero of E. E. Smith's Lensman series, a set of science fiction novels about the galactic patrol; written in the 1930's.
- Last - One of the last craters at the end of the last traverse.
- Lightning - Named for the fact that lightning struck the spacecraft on the launch pad numerous times prior to launch.
- Link - A crater linking Chain crater to Rio.
- Lonely - Single crater on opposite wall of Rima Hadley.
- Luke - Biblical character.
- Lundi - Monday in French; this EVA should take place on Monday, August 2.
- Mark - Biblical character.
- Matthew - Biblical character.
- Misty Doublet - from Misty Mountains, place name from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien.
- Nameless - Prominent crater with no name.
- North Complex - Complex of hills, craters, scarps, and apparent flow fronts to the north of the landing site.
- North Twin - One of a pair of craters at edge of Rima Hadley.
- November - Late in the last traverse, a late month in the year.
- Offset - Elongate crater slightly offset from base of Apennine Front.
- Orville - The Wright Brothers.
- Os - Large crater on far side of Rima Hadley named for first letters of "other side".
- Pitane - A crater in the secondary crater cluster. The material which produced these secondary craters is thought to have been derived from the crater Autolycus, to the north. Pitane was the city in Asia Minor in which Autolycus worked about 310 B.C.

Pluton - Geologic term for a large body of rock which has crystallized deep under the surface.

Pooh - Winnie the Pooh and Poo, a computer program that places the CSM and LM flight computers in readiness for most of the other flight programs; near the beginning of first traverse.

Quadrant - Named for the seaman's reflecting quadrant, a precursor of the modern sextant. This quadrant was invented by John Hadley (1682-1744) for whom Hadley Rille is named.

Quark - Name applied to a three crater complex; the name of a hypothetical subatomic particle, coined by Murray Gell-Mann, Cal Tech Nobel Laureate.

Rhysling - A crater named for Rhysling, the blind poet of "The Green Hills of Earth" a science fiction story of Robert Heinlein.

Ridge - Crater located on a slight topographic rise.

Rim - Crater at the rim of Rima Hadley.

Ring - A ring-shaped crater.

Rio - River, for the chain-like channel leading south from Chain Crater.

Salyut - Crater named for the Russian space station.

Samstag - German for Saturday, the day this EVA traverse will take place.

Scarp - Crater located near small scarp at rille edge.

Side - Small crater located on the side of Pluton.

Slide - Crater located near a geologic feature mapped as a possible ancient flow or slide deposit.

South Cluster - A cluster of secondary craters located to the south of the landing site.

South Twin - One of a pair of craters at edge of Rima Hadley.

Spur - Crater located on a small spur of the Apennine Front.

St. George - A type of wine with which the crew members celebrated a successful launch in Jules Verne's "From the Earth to the Moon".

Tecumseh - Named in honor of the U. S. Naval Academy.

The Plain - A flat area of mare.

The Terrace - Slight projection of mare out into Rima  
Hadley.

Trophy Point - Named for the point of land which protrudes  
into the Hudson River at West Point.

Uttermost West - Place name from the "Lord of the Rings"  
trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Wilbur - The Wright Brothers.

Window - A crater which may provide a "window" through  
to the material below the surface of the Apennine  
Front.