

# The Apollo 13 Mission: NASA's "Successful failure"

On Apollo 13, 1970, 56 hours into a mission to land on the moon, the astronauts aboard the Apollo 13 spacecraft heard a loud bang. Indications on oxygen tank 2 immediately went to zero quantity and the level in oxygen tank 1, the only other oxygen tank in the Service Module, gradually drifted to zero over the next 130 minutes. The three astronauts aboard Apollo 13 were en route to the moon in a damaged spacecraft with little power and heat.

The situation looked grim, but in an impressive feat of ingenuity, teamwork and engineering, the astronauts landed safely back on earth April 17, 1970.

