

danger, in the flight of Luna 15.
Luna 15 is doing out there.

ONE DAY LATER, ON JULY 17,
THE ASTRONAUTS MANEUVERED
ELEVEN INTO A LUNAR ORBIT

WLC: One of the most critical
flight came just a half hour ago, a
when Mission Control in Houston
“go” for lunar orbit insertion, what
what they have been doing in the
their service propulsion systems—
—to go into orbit around the moon.

They were last heard from within
this afternoon. That’s when the
the moon according to the calculations
at 7,664 feet per second. They
that point—going behind the moon
they should have fired the engine
six minutes and more, for that engine
fired once before on this mission
never fired in the lunar environment.
journey to the moon—for . . . just
an hour to the spacecraft’s speed
possible mid-course correction.
accurate was the trajectory of the
That engine fired successfully for
great deal longer than that. Closer
moon orbit. The firing comes
wards. . . . The engine fires to
per hour. As they started with
going 5,724 miles per hour, it