

Based on Ancient UFO Relics In The Baltic Sea (2012)

The Same Mistake Columbus Made

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Major James Tiberius O'Conner III, United States Air Force was on an exploratory mission, the first manned mission since the nerds in Area 51 developed inter-star travel and subspace. The unmanned probe they had sent first revealed that the planet he was approaching looked like Earth; the continental division appeared to be identical. The probe also reported that the poles were not populated at all, three continents were sparsely populated with very few heat signatures, but one land mass had a large humanoid population. Unfortunately the probe crashed as it tried to enter the lower atmosphere to take photographs.

This did not dissuade the knowledge-greedy generals and senators in charge of the project. The theory the senate put out was that the probe had crashed because it had no pilot to guide it. Right, James scoffed in his head, because politicians are engineers. The probe had reported that the air and water were cleaner on this planet and that there were more trees. So to prepare James for his trip down to the surface, the base CMO had placed him on an oxygen regimen. The mixture was made up of the same chemical mixture of the planet he was flying to, and after five years of the regimen, James was grateful that he had no family. When his buddies took him out to a bar three nights ago, he had almost passed out from the filth in the air.

This planet, according to the base Astrophysicist, was relatively close to Earth. The trip through subspace would only take ten hours. The ship was intentionally designed in the image of The Millennium Falcon, from Star Wars, because according to the engineer, Han Solo could fly his spacecraft alone. James had no interest in movies from three centuries previous, but he had watched that one. He didn't know any pilot who hadn't.

All most all of the missions flown through space by the Air Force were solitary. They were so costly that the Senate felt they could only afford one airman per exploration. The Marine Corps had spacecraft, and twenty-man crews for them, but those were reserved for the defense of the Solar System. Their twenty man crews were made up of US Marines, Canadian Royal Marines, and the British Royal Marines. These three countries shared the cost of the ships, the weapons, and the training, so twenty each was acceptable. Usually James did not spare much thought to the other branches of the military, but ten hours in Autopilot, with no one to talk to, was boring. He turned his thoughts to his new uniform. Another geek invention, he wore white pants, a white shirt, and of all things a cloak. This was of course based on another movie. When he was first presented the uniform, with the American flag on his arm, and no other identifiers, he assumed that it was based on uniforms from the nineteenth century. It was not until he pointed out to the scientist that the year was 3040 that he was told the truth.

The cloak could turn his entire body invisible. He had merely stared at the man for a full minute. Why would he want to be invisible? His CO answered that question;

he was to activate the cloak before entering the lower atmosphere, record any important information, such as threat level, and above all, James was not to be seen. His ship began blaring a warning at him, he had exited subspace and entered the outer atmosphere. This was where the pilot was needed; he took control of the ship and began to slowly descend. Too slowly, he realized, checking his console and display. The outer atmosphere was fighting the ship. These people had no satellites in orbit, so they had never damaged their protective atmosphere. Suddenly the ship lurched forward and down, and realizing he had entered the space bored by the previous drone, James activated his cloak.

At the inner layer of the atmosphere, three hundred thousand feet above the surface, the craft began dropping like a boulder. It crashed into a body of water, its shielding and superior metals protecting him from the impact. This eventuality was planned for; an escape submarine had been stored on the top of the craft. James made his way into the underwater vessel, hoping that his ship would be all right. He guided the sub to the surface of the water, activating its own cloaks to hide it from any form of detection, from the visual spectrum to the infrared. He quickly found a harbor, with ancient fishing ships that looked like new, and exited the vessel.

For three days James wandered around the small city, looking at books, trying to learn the local language. It sounded familiar, like he had heard it before. He found a book written in English on the fourth day, and learned the towns name. His final report, sent through subspace before he destroyed his submarine, himself on board, was that they needed to try harder for inter-planetary travel. For he had gone in search of the East

Indies, and found the village in Sweden that his Great-grandfather had come from. As a people, Earth could not afford more mistakes like Columbus made.