

FROM THE AVENGER LOGS...

BOARDING PARTY

By Alex Rosenzweig

"Captain's Log, Stardate 8710.14:

While patrolling near the Kobol Star System, the Aven-ger has made an unusual discovery. The Larson-class destroyer U.S.S. Eisenhower has been found drifting near the system. The ship appears undamaged, but its crew seems to have disappeared. A boarding party has been sent over to attempt to gain some clues to this mystery."

"Phasers on stun," ordered Captain Vosseller. He, Security Chief Tom Wilson, Assistant Chief Engineer Young, and a security team had materialized in the silent corridors of the Eisenhower. Except for the absence of the crew, all other readings on the ship had been seemingly normal. This had added to the air of mystery that surrounded the whole affair.

Vosseller pointed down a corridor. Two of the security guards started down the indicated passageway. Young looked around, scanning with his engineering tricorder. The exec glanced at him, and he shook his head.

"The circuitry's intact here. I want to check out engineering."

"Go ahead," Vosseller told him. "Take Ensign Papaccio." Young motioned to the specialist and they disappeared around a corner. Vosseller looked at Wilson. "Let's check the bridge."

"Will the turbo-lifts work?" asked the security chief, as they approached the doors at the end of the corridor.

"They should," Vosseller answered. "Let's find out."

The lift did work, and the two rode up to the bridge. As the doors parted and the two men stepped onto the bridge, Vosseller stopped. "Wait," he said. Wilson stopped just behind him. The doors slid closed, and for a minute it seemed as though they were in total darkness. As their eyes adjusted to the dark, though, they realized that the emergency lights were on, but at their lowest level. Only the computer displays at the stations glowed brightly.

"Hand-lights," suggested Vosseller. They turned on the small but powerful units and sent shafts of light flitting about the bridge. Vosseller took 2 steps right, to the Communications station, and flicked a switch.

"Jamie, come in. Use the ship's intercom system if you can."

"Young here. I'm in engineering. It's **dark**."

"Same on the bridge," replied Vosseller.

"Hmm," was Young's response. "Except for the lights, everything seems to be functioning. I'm going to check the main engine equipment."

"All right. We'll do a systems check up here. Then we'll call the Avenger. Report when you've checked the engine."

"Will do. Young out."

The small crew soon finished checking the destroyer. Vosseller signaled the Avenger.

"Alex," he said, after making his report, "is there anything on the Kobol system? Could there be a connection between the system and the disappearance of the Eisenhower's crew?"

"Hold on, Bob." The line was silent for a moment, then Rosenzweig was back. "Planet Kobol IV is listed as Class M, according to the original survey report. There's no other information available."

"Well, we're done checking out the ship. Should we beam back?"

"Yes. Then we should check out the Kobol system. We can lock a tractor on the Eisenhower and take it with us to Kobol IV. Get your party together. We'll beam you over in 5 minutes. Out."

Soon, the Avenger's boarding party stood on the silent bridge of the Eisenhower. The transporter beam caught them, and they were enveloped in light. They shimmered for a moment, and faded from sight.

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