SuitSat-1

What happens when you die in space?

I stumbled upon this little known tidbit whilst participating in the Field Day 2021 event sponsored by ARISS. The text that follows was adapted from snips from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SuitSat (and other places referenced below) and remembered by one of the SSTV images transmitted during the ARISS "Amateur radio on Shuttle, Mir and ISS" SSTV event - 2021 June 21-26. [Image 2021-06-26_18.54.35E01.jpg attached]

The ARISS team transmitted a set of 12 SSTV images continuously from June 21 until June 26. The images were related to some of the amateur radio activities that have occurred on the Space Shuttle, Mir space station and the International Space Station.

A spacesuit floated away from the International Space Station 15 years ago... The suit circled the Earth twice before its radio signal became unexpectedly weak. Suitsat-1 continued to orbit every 90 minutes until it supposedly burned up in the Earth's atmosphere after a few weeks.

SuitSat was a retired Russian Orlan spacesuit with a radio transmitter mounted on its helmet. SuitSat-1 was deployed in an ephemeral orbit around the Earth on February 3, 2006. The idea for this novel OSCAR satellite was first formally discussed at an AMSAT symposium in October 2004, although the ARISS-Russia team is credited with coming up with the idea as a commemorative gesture for the 175th anniversary of the Moscow State Technical University.

However, the SuitSat-1 mission was not a total success. There were very few reports that actually confirmed the receiving of the transmission. NASA TV later announced that SuitSat ceased functioning after only two orbits due to battery failure, but there were reports suggesting that SuitSat-1 continued transmitting, though far weaker than expected.

See the Vimo.com URL below for the rest of the storey.

https://vimeo.com/showcase/7924145/video/500464061
http://ariss-sstv.blogspot.com/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SuitSat
https://science.nasa.gov/suitsat-1-spacesuit-floats-free
https://www.spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/index.php