

Escape for Six :

with Karen & Roger Langley

“Escape” was started by Karen and Roger Langley at the end of the 1970s and for over 30 years has operated from Ipswich, producing material for members and mailings, plus items of merchandise.

MISSING IN ACTION, 1967

With a remake of the movie Ice Station Zebra due next year, this is a good time to look back nearly half a century to when Patrick McGoochan was co-starring in the original version - and ‘deserting’ his Prisoner post.

The choice of McGoochan for Zebra came probably as a result of his popularity arising from Danger Man, called Secret Agent in the US, as The Prisoner did not air there until June 1968.

However, before the actor could journey over to Tinseltown he was summoned



During 1967, McGoochan was only engaged on four professional assignments. Throughout the year he worked, of course, on The Prisoner and held the series’ pre-launch press conference in the September, but he also took time out to travel to the MGM studios in Hollywood to co-star in Ice Station Zebra and briefly host a US TV show.

The movie was a Cold War and espionage thriller directed by John Sturges, starring, alongside McGoochan, Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine, and Jim Brown, being based on the 1963 Alistair MacLean novel. In the story, the men were hastening to the polar base “Zebra” (denoting the letter Z, which can also be designated as “Zulu” in the phonetic alphabet) in a nuclear powered submarine.

back to ‘the Village’ in the spring of 1967, being needed for a second Portmeirion shoot. The filming required was mainly for the episodes **Many Happy Returns** and **Hammer Into Anvil**.

Later in the year, during Zebra’s principal shooting, the Prisoner episode **Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling** (under the working title of **Face Unknown**) was devised to transfer the mind of No. 6 into the body of another character, thereby allowing a different actor, Nigel Stock, to step in and cover the star’s absence.

McGoochan was quoted as saying, “It meant reshuffling schedules of both film and television series, but it has delighted me that