



A US magazine reported, "Eight million dollars are riding on every 'take.' The big boys are sweating buckets. But the Britisher is cool. Patrick McGoohan is always cool! Handsome, exciting, he shows those Hollywood heroes the way it should be done."

The writer of the article must have been unaware of an incident during a scene involving the rescue of a naval officer from a flooded torpedo room. McGoohan, being a strong swimmer, insisted on doing the take himself rather than using a stuntman. An Olympic swimming champion Murray Rose, was hired to accompany him, in case anything went wrong.

All was well, until the two men were up to their necks in rising water, when McGoohan whispered, "Now I've done it. My foot's stuck." Rose dived and freed the actor's foot which was tightly wedged in a torpedo rack, just in the nick of time.

While in the US, McGoohan was filmed introducing a pair of stories under the title **Journey into Darkness** (pictured opposite), a compilation originally from the British fantasy TV series **Journey to the Unknown**. The actor appeared in a dark cape, looking mysterious and very unlike his ongoing David Jones character from Zebra. The stories aired on American TV in 1968.

Meanwhile, production manager Bernie Williams recalled the hiatus in the Prisoner schedule. "Patrick was offered Ice Station Zebra... so after thirteen episodes we shut down the company for four months, while he went to Hollywood. Then the company was resurrected to finish the last four."

Alexis Kanner remembered how production of his western episode **Living in Harmony** was put on hold. "(Patrick) got in touch with me from (the USA) and said he was practising fast draws with a gun. So I practised a long time as this was going to be a real showdown, not using camera effects."

During the making of **The Girl Who Was Death**, McGoohan had to return to Hollywood to complete remaining Zebra scenes. His disappearance from the Prisoner set was covered this time by camera long shots, disguises and back projection fairground footage.

On one occasion, as the actor was leaving for the States, a journalist approached him as he was boarding his plane. McGoohan admitted to having "no idea" as to the series' ending, claiming that he would work on it during the flight. Another reporter described how the actor was "...dashing backwards and forwards across the Atlantic to film Ice Station Zebra in Hollywood and complete the final episodes of... The Prisoner, in London."

