

INFORMATION



A trio of consecutive episodes now feature computers. **Checkmate** displays a large computer, in the Observation Room, during experiments on the Rook and Queen.

Next, **Hammer into Anvil** twice presents an angry No. 2 in the Computer Room. His objective is to have No. 6's coded messages deciphered. The first is a set of numbers attached to a pigeon, while the second is by Morse, flashing a signal with a mirror. The computer decodes the ciphers, respectively, as: "Vital message tomorrow, 0600 hours, by visual signal" and "Pat a cake, pat a cake..." the latter of which is what was put in. The Female Code Expert helpfully informs No. 2, "And that's what came out, sir!"

In **It's Your Funeral**, the software runs an activity prognosis on No. 6, predicting his daily pastimes. The computer attendant announces to No. 2, "... twice we programmed our machines for a percentile appraisal of their own efficiencies. Each time they refused to give back the requested information." It seems even the computer can be rebellious. The next prediction is the purchase of a bar of soap and a bag of sweets. Cleverly, the program anticipates that No. 6 will buy the latter for an elderly lady. The computer attendant explains, "Efficient prognosis programming must include a quantum permutation of all cause and effects of supplementary elements."

Skipping a story brings us to **Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling**, in which more of the computer is seen, with its magnetic tapes spinning, running the mind transfer process.

In **The Girl Who Was Death**, as No. 6 enters the cave below the lighthouse, a bank of machines is seen and heard humming, although they do not really feature until the last episode, which uses the same set.

And so to **Fall Out**, the grand finale, in which the computers and gantry provide an obstacle course for No. 48 to dance around. Ultimately, the controls are in the 'No. 1' chamber, its console housing the commands for firing the rocket. Thus, the series ends, focusing on the then current 1960s paranoia regarding computers and nuclear weapons.

Today, McGoochan would probably view online social sites as much more invasive regarding individual privacy.

