



# the avengers

starring

PATRICK MACNEE  
as John Steed

and

DIANA RIGG  
as Emma Peel

in

"THE GRAVEDIGGERS"

by

MALCOLM HULKE

In which Steed drives a train --  
and Emma is tied to the track..

Cast also includes:

Sir Horace Winslip..... RONALD FRASER  
Johnson.....PAUL MASSIE  
Miss Thirlwell.....CAROLINE BLAKISTON  
Sexton.....VICTOR PLATT  
Fred.....CHARLES LAMB  
Nurse Spray.....WANDA VENTHAM  
Baron.....RAY AUSTIN  
Sager.....STEVEN BERKOFF  
Miller.....BRYAN MOSLEY  
Dr. Marlow..... LLOYD LAMBLE

directed by QUENTIN LAWRENCE  
produced by JULIAN WINTLE



# the avengers

Episode entitled:  
"THE GRAVEDIGGERS"  
Synopsis

## "THE GRAVEDIGGERS"

by

MALCOLM HULKE

In which Steed drives a train --  
and Emma is tied to the track.

- short synopsis -

A sudden fault develops in Britain's early warning radar system. This leads Steed and Emma to a district where the local undertaker is a very busy man; where an endearing eccentric runs a miniature railway and where sinister agents are working on a lethal plot.

- detailed synopsis -

A sudden fault develops in the nation's early warning radar system. THE AVENGERS suspect deliberate jamming by hostile forces, but John Steed and Emma Peel are told that no sufficiently-powerful blocking device yet exists. A Dr. Marlow had been working for the government on such a possibility until his recent death.

Learning that Marlow was buried at Pringby, which lies in the path of the radar block, Steed goes to the village and arrives at the cemetery just as a hearse is drawing away with Marlow's exhumed coffin. The hearse goes to the Sir Horace Winslip Hospital for Retired or Ailing Railwaymen, and, while making enquiries there, Steed is astonished to recognise a passer-by in the corridor as the doctor everyone had believed dead.

It becomes apparent that Marlow, obsessed with his work on a jamming device, had been frustrated by lack of funds and equipment under the government. He has sold out to enemy agents who have provided him with full facilities for his project.

Steed's arrival on the scene and his furious, fighting encounter with two hostile thugs, Baron and Sager, causes panic at the establishment. Johnson, who controls the set-up under the guise of head surgeon, is unhappy with Marlow because of the premature activation of the device which alerted the authorities. Now that Marlow has served his usefulness, Johnson orders his disposal.

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Posing as a nurse allocated by the Ministry, Emma arrives at the hospital, where she befriends Nurse Spray, who tells her she will have little work to do as Johnson performs his operations behind locked doors with the aid of only the senior staff.

Meanwhile, Steed investigates the patron of the hospital, Sir Horace Winslip, an endearing eccentric who lives in Winslip Junction, a mansion so cluttered with paraphernalia of the old-time railways that it looks more like a ghost station.

Pleasant though the encounter is, Steed retains two odd memories of the visit: the miniature, passenger-carrying railway in Sir Horace's grounds has a line into the hospital; and there is a mysterious signal control box kept carefully locked inside the Winslip manor.

That night, Steed and Emma are unseen onlookers at Johnson's latest operation. But this is no ordinary surgery, for Johnson is soon asking Matron Thirlwell to pass the blow torch. Johnson is obviously at work on the blocking devices.

Steed and Emma later find details of burials arranged with the local undertaker for as long as six weeks ahead, and each one at a different cemetery. They realise that when these have been carried out, coffin-encased devices would completely surround the radar station. Conjecturing how they would be triggered off, Steed calls to mind Sir Horace's signal box.

While Steed follows this up, Emma's true identity is unmasked by Johnson and his men. They decide to eliminate her, and, at the same time, lay the blame on the eccentric Sir Horace, by strapping her to his private railway line and driving a steam engine over her lovely neck.

Meanwhile, Steed has to fight his way past another henchman to get into the signal box. He is confronted there by an irate Sir Horace, who avers that the controls will operate a device to jam all motor cars. Steed explains how Johnson has used Sir Horace and his wish to prolong the life of the railways as a cover for other, more sinister intentions.

Over Sir Horace's telescope, Steed sees Baron and Sager start up the engine with which they intend to kill Emma, who is tied helpless at the far end of the line. He runs out and leaps onto the train, and fights a furious battle with the henchmen all along the track. Finally winning through, he switches a vital set of points at the crucial moment. Johnson runs up as Steed is untying Emma, but they soon make short work of him.

The fast thinking of THE AVENGERS spells the end of the line for the sinister agents and their lethal plot.