

Note: This show periodically replaces their ad breaks with new promotional clips. Because of this, both the transcription for the clips and the timestamps after them may be inaccurate at the time of viewing this transcript.

00:00:00	Music	Music	“Escape, Escape Now” by Michael Richard Plowman from <i>Age of Heroes (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)</i> plays in the background. Tense symphonic music featuring brooding timpani and jittery strings.
00:00:02	Adam Pranica	Host	Just doing some back-of-the-napkin math here: more than half of all <i>Friendly Fire</i> episodes are about World War Two films, and half of <u>those</u> World War Two films are ones where the heroes are pulled from a jail cell and recruited into impossible missions where they are deemed expendable. What mean? That makes this genre of <i>Friendly Fire</i> episodes more numerous than ones about submarines, B-17s, and atrocities that happened in Vietnam told in flashback where we start out not understanding why our main character has such a short fuse before realizing that no one ever really leaves Vietnam... <u>combined</u> .

And how many spins on the theme of assembling a unit of specialized commandos out of ex-convicts that rises above their reputations, proceeds to kick ass, and save the day—as well as the free world—will we get before we interrogate why any prisoner would ever agree to this deal? It’s like being on a chain gang except with a Nazi attacking you and that doesn’t sound better to me. In fact, that sounds like jail. Right now. In jail, at least you get three square meals and a bed. And you’re telling me that eating tree bark and sleeping in the snow has that beat? No thank you, sir! Perhaps this non-submarine-related subgenre of a subgenre actually is a case for prison reform. Now there’s a film paper right there.

It’s confusing that in *Age of Heroes*—you’re expecting a colon and a subtitle where none exists—the main character freed from prison is played by the positively cherubic Danny Dyer and not Sean Bean! The actor at the top of any casting agent’s list titled “Resting Prison Face.” It’s this guy that punches out an officer, and it’s up to Sean Bean to trust him! Sean Bean has prison face, but also “trusts someone who’s been to prison” face. So we—the viewers—are inclined to agree with his judgment. We do not, however, agree with Sean Bean being second fiddle in this mission or on the movie poster.

I think we could all do with some fresh ideas for this well-worn story because there’s a lot about this film we’ve seen before: the secret German technology that could change the outcome of the war, the hard-bitten major who is desperate enough to sacrifice everything for the mission, and the stoicism of beautiful Norwegian farmers. Sure, the story of this film may feel like a retread, but the great thing about *Friendly Fire* is that every episode is very different. No matter how many of the same kind of movies we see. Shut up, I’m talking! On today’s *Friendly Fire*—*Age of Heroes*.

00:02:56	Music	Music	<i>[Music fades out.]</i> “War” off the album <i>War & Peace</i> by Edwin Starr. Impassioned, intense funk.
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War!

Huh!
Yeah!
What is it good for?!
Absolutely—
—nothing!
Uh-huh!

War!
Huh!
Yeah!
What is it good for?!
Absolutely—
—nothing!

Say it again, y'all!

War!

00:03:15 Ben Harrison Host *[Song fades down and plays quietly as the hosts speak.]*
Welcome to *Friendly Fire*, the war movie podcast that *[adopts thick Scottish accent]* after we're finished with ya, you's'll all wish you were doing time with the red caps. *[Regular voice]* I'm Ben Harrison.

00:03:25 Adam Host *[John laughs.]*
I'm Adam Pratica.
00:03:27 John Roderick Host And I'm John Roderick. *[Affects thick accent in the same vein as Ben's]* And I'm John Roderick. *[Regular voice]* I can't do it!

00:03:33 Ben Host *[Ben laughs.]*
00:03:35 John Host *[With strong accent]* Ah! From the Clan Roderick!
00:03:37 Ben Host *[With weak accent]* I'm John Roderick! *[Laughs.]*
00:03:41 Adam Host *[With strong accent]* Our war cry is... "I dinnae drink!" *[Laughs.]*
[With medium accent] Get moving o' get out of the way!

[All laugh.]

00:03:52 Ben Host *[Regular voice]* I love this origin story! This feels like a superheroic
00:03:55 Adam Host origin story for Rains, right?
So you liked Rains. Rains worked for you.
Oh yeah. I think when you establish his character as someone willing to punch an officer in the face—

[Ben laughs.]

—after what they'd been through? Absolutely! To the degree that I was confused when Rains then gave up the reins—

[Ben groans.]

—as far as being a main character.

[Ben laughs. John groans and protests.]

00:04:17 John Host Over to the Sean Bean character!
Oof. He did, though!

00:04:20 Adam Host I got a little bit of—I got main character whiplash in this film. Did you guys?

00:04:25 John Host Well, you never set up a movie where there's a bad boy who doesn't follow the rules and then...

[Adam laughs.]

—like, one quarter of the way into the movie he's all of a sudden like, definitely follows the rules from here on out!

00:04:39 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* "I am sorry about all of the rule-breaking before. Straight and narrow for me from here on in!"

00:04:44 John Host That's right. Never comes into play again!

[Ben laughs.]

00:04:47 Adam Host I can't think of another film that we've seen recently where—I feel like four of the main characters could have been the A-story here and we could've followed them throughout. And been fairly satisfied with the result!

00:05:00 Ben Host I totally forgot—reading the little description of the film at the end of our last episode—that this was about the origin story of Ian Fleming's secret commando unit. And so the James D'Arcy character, like, cutting back to him sitting in the office, waiting to hear on the phone what's going on?

[John laughs.]

I was like, "Why do they keep cutting back to this guy? Who cares about this guy? Who is he? Like, are they just cutting back because they got James D'Arcy for a day?"

00:05:32 John Host It's weird because it's a major part of selling the... selling the movie. Like, "The real-life events of Ian Fleming's 30 Commando unit!" But it's like... Ian Flemminng... sat in an office...

[Ben laughs.]

Moved some papers around. His big moment in the film is he picks up the phone and somebody puts him on hold.

00:05:57 Adam Host Yeah. Someone pisses him off on the phone.

[Multiple people laugh.]

Wow.

00:06:02 Clip Clip **Fleming (*Age of Heroes*):** We... are masters of our own fate. Or at least we should be.

00:06:06 Adam Host The head fake that this film gives you about the presence of a submarine?

00:06:10 Ben Host Yeah!

00:06:11 Adam Host Really puts you in the shoes of the characters here! Because I feel like a couple of times throughout the story I was promised a submarine I did not get. And I was extremely upset by it.

00:06:23 Ben Host Yeahhh. That's true! That's like... Chekhov's submarine, but using the lack of submarine at the end for a story purpose!

00:06:34 Adam Host Imagine that! Using the lack of submarine instead of submarine actual.

00:06:40 Ben Host I had a submarine-shaped hole in my heart after this movie. *[Angrily]* What's going on with—the last movie we watched was a

00:06:53 John Host bunch of British spy guys in World War Two, and we get to see the submarine and this one is a bunch of—another radio spy movie! Mm-hm. Radios and radios. And this time they're calling on the radio and guess what? They're not getting what they want from the other side and then the radio doesn't work...

[Ben laughs.]

00:07:29 Adam Host Come on! The thing is that we're not just promised a submarine. We are promised a submarine that surfaces off the coast of Norway and our team of crack commandos goes out in presumably a rubber dinghy and gets on a submarine and escape. Like, that's not just "I get to see a submarine;" that's top-level submarine action!

00:07:36 Ben Host It almost feels like a prequel to a film that came before, in a weird way.

00:07:37 Adam Host Yeah.

00:07:40 Ben Host Why not give us the submarine?

00:07:41 John Host I don't know, man.

Well, also like... why... there's a lot of whys here. Like, this is a training sequence film, right? It's a *Full Metal Jacket*. We get—the first half of the movie is them out there, running around. We get like perhaps the greatest wartime tam-o'-shanter they're ever gonna see in a film. Sergeant Mackenzie comes to work in a tam-o'-shanter that's bigger than he is. And they do—and we're getting a little bit—this is a prequel to every other commando movie ever because this purports to be the first commandos.

00:08:16 Adam Host It's not just the sombrero-sized tam-o'-shanter for me, John. That fucking drawstring, green sweater—

00:08:27 John Host Oh, yeah.

00:08:28 Adam Host It's incredible!

00:08:29 John Host Oh, yeah. That's a nice sweater!

00:08:30 Adam Host I've never seen a sweater with a drawstring around the neck before!

[Ben laughs.]

00:08:35 John Host Tell me about that!

00:08:38 Adam Host It's a sweater. It's a hoodie. It's a cape.

I'm wearing tiger chaps on both of my feet and both of my hands. I'm waiting for you to tell me why this is not—

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:08:50 John Host —a canonical manner of dress. I loved it regardless.

I loved that sweater. I was never gonna take issue with that sweater.

00:08:55 Ben Host It's kind of fun to be in Norway for a World War Two film. I feel like this is a mode of World War Two that you hear about a lot, but we haven't seen a ton of in film.

00:09:07 John Host Well, that's right. And there are some movies—some war movies—set in Norway and Sweden that are... on our list. But y'know, the most famous Norwegian spy mission thing—a commando event—was—there was, like, a hydroelectric plant in Norway that was processing heavy water as a part of the German nuclear weapons project. And the Manhattan Project dudes recognized that if the Germans made enough heavy water, they were gonna be able to split the atom.

00:09:52 Adam Host The heavy water is what you get when you eat too much ice cream?

00:09:56 John Host *[Ben laughs.]*
Yeah. Heavy water is your call sign for this episode.

00:10:01 Ben Host *[Multiple people laugh.]*
Yeah. I love commandos on, like, Telemark skis going up the side of the mountain? That's some fucking awesome shit!

00:10:08 John Host I'm super-mad that the British commandos did not have white camouflage overjackets.

00:10:20 Ben Host *[Sighs deeply.]* It's like the first commandos so they didn't think about the camouflage needs of commandos. They just thought about the knife needs.

00:10:26 John Host The Nazis had 'em! They had the white jackets!

00:10:30 Ben Host Ugh! So many things this movie got close to and didn't get!

00:10:34 John Host Agreed.

00:10:35 Ben Host There's something very hard to put your finger on about this movie that makes it feel like a TV movie and not a film. And... I think part of it is just that it's a little bit low-budget and a couple of special effects are a little like, "Ehh, that's a little PlayStation 3-level special effect."

00:10:53 Clip Clip *[Chaotic background sounds and yelling.]*
Speaker 1 (Age of Heroes): Grenade! Get down!
[Explosion, then dramatic movie music.]

00:10:59 Ben Host **Rains:** *[Distressed] [Inaudible]* We go now! We go!
Like, that opening scene when they're retreating and trying to get their guy out of the woods and they're, like, hiding behind that fallen tree? It looked to me like... a thing you see on the Reddit Filmmakers sub. Like, "Hey, this is a camera test for a short that I'm working on; what do you guys think of the firearms effects?" And frankly my answer is, "The firearms effects don't work. I don't buy it."

00:11:28 John Host Which is funny because I was in. We've got some cowardice right off the bat. We've got some heroism. And we're retreating to Dunkirk! So technically this is a Dunkirk movie!

00:11:41 Ben Host *[Laughs.]* Yeah, it is!

00:11:42 John Host But we're in that scene that always comes before the Dunkirk movie where we're always asking, like, "Well, wait a minute. How did all these guys get to Dunkirk?" Like, it's a Dunkirk movie! All this movie needed was a boat dad.

00:11:55 Ben Host Yeah.

00:11:56 Adam Host You guys have both said it, but I didn't believe it. Like, the Rains origin story I never saw as... as cowardice. When he tells the superior that he was ordered back to Dunkirk, I believed him. Was that not to be believed?

00:12:13 John Host I wasn't saying he was cowardly. I was saying his little squad was like, "Ahhhh!" Y'know, they were panicking and freaking out and shooting blind and... like, doing a bad job. And then he was this steady hand.

00:12:26 Ben Host Yeah. He kinda whips 'em into shape in that moment.

00:12:29 John Host He does. But then he—y'know, he's so insubordinate to that officer that it's a kind of TV movie insubordinate where you're like,

“Nobody really would talk that way. You’re not gonna—with one stripe on your jacket, you’re not gonna say, ‘We’re not fighting anymore. Fuck you, bro.’”

[Adam laughs.]

00:12:47	Adam	Host	Like, no. God. I’m on the other side of this, guys. I felt a great catharsis in that moment. Like... you’ve just been through hell. Like, you’re tired and hungry. Who is this fucking guy that’s in your way on your way to Dunkirk? I just wanna get on a boat! Get out of my way!
00:13:04	John	Host	You didn’t like his moustache.
00:13:06	Adam	Host	I didn’t like his attitude one bit. He did not give Rains any... <u>anything</u> for his trouble.
00:13:13	John	Host	Mm-hm.
00:13:14	Adam	Host	And I feel like if they’re all in it together, there should’ve been some recognition of what he had been through. Like, you can still be a leader and still recognize what had happened to Rains and he didn’t for a moment.
00:13:27	Ben	Host	That scene where friendlies are coming into the kill box and, like, trying to explain, like, “No, no! We’re British! We’re British! Don’t shoot us!” Is always such a fraught moment. The tension of that never breaks because it goes from “Don’t shoot us; we’re British” to “Don’t shoot us; we don’t feel that the orders you’re giving us apply to us in a legalistic way.” And I didn’t feel that anyone was being unreasonable. I think that they just wanted to get through the scene so quickly that they kind of abbreviated what that interaction would really look like.
00:14:05	John	Host	Yeah. Good call.
00:14:06	Adam	Host	“We need to get this guy to prison.”
00:14:07	Music	Music	Oz title theme music by David Darlington and Steven Rosen. Percussive, resonant chime followed by driving cowbell.
00:14:09	Ben	Host	Which, like—to the movie’s credit, like, this is a 90-minute movie. I didn’t find myself bored at any instant in this movie. Maybe if they’d spend the 15 minutes going over the soldier rulebook or whatever?

[John laughs.]

00:14:45	Adam	Host	It would really ruin the momentum of the beginning of the film? But I understand we need to get him to prison and I understand we need to have him <u>in</u> prison so that we can have the scene of Sean Bean getting him out. Because that was a super-fun scene. I loved when Sean Bean realized that this dude was pointing a gun at him because he thought that he’d gotten a wink and a nudge? I don’t know if you’ve ever been through this, Ben? But I’ve been at a job interview that I didn’t know was a job interview and then I got the job just based on how I acted in the moment.
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[Ben laughs.]

And Rains thinking it’s a job interview when it’s not was just brilliant.

00:15:04	Ben	Host	<i>[Ben laughs.]</i> I loved that moment. But the dude that Sean Bean is there to actually pick up? Came across as <u>profoundly</u> mentally ill to me when he was in the prison.
00:15:13	Adam	Host	Right. The Brightling character?

00:15:15	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:15:16	John	Host	He was really broken already and kept being broken. But somehow Sean Bean thought that he was an essential member of his crew. And I never saw what his—I kept waiting for Sean Bean to say, “He’s the demolition expert. And this guy’s a master of disguise!”
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
00:15:36	Adam	Host	It felt to me like his problem was physical. Like he was asthmatic or something. But it was <u>never</u> clear about what his problem was. At least to me.
00:15:45	John	Host	He’s very slight of stature.
00:15:48	Ben	Host	I kept expecting in the training act that it was going to be revealed that, “I’m really glad we also decided to have Rains here because turns out Brightling is off his nut and is not going to be a person we can take into a war zone and trust not to get us all killed.”
00:16:08	John	Host	Right.
00:16:09	Ben	Host	You coulda just had him be the guy that got killed when they get strafed in the airplane, right? And maybe they’re, like, worried about him and then, “Oh, well, at least we’ve got Extra Guy Rains here to do the job that that guy was gonna do.”
00:16:22	John	Host	Thank god for Extra Guy!
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			Here’s the problem with Rains, played by actor Danny Dyer. He does not have the face of a hard man. And apparently in <i>[emphasizes the pronunciation oddly]</i> Englang—where he is an actor—he routinely plays tough guys. Which I don’t understand, because to me he looks like former MTV VJ Kevin Seal.
00:16:50	Clip	Clip	Kevin Seal (120 Minutes): Right now it’s that quirky Camper Van Beethoven talking here with “Eye of Fatima (Part One).”
00:16:56	John	Host	He does not communicate that he’s tough! And so I think his casting in <i>Age of Heroes</i> —which is a British war film—I think a British casting director was like, “Oh man, we gotta get Dan Dyer. Ultimate British tough guy actor!”
00:17:15	Ben	Host	That’s interesting.
00:17:16	Adam	Host	I don’t think you’re ever gonna out-tough Sean Bean in terms of face.
00:17:19	John	Host	No! He’s so tough!
00:17:22	Adam	Host	Like, the <i>Full Metal Jacket</i> parallel here is apparent. Because Mackenzie takes over this movie.
00:17:29	Ben	Host	Yeah.
00:17:31	Adam	Host	And becomes—as soon as he’s on screen—the most interesting character. And I think that’s sort of a flaw in this film, is that it’s introduced someone so great and interesting that you’re like, “Oh no! Don’t cut away from Mackenzie! He’s suddenly all I wanna know about for this movie!” It’s almost a failure of casting at that point. Is that like you don’t want to get someone with that much shine on them—like, you want him to dial it back a little bit, I think, if you’re constructing this thing.
00:18:02	Ben	Host	It’s so interesting. He has such crazy on-camera charisma to me. I found him <u>wildly</u> compelling. And if you look him up on IMDB, a <u>huge</u> proportion of his recent credits are voices in video games! And I feel like that’s such a strange use of an actor that has that much magnetism on screen! Like, he has a great voice, too, but put

00:18:36 John Host this dude in the front of the camera! *[Laughs.]* Don't make him play Brin in *Horizon Zero Dawn*.
[Laughs.] The penultimate scene in this movie, where Mackenzie and Major Jones—Sean Bean and William Houston—like, basically go into a death pact with each other. Where it's like, "You guys get outta here! You gotta get the radio operator back to the nonexistent sub! Get him to Sweden!" And then they're, like, running out of bullets and I'm like, "End the movie on these two guys like *Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid*-ding their way out of here! I don't wanna see these—"

00:19:09 Adam Host That would've been brilliant.
00:19:10 John Host "—the B-rate guy and then two incidentals make it over into Sweden. I'm not applauding that. I wanna see these two riddled with bullets! They're my heroes!"

00:19:19 Ben Host Y'know, actually, somebody else that wasn't applauding that, John, was an internet pedant. Would you guys like to hear a moment of pedantry?

00:19:26 John Host Yeees.
00:19:27 Adam Host Yes.
00:19:28 Ben Host "Even if the commandos reached Sweden, they would have been interned—"

[Telegraph noises begin playing in background.]

00:19:37 John Host "—and not returned to England! Sweden was neutral during World War Two."
Neutral and sort of half-occupied by the Germans. I mean, not occupied but, like, Germans were there! I think they had to get to Sweden and then meet up with the Swedish Resistance, and the Swedish Resistance was gonna get them out through occupied Denmark, and then from occupied Denmark they were gonna go to occupied Netherlands.

00:19:59 Adam Host The Resistance never gets more stoic than the Swedish Resistance, right?

00:20:04 John Host *[Ben laughs.]* That's right. It's very stoic.
00:20:07 Ben Host Yeah. But they have the best coffee of any resistance.
00:20:09 John Host They hired David Niven to fly them over on the back of a V-2 rocket.

00:20:16 Adam Host *[Ben laughs at length.]* John, I was with you on the final scene. The final Sean Bean scene. With Mackenzie. You gotta show me the Bean in a war film like this!

[Ben laughs.]

00:20:53 Ben Host Because I don't know about you guys? But I rewound it a couple times! I was like, "Did these guys die off-screen? There's no way they died off-screen, right?" And I rewound it and I kept thinking that I missed it! When they were killed! And they just cut away from them. And we never go back to the Bean. I was shocked by this. And it was another example of that Three-card Monte of who the main character is in this film!

00:20:54 John Host Yeah.
There's a last stand that we didn't see, and it's a last stand movie and it's got—and the two dudes that we love the most—that we

wanna see in a last stand!—and we're denied it all to go with the fairly charmless... Liv Jensen.

00:21:12 Adam Host I wanted to see Vasquez and Gorman, like, hold the grenade together—

[John laughs.]

—and fucking blow up some Nazis at the end. Like, that's the ending I wanted for Jones and Mackenzie. Woulda been great. The problem is that Mackenzie is built up to be so fucking hard, it doesn't seem like he's killable. And so if you are making a war film where you don't see him die? You are meant to believe that he's alive! Like, you just—you're hypnotized into this! It's why it seems so unjust that they just cut away the way they do. I mean, if they had cut away from Rollright or whatever, you could... safely assume that that guy's gonna die out there.

[Ben snickers.]

00:21:59 John Host But not Mackenzie.

00:22:20 Adam Host What's interesting also is that Sean Bean is always, in a movie—like, a supporting and somewhat untrustworthy character. Right? In *Ronin*, he doesn't know the color of the boathouse. Right? In *Lord of the Rings*, he's the human being that suffers from the greatest weakness over the—y'know, he's like, "The power of the Ring!" "One does not simply walk into Sweden."

[Ben laughs.]

00:22:23 John Host That's right. That's right.

00:22:26 Ben Host Yeah. That's how you get your horn cloven in twain.

[John laughs loudly. Adam giggles at length.]

00:22:32 Music Transition Short reprise of theme song "War."

00:22:36 Adam Host It's so brisk. It's like... hopping into a cold pool. At a sauna.

[Ben laughs.]

00:22:41 Ben Host Yeah.

00:22:43 John Host I loved Sean Bean as the authority. As the strong dude. He never wavered. He was reliable. I felt like he was carrying me and this movie and the team and he was a—y'know, he's a little bit older now. He doesn't seem callow anymore. He seems like—I believed him as a high-ranking and fairly tough dude. So I often find myself, like, Sean Bean kind of—I don't know. He's a little bit of licorice for me sometimes.

[Ben laughs.]

00:23:16 Ben Host But—

00:23:17 John Host An acquired taste.

00:23:45 Ben Host Yeah. It works everywhere.

00:23:46 John Host Right. You just—you just over-posh them.

[Adam laughs.]

And they just—

[Ben laughs.]

00:23:52 Ben Host —they—y’know. They wilt.
That’s the straw I’ve been grasping at my entire life, to be honest.
[Laughs.]

00:23:57 John Host *[John laughs.]*
To be posh enough that the tough boys leave you alone?

[Adam laughs.]

He works at the office.

00:24:04 Ben Host *[Ben laughs.]*
I love when he calls Sean Bean and he calls Steinar into his office to set up the op. And Sean Bean has just, like, a list of dudes in his pocket? Like, “I’m gonna need these guys.” I love that! I love that he just had that in his pocket! He carries that around just in case!

00:24:22 John Host ‘Cause he didn’t know what he was being called in there for! He must have assumed. But he still acted surprised. Like, “What? Am I going operational? Oh, well, in that case I happened to have this list of ten guys.”

00:24:36 Adam Host *[Ben laughs.]*
“You’re not gonna understand Brightling’s inclusion on this list, but I’m gonna need him.”

[John laughs.]

00:24:44 Ben Host “Can’t tell you why.”
Yeah. “I don’t know why it’s a bigger scandal that we’re getting this other guy out of jail than Brightling? But it is.”

00:24:51 John Host *[Adam laughs.]*
When Bob Rains pulled that gun off of the guy and pointed it at Jones and said, “Get me out of here,” I thought as soon as they pulled away they were both gonna crack up in laughter. And Major Jones was gonna go, like, “You are on the team!” But Major Jones was fairly humorless about having that gun pointed at him, and I felt like that was a moment where the movie could’ve been fairly charming and kind of sidestepped it.

00:25:19 Adam Host I think you’re right that that scene informs the tone for everything that follows. I think it’s super-important how that plays out.

00:25:27 John Host Well, right! Because there’s no humor in this movie whatsoever. There’s not a single moment of levity.

00:25:34 Adam Host There’s Rollright in the tower? When he’s looking at the radio shit, all impressed. That’s maybe as close as the film gets, right? When he’s, like—he’s doing the audit of all the equipment and that’s the scene where Sean Bean character is like, “Shut the fuck up. Stick it in your bag. Let’s go.”

00:25:53 Ben Host Yeah. Like, "Stop loafing around just being in awe of this stuff and get it packed up. We don't have time."

00:25:59 John Host The movie doesn't have fun with it, though. That's a scene where he is sort of revealed to be... a pain in the ass. And basically it boils down to the lack of Bob Rains ever showing that he's an iconoclast; a rulebreaker; a—y'know—like, the unbroken. It takes, like, one-third of the humanity away from... not any one particular dude, but from the movie as a whole.

00:26:31 Adam Host You never fell for the "'Cause I got nowhere else to go"-ness of Rains? Like, y'know, he's made to go through boot the hardest of anyone. That made him a sympathetic character for me. Are you saying that didn't work for you?

00:26:46 John Host Well, you know what I was missing in that? Because that scene got me right up to that moment. And you've commented on this over the years, Adam. When an actor lets the boogers fly.

00:26:58 Adam Host Yeah.

[Ben laughs.]

00:27:01 John Host When it gets productive.
Yeah. When he lets snot drip down out of his nose—'cause you saw this in *Gladiator*—right? When we see snot come out...

00:27:11 Adam Host When you go full mucosal—

00:27:12 John Host That's right.

00:27:13 Adam Host —you got me.

00:27:15 Ben Host When the snot comes out, the shots come out.

[Adam laughs.]

00:27:17 John Host If he had said [*melodramatically*] "I got nothing else!!!" I woulda been like, "Sold." But instead he goes, [*petulantly*] "Give me another chance!"

00:27:26 Adam Host Oh no! So what Danny Dyer did was he held onto his vanity!

00:27:31 John Host He did! He did! And the movie let him. The movie let him. Like, "Give me another chance. Give me another chance?" What the hell is that, "Give me another chance"? That's something that you say when you get caught cheating in seventh grade! You don't say "Give me another—" This guy's saying, like, "I'm gonna kick you back to prison and you're gonna spend the rest of the war breaking rocks," and you're like "Give me another chance?" You gotta have boogers at that point!

00:27:57 Clip Clip **Mac (Age of Heroes):** Let's try for our first heart attack, shall we?

00:28:01 Adam Host If prison is the thing in the background for Rains—like, if he can't pull it off in boot that's where he's going back to—it never really felt dangerous for him, for me. It seemed like Rains had the place wired immediately. And so it was an insufficient punishment to be in the background at all times.

00:28:22 John Host [*With affected British accent*] Who wants to go marching up and down the square?

[All laugh.]

00:28:31 Adam Host I mean, the red hats hated him, but Rains was, like, ready to kick some ass at all times, too. It seems like he woulda been fine.

00:28:40 John Host Yeah. Right. I mean, at least in prison you're not getting shot at. And freezing your butt off. But I didn't believe him as a hard guy and I also didn't believe him as a transformed guy. I wanna see this guy broken all the way down. And remade!

00:28:59	Adam	Host	I think we're in agreement there. I get the sense that this guy is able to but unwilling to go there for this movie.
00:29:09	John	Host	As an actor.
00:29:11	Adam	Host	Yeah.
00:29:12	Ben	Host	Man. I wondered about that. 'Cause that scene does just kind of, like, bounce off the surface. It does not pull me over to his side. And I feel like we've seen scenes like that—a character pushed to their breaking point—a lot in this project. This is like a war movie moment and... like, there's times that it works! It's another thing that's hard to put your finger on! Why is one person capable of getting us there with them and another person not? Is it willingness or is it talent or is it, like, do you have to love his face more?
00:29:47	Adam	Host	There's a couple of different avenues there, though! Like you could either shoot snot rockets out of Danny Dyer's nose or you could Private Pyle him in such a way that you see him break. You see him break and turn... psychotic. But like, <u>usefully</u> psychotic, even. For the rest of the film.
00:30:05	John	Host	You know what the problem is, I think? We have seen so many training montages. And I'm not just talking about us having watched war movies. I'm talking about everybody in movies. We've seen so many commandos train. At BUD/S school. That a filmmaker feels like... all they have to do now is give us a shorthand of it. Because we already know what it's like to be out in the surf lifting a log with your buddies, or... y'know, like... <u>really</u> put through the shit. And so this movie tries to have it both ways. It assumes we know that this guy—y'know, that Bob Rains holding his rifle over his head out in the Scottish highlands—
00:30:55	Ben	Host	<i>[With thick Scottish accent]</i> "This is my backyard, laddie!"
			<i>[Multiple people laugh.]</i>
00:30:58	Adam	Host	<i>[With faltering accent]</i> "This is a link style."
00:31:02	Ben	Host	<i>[With thick accent]</i> "We do this for fun!"
00:31:05	John	Host	And the whole, like, y'know, "Run it again" or whatever. But this movie also wants us to spend a half an hour of a ninety-minute movie in that boot camp. So it doesn't give us a break and only give us five minutes of a training montage and say, "You know. You know. Like—"
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			"Like you see in the other movies that has this."
00:31:26	Ben	Host	Yeah. "We've all been here before. Now let's get on to the caper."
00:31:29	Adam	Host	Well, that's the danger, right? I think this is supporting your argument of, like... it wants to have it always. It wants to have the benefit of our knowledge of all the other boot camp scenes, but also every other scene where we've seen a guy break totally.
00:31:46	John	Host	But also every other scene where we've been in some kind of bomber on a secret mission over the target and all of a sudden our plane is getting strafed by Messerschmitts and everybody's gotta dive out. Y'know, there's a lot of tropes here and we kind of get... both the trope and also the shorthand of the trope. Either give me my trope straight up? With a chaser?
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
			Or don't give me the tropes.

00:32:16 Adam Host The hipsters have the trope with a pickle back.

00:32:20 Ben Host *[Ben laughs.]*
Yeah. That's gross. One thing that I feel like every post-year 2000 World War Two movie has to do? Is, like, justify its existence by... having a scene about the, like, specific case that we are here to discuss. Like, no longer can you make a general World War Two film. You now have to be like, "Okay. There's a specific radar technology in this year of the war that is a make-or-break deal. And we—in this movie—are specifically concerned with this radar technology and the Germans could, y'know, propagate it all across the Atlantic Coast of Europe and that would be bad, so we need to find out what their technology is and possibly sabotage it before it gets off the ground."

00:33:15 John Host Right. It's the German Superweapon plot.
00:33:18 Ben Host Yeah. It's the German Superweapon plot, but it's also just like a... "Hey! Like, so, I know that there are like ten million World War Two films? But have you seen one about weird radar?"

00:33:31 John Host *[John laughs.]*
World War Two has generated more fanfic than almost anything but *Star Trek*.

[Ben laughs.]
And throughout the sixties and seventies, it was extremely—an extremely popular form of pulp novel for there to be a novel about a secret German weapon that no one knew about during the course of the war, but it could have changed the tide of the war at any point. And it was always some kind of laser beam or some sort of thing. Some German secret weapon. And I think now it has become—it's, like, morphed over into a History Channel kind of trope.

00:34:14 Clip Clip **Music:** Ominous low music with disquieting clanks and whines.

00:34:19 John Host **VO:** Could Nostradamus have been warned about a future catastrophe?
00:34:23 Ben Host But in the seventies and in the sixties it was way more fun.
00:34:24 John Host I feel like even PBS has those—
Yeah, I know, these days, right? But it used to be the source of dime store novels. And it was really fun! I read so many of those. And it's a kind of war movie, right? We haven't seen as many of them, but.

00:34:38 Ben Host I feel like as we go through this we're gonna encounter them more and more. But there's a novel I read in high school that I really liked called *Cryptonomicon* where they're like cracking the German codes. And once they've got them all cracked then they have this problem of, "Okay, if we start sinking every sub or foiling every troop movement that they try and do, they're gonna realize that we've cracked the code. So now we have to, like, really judiciously start fucking with their plans in a way that will prevent them from knowing that we know what we know."

00:35:12 John Host Sure. The Bletchley Park problem of making it seem like an accident.
00:35:16 Ben Host Right. And this movie kind of feels like it starts to have the first part of that, which is like, "Okay. We found out about this incredibly

sensitive installation in Norway that is for some reason guarded by a crack squad of SS troops. 'Cause it's the linchpin to the German electronic defense network. But we're gonna send, like, eight guys in there with submachine guns and knock the whole thing out." It seems like you're kind of showing your hand to the Germans in a way.

00:35:51 John Host Right. Although you could just have sent a bunch of bombers. But I guess—I guess with a bunch of bombers you wouldn't have been able to get those code books and all that secret technology.

00:36:03 Adam Host That's the thing.

00:36:04 Ben Host They do make the case that they have to make it look like they didn't get any actual intel? Is that—

00:36:09 John Host Yeah, but this was based on... and I don't think that it—I don't think that it explicitly ever says, but there—there actually was a German radar. It was situated across the Atlantic wall. It did create a problem. And there was a British commando event where they paratrooped in and stole the—actually stole one of the radars! Like, folded it up and took it with 'em! But it was—it happened in France.

[Adam laughs.]

It involved a whole brigade. I mean, there were, like, 150 commandos. They, like, blew up a whole—they raided a whole installation and then there were boats that picked them up kind of on the Normandy coast. And they totally stole this whole thing and, like, back-engineered it. That's a killer movie!

00:37:08 Ben Host They didn't have a thing where they called for the boats and they were like, "Sorry. There's no boats."

00:37:11 John Host No. The boats actually came. Although there was some kind of snafu with the boats where it was like, "They were supposed to land one at a time but they all landed at once! LOL!"

[All laugh.]

00:37:24 Ben Host I mean, for a ninety-minute movie this movie has a ton of fucking shit in it. Like it's got a crazy radar plotline. It's got the formation of the first commando unit. It's got the sadistic German officer that does reprisal killings in Norway. It's got the girl who was in love with the guy who was the real contact but then he died and so she became the contact and she is, like, playing a long con to try to get exfiltrated from Norway. How many subplots can you pack into a ninety-minute movie?

00:37:59 Adam Host You need 20% more story on all of those subplots, though.

00:38:03 Ben Host If you pulled one away... maybe there's a really great ninety-minute film in here!

00:38:08 John Host Just start with, like, a commando team that's made up—because none of the qualities that the prison established Bob Rains as having ever play into the rest of the plot. So... like, his renegade spirit isn't an issue.

00:38:24 Adam Host And if anything, it makes Jones look weak! Like, this fucking prisoner got one over on him?

00:38:30 John Host Yeah, right!

00:38:31 Adam Host That's not a good look.

00:38:32 John Host I feel like the Liv Jensen, like, subplot also... was somewhat of a misdirection. Because when they first meet her, she runs into the thing. She's got a hood up or whatever. And as I'm watching this film I turn to my film friend and said, "Ten outta ten this is a beautiful

girl who's also, like, a Resistance fighter." And sure enough, there she is.

[Ben laughs.]

And it was just like, come on. You didn't need to hide her under a blanket! It's clear who it is!

00:39:07 Ben Host Would you believe that she is—that that actress, Isabella Miko, is two years older than I am?
00:39:13 John Host This is a movie from 2011, Ben. She was 20.
00:39:17 Ben Host Okay. Well.
00:39:18 John Host So there it is.
00:39:19 Ben Host I failed to do that math. *[Laughs.]*
00:39:21 Adam Host You looked great in 2011, Ben!
00:39:23 John Host I knew you in 2011. You were cute as a bug!

[Ben laughs.]

00:39:27 Adam Host I remember when John and I first met you, you were wearing that hood. And John sort of elbowed me and he's like, "Ten outta ten when this person turns around, it's going to be a young, 30-year-old Benjamin R. Harrison."

[Ben laughs.]

00:39:40 John Host It's gonna be—ten outta ten this kid is gonna look like a prep school tennis instructor. And sure enough!

[All laugh.]

00:39:46 Adam Host Yeah! Won that bet, too!
00:39:49 John Host The thing is... when she takes her hood off and she is revealed, our Norwegian commando—Lieutenant Mortensen—speaks to her, a Norwegian, in English. And never speaks to her in Norwegian one time in the entire film. And when it first happens, I was like, "Okay. This is significant. Why is the Norwegian—the guy who's on the commando squad for one reason only: he's Norwegian—why is he speaking to this Norwegian person in English?" And I felt like, "Oh, he smells a rat!" Or Lieutenant Mortensen is a rat! Because it cuts to Bob Rains, who looks at Mortensen quizzically.

And I was like, "Oh! This is it! This is the plot! Rains is gonna figure out that Mortensen is a plant! He doesn't speak Norwegian at all!" And I'm like, "Wow, this movie just got really interesting." And then none of that plays out. It's never explained why Mortensen doesn't speak to her in Norwegian. We get the—we get some version of that, like, "things aren't what they seem" subplot, but it's just that Liv Jensen's boyfriend died and she's filling in for him. There's nothing sinister about it. She's actually helping them. But it just bobbles along and it feels like we're being given the beats of an interesting movie? But... at all of the beat points, there—it's like a closed high-hat or something. It's not even a closed high-hat. It's like your bottom hat is cracked so you're getting a "pbthh."

[Adam laughs.]

It's like the SM-57 that was on the high-hat has fallen off of the stand? And you're still getting hat in the monitor? You just can't tell why it sounds so bad.

00:41:44 Adam Host My doctor tells me I've been diagnosed with broken bottom hat.

[John laughs.]

00:41:52 John Host Just so you know.
Leftenant Broken Bottom-Hat.

[Ben laughs.]

00:41:55 Adam Host Hey, how did we get leftenant out of lieutenant? Speaking of that?

00:41:59 John Host Well, "leftenant" is the thing that came before "lieutenant."

00:42:03 Adam Host I understand their equivalency. I just don't understand the nomenclature. I don't understand how one became the other. We're all speaking English, right? How is "lieut" transformed into "left?"

00:42:18 John Host Lee-oo-wit-tenant? It's not transformed into "leftenant." It came from "leftenant."

00:42:25 Ben Host "What appears to be a maritime pronunciation—lieutenant—and a non-maritime form—leftenant. American English uses the maritime form. It is also the form closer to the French pronunciation, whence we can presume the English word to have been borrowed."

00:42:42 Adam Host You know, if you're a pilot in the German military, you're a Luft-tenant. Right?

[Multiple people laugh.]

00:42:49 John Host Oh, it says here that the British pronunciation of it likely comes from a misreading of the word where the "u" is taken as a "v."

00:42:59 Adam Host I knew it was a mistake. See? This is how things work on *Friendly Fire*. I mispronounce a thing and then it becomes canon. That's how leftenant happened.

00:43:08 John Host And it's because it was mistranscribed at a time before the "u" and the "v" became distinct letters!

00:43:17 Ben Host Wow.

00:43:18 John Host We all learned something today. It turns out it's the friends you made along the way.

00:43:23 Ben Host Mm. When there was only one set of footprints in the snow...

00:43:28 John Host It was when I was carrying both of you ding-dongs.

00:43:30 Clip Clip **Speaker 1:** *[speaks in German]*

00:43:34 Ben Host Do we need the extremely long scene of the SS troop killing the farmer and his family?

00:43:44 John Host Well, that's the thing. We're getting the shorthand and also they're showing it to us. So it's like, "Yes, Nazis bad. But also, we're gonna get these Nazis killing these Norwegians." And the reason—and the whole scene... that's another thing! Why do they go back to the same farmhouse for food? Like—

00:44:03 Adam Host You can't do that.

00:44:04 John Host They're on their way to the coast! Y'know, they gotta get out of here! They're going through Sweden or somewhere! They're not going back!

00:44:10 Adam Host You're not doubling back.

00:44:12 John Host The only reason they're going back to the farmhouse is so the movie can show us the Norwegians being killed by the Germans. And that whole thing just does not stand.

00:44:21 Adam Host We see a lot of war films where we've got an assembly of troops to go do the impossible suicide mission where we aren't given the end-boss bad guy. It's just a very difficult mission that you're outnumbered for. It seems like this film could benefit from that. Just remove the heavy.

00:44:39 John Host Aye. Aye.
00:44:41 Adam Host Remove the heavy. Don't go back to the same farmhouse. It feels like they promised something to the guy who played the SS officer and, like, that's the reason that he's the heavy. But you don't know anything about him other than he's cruel. Like, there's nothing unique or interesting about him at all. I think this is addition by subtraction. Get rid of him.

00:45:05 Ben Host Yeah. Lose that tool. He sucks.
00:45:07 Adam Host I am interested in the Norwegians as a part of this war story, though. And maybe not specifically in this film, but their involvement in this is something that interests me. It doesn't seem like we get representation of them too often in World War Two, right?

00:45:25 Ben Host Something that I'm always interested in seeing more of is, like, what else do we not know about World War Two? And, like, this movie seems to burn a lot of calories justifying the radar plotline as being worth our attention. But Norway—by itself—is interesting. Y'know?

00:45:45 Adam Host Yeah.
00:45:46 John Host Norway is very interesting.
00:45:48 Ben Host Are you a lutefisk lover, John?
00:45:50 John Host No. No. I mean, Norway is interesting because—

[John laughs.]

—because it costs \$15 to get, like, a beer. I don't even drink beer and I'm insulted by that. But they have free medicine and I guess...
00:46:05 Ben Host You got a lot of spare money to spend on beer if you don't have to pay for your healthcare.
00:46:09 John Host You have to pay 80% taxes. That's why you don't have to pay for healthcare. And that's why your beer is \$15. I don't know.
00:46:17 Adam Host Here come the letters!

[John laughs.]

GoFuckYourself@MaxFunkenstein.sex.
00:46:24 Ben Host Where is the country with the socialized beer?

[John gasps.]

Y'know? Like, why do I have to pay for beer?
00:46:30 John Host There's your platform!
00:46:33 Crosstalk Crosstalk **John:** Ben Harrison for President, 2032!

Ben: Why don't my neighbors pay for beer? *[Laughs.]*
00:46:39 Adam Host *[In Bernie Sanders accent]* "The microbrews are too expensive—"

[Multiple people laugh.]
00:46:45 Ben Host *[Attempting a Bernie Sanders accent]* "One percent of the macrobrews make 99% off the backs of the microbrews!"

[All laugh.]
00:46:54 Adam Host Wow. Well, that's *Age of Heroes*.

[Ben laughs.]

Bloody good.

00:47:01	Ben	Host	Fleming says “age of honor” in his little speech in the tent. I thought he was going to say “age of heroes.”
00:47:08	Adam	Host	I love it when they say the title of the film in the film.
00:47:11	Ben	Host	He glanced off of it. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:47:13	John	Host	<i>[With British accent]</i> “Age of... uh... honor! The age of honor!”
00:47:18	Ben	Host	I was clicking the IMDB and I found out that Danny Dyer and James D’Arcy are in another war film together. <u>With</u> Daniel Craig. Set in World War One!
00:47:31	John	Host	Whoa!
00:47:32	Adam	Host	What?!
00:47:34	Ben	Host	It’s a 1999 film called <i>The Trench</i> .
00:47:37	Adam	Host	Oh, let’s see that!
00:47:38	Ben	Host	And Cillian Murphy’s in it, too! Holy shit!
00:47:41	John	Host	Put it on the list!
00:47:42	Ben	Host	I’ve already done so.
00:47:43	Adam	Host	Has James D’Arcy and Benedict Cumberbatch ever been in the same movie? It seems like D’Arcy could play younger Cumberbatch.
00:47:50	Ben	Host	“Younger-batch?”
00:47:50	Music	Transition	Short reprise of theme song “War.”
00:47:54	Adam	Host	You get a sense fairly early on that this film’s values are different from a lot of the other war films we’ve seen. I think it values time. Maybe more than most.

[Ben laughs.]

But another way that I feel like it really picks its battles is in its costuming. And I mean I’m not normally the costume guy on *Friendly Fire*, but my breath was taken away by the costumes in this film. It is a notable sweater film. And it’s a sweater film with three glaring examples. It’s Mackenzie’s green drawstring. There’s Fleming’s white sweater. And then I feel like Fleming gave his white sweater to Sean Bean later?

[Ben laughs.]

‘Cause Sean Bean wears exactly the same white sweater and here’s something I wanna know about the military at this time. When you’re issued your garments—your uniforms and everything else—are you give just a piece of luggage and you’ve got your cable knits and your—

[Ben laughs.]

—and your formalwear? And your snow camo? Like, how do you get all this stuff? I imagine everyone has this white cable knit in their storage locker somewhere. And it’s amazing that this is a thing. Anyway. This made me think. About whether or not *Age of Heroes* is gonna hold up after years of wear or if it’s just gonna become snagged and pilled after the one viewing that we’ve given it.

[Ben snickers.]

So on a scale of one to five sweaters, let’s decide! I’m not gonna bite a lot of John Roderick’s rhymes in this portion of the show. But I will say that... this film has a lot of the ingredients of a satisfying

war film. We get the training montage; the collection of imperfect soldiers; the impossible mission. But it feels like all of these great ingredients have not been in the pot long enough. All the great stuff is there, but it's only 90 minutes long! I feel like this is a war film that I could immediately watch another war film after. Like in a way that a meal is momentarily satisfying but then I'm hungry after another hour or two. And it's so weird because, like, that doesn't make it bad! I don't think this is a bad movie. I think it is... unsatisfyingly derivative. It's got some interesting qualities. Like when Rains holds the knife up to his own throat at the end to possibly avoid being captured alive? I don't remember seeing that before! I fully expected him to slit his own throat! And if he had? I mean, here's a mind game to play: is this a lot better movie if he does? Kinda feel like maybe so.

So... I don't know. That is emblematic of a way that this film chooses to be. Where it's a little bit safe. It's a little bit derivative. It's familiar. But it's so fast, I can't hate it. It does not waste my time with itself. I mean, I'm not gonna give it the two-sweater treatment. I feel like that's too cruel. But I am gonna give it the three-sweater treatment. Which is... which is fine. It's fine. I don't think you're gonna watch this movie and be disappointed that you saw it. If this were a two-hour film, I'd say that you would be. But I think the time works in its favor. So. Three sweaters it is for me.

00:51:28 Ben Host You get some bonus points, to be sure, for making your movie not a pain in the ass to watch. *[Laughs.]* And this movie is not a pain in the ass to watch! It moves. It's pretty entertaining. It's got some genuinely interesting parts. And... I feel like... it's a steaming mess in a lot of places, but I almost don't know how to rate it. 'Cause I was like, "Thank goodness this movie's 90 minutes and not 100 minutes, even?" Like, I didn't mind it. I didn't love it. I probably will never watch it again. But like, fine. *[Laughs.]* It's fine. Uh... two and three-quarter sweaters.

00:52:15 John Host Well... I think we've covered this movie pretty thoroughly. Yeah. Y'know, I agree with everything everybody said. I feel like the sweaters—and I'd like to point out that there are the two incredible white sweaters, but one of the characters in the white sweater scene is wearing the same sweater, except navy blue. There is a third sweater.

00:52:45 Adam Host That's a great color.

00:52:46 John Host And all three sweaters are among the greatest sweaters. The sweaters alone should give the movie an extra half a sweater. Just for the sweaters.

[Adam laughs.]

00:53:01 Adam Host Indeed.

00:53:02 John Host And so that extra half-sweater—basically, the blue sweater—is what makes this a two-and-a-half sweater movie. Because it really is—y'know, if I watched this movie on a plane I would feel like, "Yeah. It's fine."

00:53:21 Adam Host I—one of the fantasy jobs I've always had is, like, punch-up. I've always wanted to be the punch-up guy on a script. Two ways to punch up *Age of Heroes*. One, get rid of this green camo. Put them all in white sweaters. We're fighting in the snow wearing the sweaters. Also? We're changing the title to *Sweater War*.

[All laugh.]

00:53:51 Ben Host Which I know you will agree is a better title than *Age of Heroes*. In searching for this movie on our streaming service, I got auto-suggested *Age of Ultron*.

[John laughs.]

00:54:10 John Host I had to be reminded that that dogshit existed. [Laughs.] So maybe we should let *Age of Heroes* not be the title of this movie, is what I'm trying to say. [Laughs.]

00:54:11 Adam Host Yep. Yep. Alright.

00:54:15 Ben Host Alright, guys! Who are your guys and what are they wearing?

I had a really hard time deciding on my guy. And it's definitely between... Mac and Jones. I think I've gotta give it to Mac! Because, like, I've never—as far as I can tell I don't think I've ever seen this actor in anything before? And he is having so much fun. He is a fucking magnetic presence on screen. I just fell head over heels for him. I want to see him in everything now. And I'm sad that I will have to like seek out weird British— [laughs] period piece television series to get my William Houston fix. So he's my guy.

00:55:05 Adam Host Ben? Hardest possible agree. I am so glad that you pronounced it "How-stun." If you've ever been to New York, you know to pronounce his last name that way. I think his Sergeant Mackenzie is one of the coolest guys in all of *Friendly Fire*. In any *Friendly Fire* movie we've seen.

00:55:23 Ben Host Yeah! He fucking rules!

00:55:25 Adam Host He's one of the best characters we've ever gotten in a movie. He's fucking great.

00:55:31 Ben Host Yeah.

00:55:32 Adam Host John, is he your guy, too?

00:55:33 John Host I mean, he's definitely the guy of this movie. But, y'know. I have to pick secretary Sophie Holbrook, played by the English actress Rosie Fellner, because Rosie is... in a relationship with weird Lieutenant Mortensen, who is the Norwegian who doesn't speak Norwegian.

[Ben laughs.]

00:56:10 Ben Host Which is another weird plot thing that happens at the beginning of the movie.

I bet she could've gotten the submarine if he'd put her on the phone.

00:56:12 John Host That's exactly right! If you had Rosie Fellner calling up subs, and you had this movie around William Houston and Sean Bean and left everybody else out of it, it would just be called *Sub Chaser*.

[Ben laughs.]

00:56:31 Adam Host Except she's not chasing 'em with a ship, she's chasing 'em on the phone.

00:56:34 John Host Is that really a better title than *Sweater War*?

Bean and Houston are just running around Norway going from port to port 'cause she's, like, calling 'em up, like, "Okay. The sub is going to be in Oslo." And they go to Oslo—"Oh, it's not there!" *Sub Chaser*.

00:56:46	Adam	Host	If you're writing a war film and you have not consulted the assembled hosts of <i>Friendly Fire</i> for your punch-ups, I can't even help you.
00:56:54	John	Host	Yeah.
			<i>[Ben laughs.]</i>
00:56:55	Adam	Host	GoFuckYourself@MaxFunkenstein.sex . That's how you get ahold of us.
00:56:58	Ben	Host	Yeah. Our representation is at Creative Artists Agency. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:57:03	Adam	Host	Yeah. Yeah. You can find us through CAA. But that email address goes there.
00:57:09	Ben	Host	Mm-hm. <i>[Laughs.]</i> That goes straight to them. <i>[Laughs.]</i>
00:57:13	Music	Transition	Short reprise of theme song "War."
00:57:14	Promo	Clip	<i>[A quick, energetic drumroll.]</i>

Music: Exciting techno music plays.

Jarrett Hill: Hey, I'm Jarrett Hill, co-host of the brand-new Maximum Fun podcast, *FANTI!*

Tre'vell Anderson: And I'm Tre'vell Anderson. I'm the other, more fabulous co-host, and the reason you really should be tuning in!

Jarrett: I feel the nausea rising.

Tre'vell: To be *FANTI* is to be a big fan of something, but also have some challenging or "anti" feelings toward it.

Jarrett: Kind of like Kanye.

Tre'vell: We're all fans of Kanye. He's a musical genius, but, like, you know...

Jarrett: He thinks slavery's a choice.

Tre'vell: Or, like, *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Like, I love the drama, but do I wanna see black women fighting each other on screen?

Tyler Perry (as Madea): *[Singing]* Hell to the naaaaw. To the naw-naw-naaaw.

Jarrett: We're tackling all of those complex and complicated conversations about the people, places, and things that we love.

Tre'vell: Even though they may not love us back.

Jarrett: *FANTI!* Maximum Fun! Podcast!

Tre'vell: Aa-ow!

[Music fades out.]

00:58:02	Promo	Clip	Music: Chill, rhythmic synth music plays in background.
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Jesse Thorn: Hey, friends! Jesse here, the founder of Maximum Fun, and I have some really great news to share with you. This year

has brought a lot of changes for all of us, and one tradition that we were grateful to be able to hold onto is our annual pin sale to benefit charity. This year, through your generosity and love of pins, you helped raise \$95,400 for GiveDirectly. If you're a member and you bought pins, they'll ship in January. In the meantime, your support will provide direct cash relief to families impacted by COVID-19 across the United States. Even in this incredibly tough year, the MaxFun community remains extraordinarily kind. And whether or not you bought pins, you can continue to help by heading to [GiveDirectly.org](https://www.givedirectly.org). And as always, thank you.

[Music fades out.]

00:58:55	Music	Transition	Short reprise of theme song "War."
00:58:56	Ben	Host	What's our next movie, guys? That's the real question here!
00:59:00	John	Host	Well, I've got my coffee mug. And I've got my... 120-sided die.

[Squeaking sound.]

And I've got my squeaky chair. Here we go.

[Sound of die clattering in coffee mug.]

00:59:35	Adam	Host	Sixty-seven! Sixty-seven. Nice.
00:59:36	Ben	Host	Oh boy! <i>[Sighs.]</i> Gentlemen.
00:59:40	John	Host	Oh boy.
00:59:41	Ben	Host	Our next movie... is directed by Sergei Eisenstein.

[Dramatic, somewhat patriotic music featuring horns and drums plays in background.]

00:59:45	Adam	Host	Whaaat!
00:59:46	Ben	Host	It is from 1925.
00:59:48	John	Host	Whoa-ho-ho!
00:59:51	Ben	Host	It's about the Russian Revolution. It is called... <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> .
00:59:56	John	Host	No kidding!
00:59:58	Adam	Host	Pretty great. I can't believe we haven't gotten here already!
01:00:02	John	Host	I've never seen it! Super-excited.
01:00:04	Ben	Host	Yeah. I am astonished to say—having attended a four-year film school, I also have never seen this movie!
01:00:11	Adam	Host	I have seen it, but not since I was in college. And who knows under what <i>[through laughter]</i> circumstances I did.

[Theme song "War" begins playing quietly in background.]

01:00:21	Ben	Host	I feel like this is like the Fates smiling on us, because <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> is a humane hour and six minutes long.
01:00:28	Adam	Host	Wow. Finally.
01:00:31	Ben	Host	That will be next week on <i>Friendly Fire</i> . In the meantime, we're gonna leave it with RobsRobsRobsRobs. For John Roderick and Adam Pranica, I've been Ben Harrison. To the victor... go the spoiler alerts.

[Theme song plays at full volume briefly until fading into the background as Rob begins speaking.]

01:00:47	Rob Schulte	Producer	<i>Friendly Fire</i> is a Maximum Fun podcast hosted by Adam Pranica, Ben Harrison, and John Roderick. The show is produced by me, Rob Schulte. Our theme music is "War" by Edwin Starr, courtesy of
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Stone Agate Music, and our podcast art is by Nick Ditmore.

Need a little more *Friendly Fire*? Why not jump into our back catalog! Last year at this time we covered *Top Secret!* from 1984. It's a film about a popular American singer who gets caught up in an underground resistance movement.

Feel like supporting our show? Well then, head over to MaximumFun.org/join, and for as little as \$5 a month, not only will you receive our bonus Pork Chop episodes; you will get access to all of the bonus content offered by Maximum Fun. And don't forget you can now follow us on Twitter and Instagram under the handles FriendlyFireRSS. So thanks for listening, and we'll see ya next week with another episode of *Friendly Fire*.

[Theme song plays at full volume before eventually fading out entirely.]

01:02:02	John	Host	I'm gonna trust Robs to be able to get my deep, melodious voice back so that it overpowers you dudes.
01:02:11	Adam	Host	Robs is gonna ride the levels down like he's riding an atomic bomb.
01:02:17	John	Host	Yeah.
01:02:18	Music	Transition	A cheerful ukulele chord.
01:02:19	Speaker 1	Guest	MaximumFun.org .
01:02:20	Speaker 2	Guest	Comedy and culture.
01:02:21	Speaker 3	Guest	Artist owned—
01:02:22	Speaker 4	Guest	—Audience supported.