



## A FIGHT AT THE OPERA HOUSE

### Cast and Full Synopsis

F.O.A.R. Teams	Emblems
Brighthelm	<b>BULLS</b>
Colara	<b>CROWS</b>
Gardian	<b>GIANTS</b>
Koopar	<b>MAGPIES</b>
Mainneta	<b>BRAVEHEARTS</b>
Marprelate	<b>LEOPARDS</b>
Onsloe	<b>TRANSFORMERS</b>
Parkes	<b>GORILLAS</b>
Seagate	<b>SEALIONS</b>
Wyton	<b>WALLABIES</b>

### A-Level Characters

Mark Benz "Mercedes"	Whizz-kid. Mr "Can-Do". He and Brad work for Terry Cognos in a design company. They specialize in staging musicals, events and parades.
Terry Cognos	The manager of Blaze-On-Stage: hired by F.O.A.R. to co-ordinate the

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	"Wagner Unleashed" festival.
Zeke Cornel	A 1930's police detective from San Francisco. This man is a clone of Humphrey Bogart: speaks, dresses, and looks like Bogart.
Brad Gellibrand	Brad is a cartoonist, designer, modeller and general assistant to Terry and Mark.

## B-Level Characters

Eleanore Blakeley	English-born. World-famous Wagnerian soprano. Although she is a large girl with a huge bosom, she is very beautiful, and the ultimate in charm and professionalism.
Neeham Burt	Delaney's side-kick. <b>Played by the same actor who plays Roy Putney.</b>
Bi Dunbar	Malaya. Professor of Archaeology.
Maurice Dunbar	Bi's brother. In Sydney lives in Haughtivale House. Maurice has more of an Oriental look than Bi.
John Goodrich "Goodsy"	Channel 8 commentator. He is one of the regular commentators on the "F.O.A.R. the ROAR" football show also on Channel 8. He is the host.
Eddie Hannakaffaki	Front-rower (prop) for the Blue team in FOARPLAY. Plays ordinarily with the Transformers. Has an okay bass-baritone voice and is a hopeless actor.
Louis Liversham "Swannie"	Channel 8 commentator who is dragooned into helping Terry, Mark and Brad. He is one of the regular commentators on the "F.O.A.R. the ROAR" football show also on Channel 8. He interviews the soprano (Eleanore Blakeley).
Charles McConnaghey	ABC classical music aficionado and radio/TV announcer
Allen Miercraft "Aircraft"	Channel 8 commentator. He is one of the regular commentators on the "F.O.A.R. the ROAR" football show also on Channel 8.
Captain O'Hearn	Supervising police officer over Zeke and Roy. Gravel-voiced, fast-talking, old-style policeman.
Roy Putney	Zeke's sidekick. <b>Played by the same actor who plays Neeham Burt.</b>

Senta	A phantom character from The Flying Dutchman
Willie Shanks "Shanksie"	Channel 8 commentator who is dragooned into helping Terry, Mark and Brad. He is one of the regular commentators on the "F.O.A.R. the ROAR" football show also on Channel 8.
Mui Tippitata	Hooker for the Onsloe Transformers and for the Reds (in FOARPLAY). Thinks up the idea of the opera.
Leo Tottenham	CEO of the F.O.A.R.
Delaney Trask	San Francisco police inspector from current day. Coloured. He turns out to have a magnificent, lyric tenor voice and he fills-in for Eddie when Eddie's throat is badly injured in a game. He's quite a good actor, and is signed up immediately by the Met at the end of the performance. "The Singing Cop".
Truck Driver	He has the task of delivering <i>Der fliegende Holländer</i> to the Tennis Centre. His effort is so impressive, that he is hired to drive in the car race.

## C-Level Characters

Alma	San Francisco street walker
Archaeologist	The young Nordic archaeologist from 1932 thought to be Seamus Flannery.
Jake Bingham	AFL legend, full-forward for Wondong in OzFooty
Caretaker	At His Majesty's Theatre
Peter Connor	Taxi driver
Benny Eishaks	Lock from Marprelate, who plays Siegfried
Capt Francis de Groot	A real person, who really slashed the ribbon at the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening.
Smack TK	Wrestlemania star, Smack Telly Kloonan
Artie Moses	The HOLDEN dealer in the Western Plains
Dink Pinkus	The criminal sought by Zeke and Roy aka Jerse de Witte (who is sought by Delaney and Neeham).
Clare Raspiean	Interviewer on cultural matters

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Reg Toppey	The FORD dealer in the Artesian Basin.
Toughs and Driver	Toughs #1, #2 and #3 are Chicago-type gangsters from the late 1920's and the driver is Australian, from the same era.
Minor:	News presenter, Kylie and Bernice, Margo and her horse Mick, 1932 radio announcer, Premier of NSW



## A FIGHT AT THE OPERA HOUSE

There are 2 football codes which dominate Australian sport coverage. One is a variant of Gaelic football where the aim is to kick the egg through the goal posts. Players are expected to leap high in the air in order to take marks. This is Aussie Rules. Here it is referred to as OzFooty.

The alternative code is Rugby League. F.O.A.R. (pronounced "For") stands for Federation of Australian Rugby.

*There are a couple of car salesmen (one for Holden and the other for Ford). Their shenanigans weave through the plot.*

The prelude sets the pace.

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The current F.O.A.R. players are in the boardroom under pressure. They are commanded to come up with SOMETHING which will help the F.O.A.R. to rival those OzFooty bastards who march relentlessly on to glory. It is Mui who thinks up the answer: the F.O.A.R. will put on an extravaganza based on Wagner's operas. A professional company will be hired to stage this event: Blaze-on-Stage.

## ACT I

Things are hectic at the office Of Blaze-On-Stage, especially the Media Room.

Mark and Brad steel themselves to watch their newly-acquired DVDs of Wagner's operas. They find that they can only get through this ordeal by running the DVDs at fast speed. They agree that there has been a mistake: the famous heroine Isolde is renamed "IsYoung".

The boys are then frantic – writing down great ideas on butcher's paper.

Terry joins them. He has been in touch with the heavies at F.O.A.R. – they have some crazy demands on what must be included in their "cultural" endeavour. Then Terry, Brad and Mark throw these highly unlikely ideas into the mix. The spectacular is now taking shape.

### The "F.O.A.R. The Roar" Footy Show On TV

Delaney Trask and Neeham Burt are police detectives from San Francisco. [Neeham is the grandson of Roy Putney whom we shall later meet with the Bogart lookalike Zeke Cornel].

They are in pursuit of a criminal. They are standing about in a glorious Sydney hotel. They accidentally see the "F.O.A.R. The Roar" footy show on the TV. On that show, the panel members are outraged: they are pumped for the upcoming extravaganza and behave gauchely.

To introduce the famous Wagnerian soprano Eleanore Blakeley to the Australian viewing public, the F.O.A.R. boys play an interview that Eleanore made with a sophisticated ABC music critic. Then the

F.O.A.R. boys put their own horrifying spin on the voluptuous soprano. This is a gutter-level, highly embarrassing farce – but the rugbyists love it.

Back at the office of Blaze-On-Stage, Terry wants Bogart.

Terry reveals that he is a sucker for Humphrey Bogart films. He asks Mark and Brad to try to find a Bogart impersonator as an addition to the upcoming event.

## ACT II

### “HUMPHREY BOGART”

*[Whenever possible, there will be a reference to one or other of Bogart's most famed movie scenes.]*

Our “Humphrey Bogart” lookalike hails from San Francisco in 1932.

Zeke Cornel is a detective lieutenant in the SFPF. Zeke's dialogue with street walker Alma puts us in the picture: Zeke is hunting down a criminal (Dink Pinkus). Zeke is unmarried with a small son. He wants to be a good father but ...

Zeke's work partner is detective sergeant Roy Putney. Their boss (Captain O'Hearn) delivers a scolding rebuke to the two policemen, then sends them off to Sydney in pursuit of Dink Pinkus. They will bear letters of introduction to the Dunbar brothers (Bi and Maurice).

Digging well into the depths for Wagner, Blaze-on-Stage presses on.

Swannie from F.O.A.R. joins Terry, Mark and Brad. Swannie is trying to make sense of it all by listening to a learned radio announcer (based on Karl Haas) – but he ends up being more confused. Mark and Brad search for more inspiration by dancing the tango with two beautiful ladies.

Getting confused with Nijinsky (thinking it a name for vodka) the idea of getting ballet-trained men into the mix is discussed.

The upshot is that the guys discover a high-flying OzFooty star. He could play a Wagnerian villain (if only they knew who that might be!)

### The Onslow Football Club ("The Transformers"): Their Gymnasium

The Flying Dutchman theatrical prop is mentioned by Brad and Mark. It will have to be collected from a warehouse. As the Blaze-on-Stage guys head off to join the current-day players at their club gym, Delaney and Neeham are already there, chasing their criminal (Jerse de Witte). The players are impressed by Delaney's physique. They suggest that he could try out with them as a potential footballer.

A demonstration haka is performed for the San Francisco cops. Brad and Mark recognize the photo of Jerse de Witt, but as Dink Pinkus.

## **ACT III**

### 1932, Night In The Driving Rain, Manderlay Malaya

We see a tribute to Bogart's downpour scene from *The African Queen* when Zeke visits Professor Bi Dunbar.

The two men discuss the search for Dink Pinkus, another lowlife (Seamus Flannery), plus the Professor's interest in archaeology. Zeke will benefit from Professor Maurice Dunbar's hospitality in Sydney (Bi promises). Bi also directs Zeke's attention to a prop in the bowels of His Majesty's theatre (the prop being of the Flying Dutchman ship). Di alerts Zeke that he should search therein for a treasure map: Dutch West Irian gold.

Meanwhile in present day, Delaney does well at the F.O.A.R. practice session.

### 1932, The First Fleet Hotel, The Rocks, Sydney

Zeke and Roy are horrified at the appalling accommodation offered in the First Fleet Hotel, at The Rocks.

### 1932, Haughtivale House, Sydney

At the robust home of Professor Maurice Dunbar the early preparations are being made for Captain Francis de Groot to upstage the Sydney Harbour Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony. Maurice is horrified that Roy and Zeke are domiciled at their flea-bag hotel at The Rocks. He invites the men to stay with him. Zeke is now not sure if he is chasing Pinkus or Flannery. Maurice advises Zeke to look out for them at His Majesty's theatre.

Back in the current day, Brad and Mark discuss technical difficulties (related to the car chase which is the only thing they are interested in). Brad organizes with the truck driver the collection of the famous pirate ship prop.

### 1932 Zeke and Roy At His Majesty's Theatre In The Basement

Zeke and Roy ask the caretaker at His Majesty's theatre to take them down to the basement to look for Dink (who may be hiding out down there).

Zeke and Roy come across the piece of scenery representing the hulk used in "The Flying Dutchman" opera: **Der fliegende Holländer**. The two men climb aboard by ascending a rope ladder which is fortuitously hanging over the side of the prop.

Return to current day. Brad and the truck driver locate the Dutch pirate ship prop in the warehouse. It is transported to the Tennis Centre with Zeke and Roy on board.

### 1932: Zeke and Roy Investigate *"Der fliegende Holländer"*

The prop has transformed itself into a real sailing vessel with Zeke and Roy on board (actually at sea: the North Sea.) Zeke's efforts to show the Dink photo to the pirates is in vain as they cannot see the two US cops.

### Current Day, At The Tennis Centre, A Huge Plasma Screen In The Entrance Foyer

<b>MONDAY</b>	Elevation Square	<b>Wagner Unleashed #1</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	First Fleet Dinner at Admiralty House	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	F.O.A.R. stadium at Casey Park	<b>FOARPLAY #1</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Tennis Centre in Dorcas Street	<b>Wagner Unleashed #2</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Players' parade followed by street parade of floats, Pitt Street	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Sydney Opera House	<b>Wagner Unleashed #3</b>

The First Fleet dinner is only open to those descended from currency lads (that is, early settlers).

The F.O.A.R. boys are super excited as they enumerate the treats in store for the viewing audience during Wagner Unleashed.

The Tennis Centre is filled with runways and elevated roads for the all-important car chase. There is an amazing array of hoists, gantries, scaffolds, linking bridges and mesh dividers. In the centre of the huge space a boxing ring has been erected. A Melbourne bistro tram is positioned to one side.

The semi-trailer which is delivering the Flying Dutchman prop arrives. Brad enlists the genius truck driver for the all-important car chase. Other major events involving dancers, the tram and 20 toucans are discussed.

## ACT IV

### 1932: Zeke And Roy Continue To Investigate *"Der fliegende Holländer"*

The conversation with Senta is stilted in that Senta acts (overacts!) as if she is a heroine in a 1930's movie. As well, Zeke and Roy are confused by the behaviour of the pirates on the prop ship:-- the pirates do not seem to be able to see the San Franciscan cops. So Roy and Zeke are now busy trying to stop Senta from both singing and trying to commit suicide.

The two policemen invade the Dutchman's cabin. They sift through his maps and treasures. Zeke is elated to have found a treasure map and the Maltese Falcon (the dingus). Clearly, Roy has fallen in love with Senta.

### Eddie's Lohengrin Dress Rehearsal At The Sydney Opera House

If it is possible to be in worse taste than we already have been, this is it (in this dress rehearsal). Our esteemed orchestra members wear footy jerseys. Mark and Brad cannot pronounce "Götterdämmerung" and insist that it is "Go To Dandenong". Meanwhile the ubiquitous car-chase cracks on.

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Four strong Saxon knights carry a large wooden raft down to the waterside. On the raft lies the dead body of Siegfried, played by Marprelates lock Benny Eishaks. He lies on his back, with hands crossed lightly over his enormous chest. The four strong men wade into a pool of water, carefully laying down the raft into the water.

The stage revolves bringing the river into focus. On the bank of this river stands Eddie Hannakaffaki, happily fishing. He has beside him his Labrador dog (which will later be made-up to resemble a Rottweiler).

Eddie sings the F.O.A.R. version of "In Fernem Land" (which brings good taste to a new low) as he fishes. Luckily this performance is recorded. Benny floats down the river without incident. All good! However, Terry is disappointed that no Bogart impersonator can be found as yet.

### 1932: Zeke And Roy Rescue Senta From *"Der fliegende Holländer"*

This is a ditzzy scene. Senta is a character in The Flying Dutchman. Thus she tends to be over-dramatic and to speak in an affected way. Roy and Zeke talk her out of following her character's suicidal endeavours. It is clear that Roy is falling in love with Senta.

Disembarking from the ship and as soon as their feet hit the floor, the party of 3 (Zeke, Roy and Senta) are mysteriously transported from 1932 to current day. They think that they are in outer space.

Terry is overjoyed. He believes that Zeke is the Bogart lookalike sent over from casting and welcomes Zeke as such. Also, he wonders aloud if Zeke can play the didgeridoo.

Not only does Terry ask Zeke for some famous Bogart lines, but Terry incorrectly recognizes Roy as Neeham. This leads to loads of confusion related to this identity mix-up. The upshot is that Zeke is unwillingly included in the car chase.

Zeke becomes an accidental passenger in the Wagner Unleashed car chase. Without warning, the car chase morphs into a scenic tour of the glorious bush of Western NSW. There is some rough byplay (typical of Bogart films) between Zeke and his fellow gangster passengers. And being in the bush they have to stop for a mob of sheep. It turns out that the toughs want Zeke to lay off Dink Pinkus. After some more byplay one of the toughs hands a piece of paper to Zeke. On it is Dink's address in The Rocks, Sydney.

The car accelerates until the car is back in the car chase which hurtles around and around through the Tennis Centre.

## Mark & Brad Sort Out The Vexed Problem Of Tristan And IsYoung

Mark and Brad are in the middle of a soul-destroying argument based on a limited-edition Holden of 1959. Terry turns the subject, fearing a complete meltdown concerning his 2 co-workers.

The Ormulu Ferry discussion is absurd and hysterical.

Terry, Brad and Mark have a vigorous discussion about the morals and ethics pertaining to the original Tristan and Isolde themes: forbidden love, unprotected sex, drugs and suicide. Also discussed are women's rights and swine flu.

## 1932, The Rocks Just Prior To The Big Ceremony

Driven by a smart-arse taxi driver, Zeke and Roy are driven to The Rocks in Sydney.

Here we have the opening ceremony for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The ribbon will be cut by an interloper slashing with a sword. This is a very droll scene whereby Captain de Groot masterminds his coup d'état. To achieve this, he enlists the assistance of Zeke and Roy.

## ACT V

### News Flash: Charles McConnaghey Breaks Down During Interview

A respected male culture-vulture breaks down in tears during an interview. He is utterly offended by the upcoming travesty: "Wagner Unleashed".

### 1932, The Ribbon Is Slashed

Here is a re-enactment of Captain de Groot cutting the Harbour Bridge ribbon.

### Current day, The F.O.A.R. Boardroom

In the F.O.A.R. Boardroom, interested parties are updated with the event planner by Swannie.

MONDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
Elevation Square	Tennis Centre	Sydney Opera House
MotorMania Masterclass #1	MotorMania Masterclass #2	MotorMania Masterclass #3
Meistersingers	Smack TK Wrestling/Wotan	Siegfried's Funeral March
Knights Jousting	Boxing/Singing	Brunnhilde on Matterhorn
Fireworks	Flying Dutchman Part I	Lohengrin: In A Far Land

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Gangster Shootout	3 Weddings	Tristan & IsYoung: Love Song
Tango Dancers	Tapdancing Troupe	Flying Dutchman Part II
Air Force Flyover	Valkyries Flyover	Grand Finale, Pirates Reprise
		20 Toucans Flyover

## **“WAGNER UNLEASHED BEGINS”**

### Overall View Of The Monday Night Events At Elevation Square

The car-racing: there are some thrilling air jumps and crossovers involving great driving skill. All that goes on as the other events progress. As advised, the Ford and Holden utes will be part of the show, along with the horse-float and Mum’s 1 ½ ton truck with the two poddies.

Featured at Elevation Square are: songs from the Meistersingers, knights jousting, fireworks, a gangster shootout, tango dancers and an RAAF flyover.

### Some Highlights From FOARPLAY #1

Now follows a short showcase of some exciting rugby action. There is a capacity crowd, decked-out in either blue or red. It’s all very ra-ra, with pretty cheer squad dancers at the edge of the field and lots of hoopla. We’ll see a couple of fights, some tries being scored, and a couple of injuries. Eddie’s throat is injured.

### The Dramatic Search For A Replacement For Eddie

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Eddie is too injured from his dramatic last-ditch try (which won the game) to sing. Luckily the Lohengrin recording can be used: Eddie will mime to it. But a Tristan replacement must be found. The smart money is that the US cop Delaney (who has a great voice and knows the libretto) will replace Eddie for this role.

### Some Wise Words From "Mercedes" Benz

This is a weird "mingling-of-the-ages" scene.

Our outlook is of Roy in 1932 reading a newspaper.

However in current times we hear Brad and Mark working out how Brangane can whip-up the love potion. They also wonder what to do about Delaney needing to look pale because he is sick. And they praise the entertainment value of Smack TK.

### 1932, Zeke Cornel Wises Up

Zeke believes that he has finally nussed out everything. He suspects that the Dunbar brothers are in league with Dink Pinkus: the only reason that the Dunbars are showing hospitality is to keep an eye on his attempts to capture Dink.

### The Highlights of Thursday Night Events At The Tennis Centre

The highlights here are the continuous car chase, Wotan (played by wrestler Smack TK) both miming and wrestling, The very tall OzFooty hero Jake Bingham dances Alberich whilst marking footballs, pirates sing a lively chorus and the boxers sing as they indulge in their pugilistic pursuits. 3 weddings take place with accompanying tap-dancing. The triumphant climax is the Valkyries flyover.

It is all too much for the car salesmen (Artie and Reg) who indulge in a punch-up.

## Saturday Night, A Fight At The Opera House

With the show about to start, Terry (in the control room) is searching for Brad and Mark. With great difficulty Brad confesses that he has punched Mark and knocked him out cold.

Brad and Terry decide to soldier on without Mark. This is a mistake. Although the car chase and the lighting are all computer-controlled, Brad forgets that the 2-wheel trick for the poddy-calf truck (with Mum driving) has to be manually organized by Mark. What makes it worse is that our two car salesmen (Artie and Reg) are busy slugging it out alongside the poddy calves. At the strategic moment when the knights carry Seigfried's body (on its funeral bier) to the river for its final journey, Mum's truck tips too far, spilling the car salesmen onto the knights. Everything is in shambles. Luckily, the crowd love it!

## ACT VI

### Brunnhilde On The Matterhorn

On the grand stage of the Sydney Opera House, things now fall apart in a big way. The Matterhorn prop dissolves into an avalanche just as the Valkyries go into their "Ho-yo-to-ho" chorus.

### A Fight At The Opera House

The body of Siegfried (played by Benny Eishak) is supposed to float in great solemnity down the fake waterway. Overhead the car chase will crack on. Eddie will mime his aria from Lohengrin.

However, everything in the above plan goes to pot.

Eddie's fishing line snags. But he is unable to speak. So he rasps a warning to Benny that his line is snagged. Needless to say, Benny is tipped off the funeral bier. He wades over to Eddie. The two men trade punches as the crowd roars their approval.

## A Love Scene At The Opera House

Previously Terry, Mark and Brad had thrashed out the ethical dilemma associated with Tristan and IsYoung. Now follows the hysterically funny Ormolu Ferry scene which they finally devised. Before a delighted audience, the lovers (Tristan and IsYoung) inadvertently drink Love Potion Number 9 (provided by Brangane) and go into a rapturous duet (The Liebestod). Delaney proves more than adequate as an opera singer and he and Eleanore really throw themselves into the famous love song.

Mark and Brad now prepare for the pirate treasure scene, to be followed by the finale.

## 1932, Zeke Becomes An Amateur Archaeologist In West New Guinea

In 1932 (as quickly as possible) we spirit Zeke to Niugini via a medley of speedy scenes. This involves an homage to a most famous scene: Bogart hauling the African Queen through the reeds.

In Niugini, Zeke catches up with Dink Pinkus and Seamus Flannery.

A small party of men gather in Dink's tent. Under imminent threat of pirate attack, the men collect firearms and brace themselves.

## On The Opera House Stage, Zeke Delivers His Soliloquy

In an homage to “The Petrified Forest”, Zeke (as Duke Mantee) and others (made out to be Chicago gangsters) throw themselves into a fast dialogue.

Now the 1930s and current day come together on stage at the Sydney Opera House. Zeke fires his pistol at what he sees are real pirates. The actors scream and rush about in great confusion.

Mark manages to direct the stage lighting and release the flock of 20 toucans (which fly over the audience).

Now we are back to the homage to “Casablanca”. Zeke delivers a sentimental speech (“the tinny piano”) because he feels as if his guts have been kicked out. He segues into “the Germans will be back” from “African Queen”. With the “Dooley Wilson” character playing “As Time Goes By”, the Wagner finale occurs to tumultuous applause.

## Delaney Meets Zeke As The Performers Make Their Bows

Backstage, there is a lot of confusion for Zeke when Delaney and Neeham interview him. For a start, Zeke is told that he actually died 50 years previously. There is an SFPD medal commemorating him, and Zeke’s son (Douglas) grew up to be a great cop too (but is now retired). The fact that Neeham and Roy Putney are lookalikes is explained: Putney married Senta and Neeham is in fact their grandson.

Before Zeke can take this in, the Blaze-on-Stage team rush up to congratulate Zeke on his sterling performance as the Bogart impersonator.

Dink Pinkus is cuffed and ready for transportation back to the States (along with Zeke, Roy and Senta – and the dingus!).

Delaney has resigned from the SFPD to take up an operatic career with his fiancée Eleanore. Likewise, Neeham has resigned to travel the world. Zeke hands over to Neeham the treasure map.

More confusion follows when Zeke mentions the Dutch pirate ship. For him it appeared to be fully operational. Whereas it was in fact just a prop shell.

## 1932: Zeke, Roy and Senta Fly To The USA, With The Dingus

To wind-up the film, in 1932 we find Zeke, Roy and Senta flying back to the USA complete with the dingus. They fly over what will become the Transformers' ground at Onsløe.

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