

THE REFUSAL—SUBTITLES

VERWEIGERUNG

THE REFUSAL

EIN FILM VON AKEL CORTI

BUCH

HELL MUT ANDICS

Jägerstätter

Les dialogues du rôle
de Franz Jägerstätter proviennent
en grande partie des notes
et des lettres posthumes
de Franz Jägerstätter

Most of the dialogue of Franz Jägerstätter
is taken from his notes and letters

Opening scene in prison cell as guard tells Franz what to do

Shirt and shoes off

Socks too

Hands behind back

and then he is shown walking up stairs with guards and priest:

On 9TH August 1943 in Brandenburg Prison, Berlin...

02:06 ...a 36-year-old farmer, married, three children...

...was beheaded for refusing
military service...

...according to Special Military Law,
paragraph 5.

He came from the village of St. Radegund,
in Upper Austria.

02:23 This was then a district of Hitler's
Great German Reich...

02:29 ...on the territory of the Republic of Austria...

...which had been annexed
by Germany in 1938.

His name was Franz Jägerstätter.

This is his story.

Cemetery scene at graveside with mourners

Priest:

Weep not, dear relatives.

Bear your pain in proud mourning.

Our beloved deceased died in his homeland.

He died of severe wounds...

02:59 ...inflicted on him by the
enemy in the field.

He died for the Führer and the people.

And we may be assured...

03:14 ...the Almighty will receive him mercifully...

...for the Lord loves the brave.

03:25 The doors of paradise are
open wide...

03:29 ...for all who sacrifice their lives
for their homeland.

Let us pray.

Our Father which art in Heaven...

People putting soil into the grave

Soldier in uniform:

Thank you, Franz; we'll talk about
what's owing to you.

Franz:

04:37 You owe me nothing; you know I don't
take money for a funeral.

People leaving the graveside service conversing:

Harreiter would catch it!

First his brother's leg is shot off,
then they get him.

I thought he'd recover.

He's not the first from the village
and he won't be the last.

From the bulletins, Stalingrad
sounds like a hell of a mess.

Franz to Mayor's, Heil Hitler!:

Good day.

Mayor and soldier in uniform speaking:

Jägerstätter really goes too far.

It would break his teeth
to say Heil Hitler!

Take it easy; you know
he's just a dreamer.

05:43 He can dream at home if he
likes, but not in public.

If a stranger hears him in the pub
when they're drunk...

Franz hardly comes to the pub;
it's too ungodly for him.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

Our sacristan prefers to stay at home
learning the Bible by heart.

He'll talk himself to death;
then I'll get the blame.

I'm mayor and farmer's leader.
I want nothing to do with the Gestapo.

The Gestapo has other worries than Franz.

I'm the Gestapo in Radegund and I've heard nothing.

06:34 He should be in the army; his call-up
is long overdue.

That should settle it.

In the sacristy—Priest and Franz

Priest:

That business with the mayor just now,
was that necessary?

Franz:

07:05 Anyone who wants to pray can come
to church, not just funerals.

Priest:

Perhaps he prayed.

Franz:

Him? He's a Nazi!

Priest:

Can't a National Socialist
be a good Christian?

Franz:

No, he can't.

07:24 Fr. Karobath, who was priest
here before you...

he told me once in 1934...

07:31 ...not even a socialist can be a real Christian. So a Nazi...

Priest:

07:35 Yes, I know Karobath was your sort of priest.

Franz:

07:41 He was arrested, then transferred because he was anti-Nazi?

Priest:

And am I pro-Nazi?

Franz:

I didn't say that.

Priest:

You think it. I'm not pro Nazi...

07:53 ...but what good will it do if we fuss over every trifle?

Franz:

You talked of heroism, Father...

08:00 ...of death for the fatherland for Führer and people.

Priest:

08:05 Harreiter was only a poor devil who did his duty.

Franz:

He fought for Hitler.

He was in the army!

Priest:

So were you!

Franz:

Yes, I did military training.

08:16 I've nothing against the army, but I'll have nothing to do with this war.

Wife:

08:24 When he came home from training he told me he'd never accept call-up

Interviewer:

Did he say why?

08:35 Because of his belief that all Hitlerites were godless.

Friend 1:

We did our training together the first time in Braunau.

When we came back home...

Friend 2:

He trained at Braunau...

08:54 ...but only for a short time, then he came back and said...

09:00 "I won't join-up again, that's all there is to be said.

09:03 Those fellows are, well, evil...

He didn't want any more of it.

Friend 1:

He did his duty at Braunau, he had to.

If he'd refused, well...

Franz:

Harreiter didn't know any better...

09:24 ...but others who knew better should have told him.

Priest:

What should I have told him?
To desert?

Franz:

This is an unjust war.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

We are not defending the fatherland.

Why should we?
No one did anything to us.

We weren't attacked.

They'd all have been glad
to be left in peace.

But we fell on them like savages.

One country after another.

Now we suffer the wrath of heaven;
the bombs drop...

Our towns burn and our soldiers
freeze to death in Russia.

10:13 God's punishment comes upon us, as once
upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

He who has eyes to see,
and ears to hear...

Priest:

Like you, who see and hear what
God thinks. I am afraid for you.

Franz:

10:29 You needn't be afraid for me, Father.

I've always spoken my mind
and no one's harmed me.

Priest:

You misunderstand me. I'm not afraid
the Gestapo will bother over you.

I fear for your salvation. You are
complacent, and lack humility.

Franz:

Do you believe in dreams, Father?

Priest:

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

Now what are you driving at?

Franz:

Do you believe God speaks
to us in dreams?

As in Old Testament times?

Priest:

Now say God spoke to you.

Franz:

I don't know...

11:08 ...but I can't forget it.

My dream.

Long ago; five years ago,
in the summer of 1938...

11:20 ...a few months after the annexation
of Austria...

11:25 ...I couldn't go to sleep for ages.

But it was all so clear,
every detail stood out boldly...

11:35...not mixed up like most dreams.

Priest 1:

What was it, then?

Priest 2 (not an actor):

I think it all went back to his dream...

11:46 ...which had impressed
him profoundly.

11:51 He would do nothing for
National Socialism.

So if he were to support it, in the
army, for instance...

12:00 ...he thought he wouldn't reach

his ultimate goal.

Franz:

There was a train, a railway train.

It went round and round a mountain.

And everyone came running
to ride on it.

Not only adults; children too.

No one could hold them back.

They wanted to ride on the
train at any price.

And then I heard a loud voice:

“This train goes to hell!”

12:37 Everyone must have heard it, but
no one wanted to get out...

12:41 ...although they knew the train
was going to hell.

Priest 1:

But that's nonsense.

Franz:

I know you're going to
say I'm crazy.

Many of the villagers say I'm crazy.

But that dream is now quite clear to me.

The train was Hitler...

13:05 ...or National Socialism in general.

13:10 Those who wanted to ride on it were the
enthusiasts of 1938 who shouted:

“One people, one state, one Führer!”

13:20 Those who scrambled for a uniform
in the SA, SS or Hitler Youth.

They wanted it at any price, though
they knew the train went to hell.

And now we see the train
is going to hell, Father.

13:37 And still people ride on it because
no one tells them...

...no one dares tell them.

13:47 I know that train goes to hell, Father.

I don't want to join it.

In the pub—Waiter:

Black pudding today?

Customer:

Killed another pig illegally?

Waiter:

Had to, it was ill.

Customer:

You have such bad luck; one of your
pigs falls ill every fortnight.

Waiter:

14:10 Three helpings of black
pudding then?

Mayor:

Our sacristan.

Officer:

Leave him alone.

Mayor:

I am.

Waiter:

A beer,

Franz:

A small one.

Waiter:

Have schnapps, too?
You must be frozen.

Franz:

A small beer.

Man:

The priest spoke well.

Franz:

Father Karobath wouldn't
have said all that.

Other Man:

Our new priest made a
good speech.

Harreiter's brother:

14:45 Pity it won't bring my brother
back, though.

A man to Franz:

Is it true that you're going to
sell some more land?

Franz:

I've not decided.

Man:

Sell one bit of land and no one
leaves you in peace.

Franz:

That land I sold was too
far from my farm.

It was only a few acres anyway.

It took two hours
to drive the cows there.

Man (in uniform):

Don't sell any more Franz.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

Are you mad?

How will you meet your quota?

Franz:

If I have no land, then I can't
pay any quota.

Anyway, my produce
won't save Hitler.

A man:

Well let me know if you're
thinking of selling.

Man (in uniform):

Out with your wallets!

Franz:

What's the collection for this time?

Nazi welfare? Winter relief?
Hot-pot Sunday?

Warm underwear for our soldiers?

Didn't our leaders know that
Russian winters are cold?

Man in uniform:

No one expects you to contribute.

This is for the Police Widows Fund.

Other man:

Five marks? He is crazy!

Franz:

I owe something to the police.
I used to lead them a dance.

Men (friends):

He was a rowdy in his youth.

He was one for the girls too.
I will remember that.

As a youngster, he liked a bit of fun.

He joined in everything,
with everyone else.

He was always cheerful then...

...a jolly lad.

I remember at the dances...

16:44 ...you'd never suspect he'd
even think of such things.

Man in uniform:

I almost prefer the old Jägerstätter.

Men (friends):

He was a skirt chaser.
Could hold his own in a fight too.

I remember when we'd all
had a few drinks...

Man says:

Switch the radio on.

War bulletin time.

Man (in uniform):

Sit still, you idiot.

Radio broadcast

*In the Stalingrad area the enemy
attacked with strong forces.*

*The enemy was repelled,
losing sixty-three tanks...*

*...forty-five of them
in the city itself.*

...repeated

*...forty-five of them
in the city itself.*

Heavy losses...

...thanks to our infantry.

Our forces at Stalingrad are under increasing enemy pressure...

17:40 *...but they provide a shining example of German military skill...*

17:43 *...as they defend the narrowing, but unbroken ring around the city.*

Their heroic efforts have tied up strong enemy forces...

...and prevented reinforcements getting through for months.

An enemy infantry division has been surrounded and annihilated.

Over 1,000 prisoners taken.

Since 6th December, 1942, 511 Soviet tanks have been destroyed.

Other adjustments to the front go according to plan.

Franz is leaving the pub after Harreiter leaves and is stopped by a man:

Don't go. Don't be stupid!

Franz:

Right, I'm thinking. It wouldn't hurt you to think, either.

Franz catches up with Harreiter

Why did you leave?

Harreiter

I must go home.
It's time for our dinner.

I don't care what they say on the radio.

Franz

It's all untrue.

Harreiter:

Every word is true. What do you expect me to tell you?

We were up to the neck in mud when it rained, or snow when it snowed.

18:51 It rains in Russia, and in winter it snows.

We endure it. It's amazing what man can endure.

19:00 Every day we destroy a hundred or a thousand tanks.

Next day the Russians provide more for us to destroy.

Actual soldier speaks:

I returned wounded from Stalingrad, an eighteen-year-old soldier

I came back for convalescence...

At once he invited me for a talk in the evening.

19:24 I gave a brief description of the true situation out there...

19:27 ...and spoke, man to man...

19:29 ...when things are serious.

I said how people died miserably, one after the other...

19:39 ...all my comrades, one after the other.

19:46 I told him that, and it impressed him very much.

Harreiter

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

Didn't Providence guide us to
Stalingrad, Narvik, Africa?

Franz

You're blaspheming!

Harreiter

20:01 A German soldier stays where he sets foot;
I left my foot to prove it!

Franz:

The Lord's trials are often hard.

Harreiter

Shut up with your Lord!

Your turn will come; they forget
no one with two good feet.

When you get to where I was...

...search for your Lord there;
you won't find him.

Clip insert: at a home

Actual priest

I told him I couldn't decide it
all by myself.

That's a matter for one's superiors.

I advised him to ask
other priests too.

He should see if he could get
a better answer elsewhere.

But he didn't want to.

He considered he wasn't sinning
if he followed his conscience.

He wouldn't go to hell for
following his conscience.

Scene in Bishop's residence

Bishop:

But that's nonsense,
Herr Jägerstätter.

21:04 What do you think you're
going to do?

You can't say "I refuse gentlemen"
to the enlistment board.

Franz

Why can't I?

Bishop

21:18 Is it clear to you what would happen?

Assistant

Herr Jägerstätter, are you afraid?

Franz

You think that's why I won't join-up?

Assistant

Not at all.

Bishop

21:27 Not joining, why that's almost
more dangerous...

...than joining.

But what are your reasons?

Are they really religious?

Franz

I've written it down.

Assistant

You write tracts?

Franz

I only went to our village school, Reverend.

I can't explain myself like a scholar.

When I write, I've taken time to think.

Only my writing's not very good.

Assistant

22:02 Then you'd better read it, but
remember His Excellence...

Bishop

I have time...

...read Herr Jägerstätter.

Franz

22:12 One always hears from Catholics...

22:16 ...that this war conducted by Germany
is not so unjust...

because it will destroy Bolshevism...

What does one fight?
Bolshevism or the Russian people?

22:32 If one were to fight Bolshevism only...

...all the other things...

22:39 like minerals, oil wells, cornfields, wouldn't
be considered so important.

22:47 When our Catholic missionaries tried to convert
heathens to Christianity...

...did they use machine guns and bombs?

Are the Christians of our time...

wiser than Christ himself?

Do some really believe that by this
enormous bloodshed...

23:06 ...European Christianity may be saved...

or even brought thus to
a new flowering?

Bishop

Where did you get that from?

Franz

How do you mean?

Bishop

You've read this somewhere,
or someone has primed you.

Franz

No one.

Assistant

You expect us to believe such ideas
occurred to you in Radegund?

Franz

When I work alone in the field,
I do some thinking.

I have time.

And at night I often stay awake.

Bishop

Do you belong to any organization,
Herr Jägerstätter?

Assistant

A forbidden party? Or did you hear
this in a foreign broadcast?

Do you listen to foreign broadcasts?

Franz

I have no radio, Reverend...

...and I know nothing of a forbidden party.

24:15 What I've written has nothing
to do with politics.

24:20 And no priming is needed; it must
be clear to every Catholic...

24:23 ...who takes his belief seriously.

And besides, the Pope has
told us in an encyclical...

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

...that National Socialism is even more dangerous than communism.

Therefore, I can't believe it's a crime or a sin...

...if a Catholic refuses military service now...

24:47 ...though he does to certain death with open eyes.

Assistant

You dare to interpret the words of the Holy Father?

Bishop

The Church, Herr Jägerstätter...

...is in a not very easy position.

Franz

So we are always hearing.

Present day—inserted clip

A priest speaks

Bishop Lisse could not say much else.

I mean, the situation was so critical.

Everyone and every visit, too, was controlled.

I remember a priest in Bavaria...

25:23 ...he had been in a concentration camp...

25:26 and he went to see Bishop Faulhaber...

...who was so frightened the man had come, he closed all windows...

25:36 ...and spoke very softly, they were all intimidated.

They did not understand that one

man could be so courageous.

Franz

Perhaps our bishop thought
at the beginning...

25:52 ...that it wouldn't last before disintegrating...

25:58 ...and their indulgence would save the
faithful martyrdom and pain.

But unfortunately, it turned
out differently...

...and now thousands must die in
this error every year.

Assistant

That's enough, thank you.

I think we digressed a little
from our subject:

26:25 Your call-up for military service,
your person, only.

Franz

26:27 When I put on a uniform, I become
an accomplice.

Bishop

Don't you slightly over-estimate
your significance?

When you join up you are
under orders...

...and a man under orders...

26:42 ...is not responsible for actions
of the authorities.

What could you as an
individual achieve?

Franz

If all thought like me?

Bishop

All don't.

Franz

Most don't think at all...

...and no one helps them find
the right way, either.

Assistant

But you...

you've found this right way?

Do you know best?
Are you wiser than your priest?

Wiser than your Bishop?

Insert

Man, around the 1970's

I can understand him from his
point of view, his conscience.

But leaving his children, family
and farm in the lurch...

27:23 ...from his point of view, all soldiers
are criminals, in fact.

And he righteous, holy, a hero,
martyr or whatever...

27:31 ...I've already argued this with our priest...

I can understand his point of view,
but humanly speaking—no.

Another man

I can't really say a thing. Nothing.

Another

27:45 I think Rade Gund should be proud
of such a parishioner.

27:51 It would be good if millions

thought like him.

There'd be no more wars.

A priest in the 1970s

28:00 Nothing to be written about it, or printed in the Church magazine.

Well, Bishops too, can err.

Franz:

28:13 I only know what my conscience tells me.

Assistant:

You want to play the martyr?

Bishop:

I'm afraid you see things a trifle distorted.

Yes, distorted, that is probably the appropriate word.

You take...

...a responsibility that is not yours.

28:36 But you neglect the responsibility which really is yours.

In your private life, your family, your 3 children...

28:46 ...there lies your responsibility.

All else you should leave to your ecclesiastical superiors.

I can say nothing else to you Herr Jägerstätter.

Assistant:

29:01 You talk of conscience; does it never speak to you of your family?

The audience is concluded.

Change of scene to the actual priest, not an actor, who counseled Franz:

29:17 All he told me was that the bishop shared my opinion.

29:20 It was not an opinion for the individual.

Back to Bishop's residence:

Bishop:

29:30 Jägerstätter, when your call-up papers come, join-up.

29:36 You are not responsible for what is happening in this world.

Franz:

29:41 Today, no one accepts responsibility for anything.

I cannot believe it is right...

29:50 ...if one believes as if all that is no one's concern, Excellency.

I simply cannot.

Medical examination rooms:

Doctor:

When did you do your training?

Franz:

In 1939, in Braunau.

Doctor:

Stand straight, palms outward.

Any illness since your last medical?

Military officer:

You are fit for active service.

Further deferment for agricultural work is refused.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

You'll get your papers in a few days.

Any questions?

Franz:

I state my refusal of military service.

32:10 I state my refusal of military service, Major.

Major:

32:15 Does that mean you refuse to be called up?

Franz:

As a Catholic, my conscience forbids me...

32:25 ...to take part in this war.

Another Officer:

I see, another one of those Jehovah's Witnesses.

Major:

32:39 Are you aware of the consequences of your refusal?

Franz:

I've had time to think about it.

Major:

Objectors are court-martialed. The law provides the death penalty.

Doctor:

Come on now, lots of soldiers survive without a scratch, don't worry...

Franz:

33:04 I'm not afraid, doctor; it's not that, I just can't join up.

Doctor:

33:07 You're making stupid difficulties for us!

Major:

33:11 From what you've said, the danger of desertion exists.

I'm forced to put you under military arrest at once.

In the office of the major:

Major:

Well Jägerstätter—you've had yet another medical examination.

And you've been officially drafted Jägerstätter.

If you stand by your refusal...

...I must have you court-martialed.

Franz:

I know sir; I've been told many times, but it alters nothing.

Major:

I don't get you man.

How old are you? Thirty-six?

Franz:

I will be on 20th May.

Major:

No great age...

...but you may not be sent to the front

34:09 Even if you are, there's a good chance of survival.

34:13 But as for the verdict of the court-martial...

...it's a foregone conclusion.

34:19 Believe me you've more chance of escaping

with your life at the front.

Franz:

34:24 I keep saying it but no one believes I'm not afraid.

Afraid of death, I mean.

Major:

What are you afraid of then?

Speak up.

Insert: two men speaking—villagers who knew Franz:

No he was never a coward,
I can vouch for that.

He wasn't one for beating
about the bush.

He was a man of his word, just that.

He didn't know cowardice.

Priest:

The cost of his life didn't matter.
Obey God rather than man.

We talked until midnight and
I tried to dissuade him...

...because it would cost his life
and his family.

But he just finished us off with
his quotes from the Bible.

The texts which he knew by heart.

We ought to obey God rather than men!
He kept repeating it.

35:33 Render to Caesar the things
which are Caesar's.

He surely had the right understanding
of these words of Christ.

Give Caesar what is his due, what he needs...

...but not what he wants.

Back to Major's office:

Major:

What are you afraid of?

Franz:

God's judgment, sir.

Major:

36:00 Will you stop this!
You're a grown man.

36:04 You've a wife and family, you're
not an old woman.

Franz:

36:08 Can't a grown man have faith, because
he has a wife and family?

Major:

Now listen Herr Jägerstätter.

I too had scripture lessons,
long ago of course...

...but I can still remember that your
Bible says somewhere...

Franz:

I know the text sir.

36:32 Render unto Caesar the things
which are Caesar's.

God's commandments teach us to
obey secular superiors...

...even when they are not Christian...

...only if they command nothing bad.
Obey God rather than man.

Major:

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If we record that, you've had it!

Franz:

The Lord doesn't make it hard to give one's life in these days sir.

Major:

No sermons, Jägerstätter!

Franz:

Each German victory increases our guilty conscience.

Major to assistant:

Go to the office...

...and see if his papers have been made out.

The official interrogation can be continued later.

Major offers Franz a cigarette:

Franz:

I don't smoke.

Major:

And you don't drink either?

Franz:

Rarely, sir.

Major:

37:49 Is it a sin to play cards in a pub of an evening?

Franz:

Not a sin sir, but it's a shame to waste the time.

Sometimes to please the priest...

...I've made a 4th at cards.

Major:

To please the priest!
Didn't a card-playing priest upset you?

Franz:

Not everyone must think as I do.

I don't want to convert anyone.

Major:

Not with your refusal?

Franz:

Everyone must decide for themselves
what to do.

Every Christian with his conscience.

Major:

Sit down.

Do you oppose National Socialism?

Franz:

Yes, I've never denied it.

Major:

But National Socialism is not
Germany, Jägerstätter.

38:42 Soldiers don't fight for the party, but for
homeland and fatherland.

Franz:

I'm Austrian, sir. So are you,
judging by your accent.

If Germany loses...

...will the enemy distinguish
German from Austrian?

Major:

It's your fatherland the forces
defend.

Franz:

How can I say I have a fatherland...

...in a country where I have only
obligations and not rights?

39:11 Can one talk of defense of fatherland when one overruns guiltless countries...

...and robs and murders in them?

Major:

And don't the others rob and murder?

39:24 Bolshevik atrocities, bombed German cities, dead civilians...

...does all that leave you and your conscience cold?

Franz:

Perhaps it is God's plan for Germany and Russia...

I mean, that they slaughter each other.

Thus God needn't intervene and anti-Christians will exterminate each other...

...so none will have to see the final victory...

I mean I can't explain it as I'd like to, sir.

Major:

I understand what you want to say.

What you want to say will cost you your head.

For heaven's sake Jägerstätter...

...no one gains from you being guillotined!

Do you think it will have an effect on anyone?

On the Führer, perhaps?

If you must do something to pacify your conscience...

...you can do it in uniform.

Franz:

I won't be a murderer.

Major:

40:35 Who says you've got to be a
murderer as you put it?

After all there are other
military duties.

Medical orderly, for example.

Franz:

40:54 That would be deceitful.

Scene changes to someone who knew Franz:

He didn't want to be exempted;
another man could be enlisted.

He couldn't take on that responsibility.

He did say he didn't want someone else
to be called up because of him.

Major:

Deceitful? Is it deceitful to
help the wounded?

41:18 You can go on about the
horrors of war...

...of the great suffering so many
youngsters endure.

To alleviate pain, to help the
sick and the wounded...

...wouldn't your conscience
dictate that to you?

41:34 Has your oft proclaimed faith made
you so hard and bitter...

41:37 ...that you wouldn't help a dying soldier because of the swastika on his chest?

If that's your faith then I don't regret not being a faithful Christian.

Now, you take back your refusal to serve...

...and I'll try to see that you join the medical corps.

I can't do it officially of course.

If you can't keep your trap shut about it...

...we'll both be in hot water. Clear?

Right now you'll be taken into custody.

Tonight you'll have to lodge with us.

42:25 And no religious manifestations in your cell because Easter draws nigh.

Now off with you.

Franz:

Why are you doing this for me, sir?

Major:

I'm not doing a thing for you.

You're an odd fish that ought to be left to go to the devil.

I'm sorry for your family, your wife and children.

I've a wife and children too...

43:06 ...and I think of matters you ignore in your self-righteousness.

I think of your family and of

the village you live in.

43:20 And we're lazy; characters like you give us endless paperwork.

Franz:

Thank you, sir.

Major:

You will be called to serve in the medical corps.

43:38 You will follow the call without any further argument.

In a prison cell with others:

Franz:

43:50 I'll, therefore, certainly be punished

French prisoner:

43:54 The longer you're in prison, the later they slap you with a uniform.

Franz:

44:00 Not that punishment, I mean punishment from above.

Prisoner known as a communist by others:

You get on my nerves with your God.

Someone says:

You shut your mouth.

Franz:

I've agreed to be a medical orderly...

I'm afraid someone else will have to go in my stead.

Communist:

44:22 Turn it up. You must have a screw loose somewhere.

Franz:

I shouldn't have given in.

And I'm not certain to be

condemned to death.

You got off with a year's sentence.

French prisoner:

44:35 Because I am a Frenchman; a French speaking Alsatian.

I had extenuating circumstances.

Communist:

So much for what they teach you in school.

44:48 They say that France pinched Alsace-Lorraine from us in 1918.

We waged war for it, reconquered it with true German blood...

...to liberate a German who says he's a Frenchman.

French prisoner (?):

My parents were French.

French is my mother tongue.

They can conquer...

...but not make a Frenchman a German.

I won't serve in the enemy army. I'd rather be hanged.

Communist:

45:17 Guillotined, *mon cher ami*; we behead, not hang.

As a Frenchman, you should know a guillotine. But he's a German.

Franz:

I'm an Austrian. Austria was occupied in 1938...

...and Alsace-Lorraine has only been

occupied since 1940.

Communist:

Hold on. I was there in 1938, covered
in bruises I was...

45:42 ...from the flowers, chocolates and cigarettes
your Austrians hurled at us.

Franz:

I know and we're paying for it now.

That doesn't alter the fact that I'm
Austrian and he's French.

Communist:

Two idealists with beliefs.

Shall I tell you what I am?
A communist.

At least that's what they all say,
but I'm not a communist.

For a long time now, I've
been nothing at all.

I've had enough.

46:18 Do you know the places I've
been? I'll tot them up...

46:21 ...Poland, France, Yugoslavia,
Greece.

46:26 There's hardly a shithouse in
Europe I've not stunk out...

...in the name of the Führer.

But I'm not going to Russia again.

I'd rather end it all at once than have
my fingers freeze off.

46:42 That's a real reason to sit here, not your
waffle about God and conscience.

46:47 Slimy bastards pawing rosaries disgust me more than anything!

Guards arrive with food:

Guard:

Grub up!
What's the matter with you?

Do the gentlemen expect to
be waited on at table?

Communist:

You've nicked the margarine?

Guard:

Your ministrant will give
you his ration.

He lives by his host.

Franz:

You can have my bread

Communist:

Enough of your love thy neighbor.
You make me feel sick.

Give it here.

Be happy, you'll get out.
Medical orderly isn't half as bad.

Franz:

I think it is easier to die
than to kill others.

Communist:

Out there in the shit I've told
myself that often enough.

I reckoned a quick execution
wouldn't be bad at all.

Better than a slow death out there, where
they destroy a bit of you every hour.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

You don't fear death when you've
been through it for years.

Franz:

I've not experienced that...

...but still I have no fear of dying.

Communist:

No? You only think so.

48:23 Sitting here waiting is worse; it's
not as quick as you hope.

They have plenty of time.

There was one who sat here before.

Know how long he waited?

Two years he waited for them
to fetch him.

You think you're not afraid;
you've thought it over.

But sitting and waiting...

48:54 ...dead sure they'll come
and fetch you...

...and you can't pull your head
in when the chop comes...

49:03 ...there's no little mound of earth
to shelter behind...

...no foxhole to creep into;
that's much worse.

I've seen guys covered in medals
scream and cry like kids.

And a half-pint like you...

...will you do better with
a rosary?

Nothing outside can be half as bad
as sitting here, waiting.

Be happy you'll get out.

The Major's office:

Major's assistant:

The Jägerstätter case is out
of our hands now, sir.

Major:

You know what this means?

Major's assistant:

It says he's to go to the State
Court-Martial in Berlin, Sir.

Major:

I can read.

It means the poor devil is finished.

Major's assistant:

They make less fuss over his
sort than we do.

Major:

The first mild evening after
this God-awful winter.

Major's assistant:

A bad sign, sir; I bet we'll get
more snow yet.

50:27 If it's warm at the end of March, something
unpleasant will follow.

Major:

Yes, something unpleasant
will follow.

What can we do about it?

Major's assistant:

About the snow, sir? Nothing.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

I get your meaning, sir.

There's nothing more we can do about him.

Just keep well out of it.

Major:

You're no great hero.

Major's assistant:

Who is sir? Heroes don't grow old.

51:06 This is my second war, and
I've learned one thing.

Lie low.

Those who don't, die earlier
than they expect.

I've a wife and three kids.

Major:

This Jägerstätter also has
a wife and three kids.

Major's assistant:

He should have considered that sir.

Major:

You don't like him, do you?

Major's assistant?

What is liking?

Such civilians think only of themselves.
They think they're superior.

They don't give a damn about the
trouble they caused others.

Major:

Go on. The trouble they cause others...

Major's assistant:

They do cause trouble.

Jägerstätter's conscience involves people who have nothing to do with it...

...just because they feel sorry for him.

Major:

You're right.

52:23 A man like Jägerstätter is simply inconvenient.

Major's assistant:

I don't follow you sir.

Major:

Oh, yes you do, my dear fellow.

You sense the trouble with this Jägerstätter.

This primitive peasant bloke takes a firm line.

No ifs or buts with him, not like us.

52:51 We wangle through, lying low, but our tricks cut no ice with him.

Do you follow me now?

Major's assistant:

53:07 It's not up to us now, sir; Berlin's taken responsibility.

Major:

53:14 What would happen if we threw this message into the wastebasket?

Suppose we released the man and told him to disappear?

Major's assistant:

That would be suicide, sir.

Major:

We could say...

...the message arrived too late,
unfortunately.

The man had been released, he'd
run off, we're looking for him.

Suppose the message was accidentally
overlooked today?

Such things happen.

Major's assistant:

You can't do that, sir.
They'd never accept it.

I'll have no part in it.

I'd be up to my ears in trouble.

I must obediently point out, sir,
that I'd have to report this.

Major:

It's madness.

Major's assistant:

54:34 If he's lucky, he'll get off with
ten years. But we...

...we'd lose our heads.

Major:

I'd lose my head, you'd lose yours.

I have a wife and children
and so have you.

We want to keep our heads.

55:02 So in accordance with instructions we will
hand our Franz Jägerstätter...

...together with the relevant files to
the State Court-Martial in Berlin.

Back to a new prison cell, bombs are heard exploding:

1st prisoner:

It's dying down.

2nd prisoner:

55:40 Pity, a nice clean bomb on this place would be handy.

55:44 We might make a run for it.

1st prisoner:

What about the guards outside?

Window in door opens:

Guard:

Our new guest.

A nice reception for you sir.
Had a good journey?

Franz:

56:07 Yes, it would have been very nice, only it wasn't a holiday excursion.

Guard:

A joker, eh? I make the jokes here!

Don't whisper here!
Speak loud and clear!

Say, "Yes, Corporal!"

Louder.

Well now, the lad has quite a nice little voice.

Prisoner:

Yes, a nice clean little bomb would be handy.

If we couldn't escape, it might at least shorten proceedings.

Counsel's office:

Guard:

56:52 Ring if you need anything; you know

the customs of the house.

Counsel:

I'm your defending counsel.

Are you treated decently?
Food all right?

Franz:

I'm sorry, but I haven't asked
for Counsel.

I don't know if I can afford it.

Counsel:

You're entitled to one.

The Court-Martial has allocated
your case to me.

Now, what are you doing?

57:38 Do you believe you'll get anywhere solely
on the grounds of conscience?

Franz:

It's the truth.

Counsel:

Yes I know these cases:
Bible students, Jehovah's Witnesses...

...the Court-Martial loves
to hear that.

If we've no other defense, my
friend, you're done for.

I'll be frank.

You've little hope of wriggling out.

Franz:

I don't want to wiggle out.

Counsel:

What do you mean by that?

Franz:

I must stand by my conviction.

I must do what God has laid on me...

...even if it costs my life.

Counsel:

58:29 If I put that to the court, you're dead sure to lose your life.

Franz:

I know, that's what the major told me back home...

58:36 ...and the man from the court said the same here.

Counsel:

You said that to him?

What you told me?

Franz:

It's the truth.

Insert of comments by Franz' wife:

Wife:

When he was in Linz he wrote from prison...

...saying he'd be a medical orderly.

58:55 Later I heard they didn't send him to the medical corps.

How it happened, I don't know.

Back to Counsel's office:

Counsel:

You're a comedian.

59:08 What a treat for a counsel. You shove yourself under a guillotine!

Franz:

I don't want to give you any trouble...

59:16 ...but I can't say anything else.

59:21 I've tried it; I've tried really hard, believe me.

The major at home, he persuaded me.

He said I could be a medical orderly, I needn't use a weapon.

I weakened.

Counsel:

That's a good one!

Franz:

59:41 I told myself I could do practical good...

...and exercise Christian Charity.

Counsel:

Wonderful! So why aren't you in the medical corps?

Franz:

I don't know.

Suddenly it was ordered that I come here.

Counsel:

Now things are beginning to look more hopeful.

The medical corps business is good.

Perhaps we can maneuver a bit.

Franz:

I don't want to go to the medical corps.

Counsel:

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

What exactly do you want?

Franz:

To follow my conscience.

My being brought to Berlin
is a hint from God.

1:00:29 God has warned me away from weakening,
cowardice, evasion.

1:00:35 The medical corps would have been evasion.

Counsel:

1:00:40 Do you really mean what you
are saying in earnest?

Franz:

Do you think Hitler will
win the war?

Counsel:

1:00:48 That's not the question, of course
Germany will win.

Franz:

You say Germany will win;
you don't believe it.

Nor reasonable person can.
It's a senseless war...

1:01:04 ...an unjust war, doomed to
fail from the beginning.

I can't serve in such a war.

Who serves in this war, offends God.

Shall I do evil, sacrifice my salvation,
then perish at the front?

I'd rather be executed.

Counsel:

Tell me...

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

...has your priest convinced
you of this?

Franz:

Fr. Fuerthauer, at home?
Certainly not!

He was angry because
I wouldn't join up.

I even went to the bishop in Linz.

He said it wasn't my affair whether
the war is just or unjust.

Everyone's told me, everyone's
reasoned with me, but...

...no one could prove to me
that I was doing wrong...

...not with God's word.

Obey God rather than man.

Counsel:

Jägerstätter, you're a case
for a psychiatrist!

You're not a court case.
Religious mania, that's what you've got.

Comments from villagers:

Woman:

He went too far with his religion.

It's right of course, but he went too far.

I mean, I don't know...

Man:

People didn't understand
properly...

...and held it against him.

1:02:49 But in my opinion, looking at things from his viewpoint...

...the decisions he made were right.

It's only human not to understand...

...but he believed he followed God's calling.

Priest:

I knew him as a simple man...

...who just did his work as a farmer...

...but who was somehow, I would say...

...a bit more religious...

...a man who tried harder, who was more...

...more concerned with religion than the others...

...because as people say, he went to church every day...

...and the other farmers didn't...

...only on Sundays or on special occasions.

Priest:

They won't admit such heroism exists.

They don't comprehend it.

They're National Socialist orientated.

Yes, well, there are some...

...some worship him like a saint, but not all.

Some call him an imbecile...

...not to have kept his trap shut
in such times.

In court:

Prosecutor:

Religious mania?

Counsel:

Yes, I did think that.

Prosecutor:

That plea won't succeed.

Not with the Court-Martial

If you apply for
psychiatric examination...

...I, as prosecutor, will oppose it.

Such an application has
never been admitted.

Counsel:

I'll not make such an
application, gentlemen.

Firstly, because my client
doesn't wish it.

And I'm sure that a plea of
religious mania cannot be upheld.

Religious mania was my first impression.

But after long talks with the man...

Official speaking to a court officer:

You may wait outside.

Official speaking to Counsel:

1:05:23 You would like to say something
off the record?

Counsel:

Yes. General, I'm very glad the hearing has not yet begun.

Official:

Your client should have been brought up a long time ago.

Official:

But if we must wait, let's hear you.

Counsel:

I state quite frankly...

...I can't make head or tail of this man.

I've never experienced such a case.

This man...

...this man has shaken me deeply.

Prosecutor:

Please, counsel...

...there's no jury to impress here.

Official:

What is really the matter with your protégé?

Counsel:

At first I thought I was faced with one of those madmen...

...who spouts Biblical texts.

Prosecutor:

He doesn't?

Counsel:

He does, if such a text is appropriate.

But then, if you follow me, General...

...suddenly he says things which

completely floor me.

He analyses the war situation, the political situation...

...with clarity and logic.

From his viewpoint, I mean.

Official:

You can speak quite frankly, counsel.

We know each other well enough.

Prosecutor:

What do you expect us to do?

Counsel:

I don't know.

I only feel we can't treat him like any other objector.

A simple peasant; a primitive man, if you like...

...quite unlettered...

1:07:03 ...yet with amazing knowledge, clear reasoning.

Official:

Politically educated?

Counsel:

Not the way you think Major; no organization behind him.

Official:

Dead certain?

Counsel:

There's not an illegal group to be exposed through this man.

You should talk to him, that's really what I'd beg of you all.

He should be talked to once more before the hearing.

Prosecutor:

What would be the use?

Counsel:

You said Admiral, I could speak frankly.

Admiral:

Indeed, you can.

Counsel:

It should be made clear to him...

1:07:43 ...that party and the armed forces are not one and the same.

1:07:03 That between National Socialism and defense of the fatherland...

...a substantial difference exists.

Court officer:

The accused, Franz Jägerstätter!

Official:

Bring him in.

Prosecutor:

We have a few minutes before the hearing begins.

Come along Jägerstätter, you needn't be afraid.

The hearing has not yet begun.

Counsel:

The General and the Admiral...

...are prepared to have a word with you beforehand.

An exceptional favor to you, Jägerstätter...

1:08:41 ...a gesture of kindness.

The Court-Martial doesn't make a habit of this.

Prosecutor:

You know the charge?

Franz:

Counsel told me.

Prosecutor:

Undermining army morale is punishable by death.

Anyone who publicly advocates...

...or incites refusal...

...of military service...

...in the German or allied armed forces...

...or otherwise opposes conscription...

1:09:13 ...or tries to undermine it...

...falls under Special Military Law, paragraph 5.

You are aware of this, Jägerstätter?

Franz:

I know it all but...

...I can't do anything else. I am a Catholic.

Official:

First, you're a German.

1:09:36 Your duty to defend the fatherland is not only law.

Every German has a moral duty, too...

1:09:42 ...to defend Germany in this war imposed on us by our enemies.

Prosecutor:

1:09:47 I think he's had that explained often enough.

But you see Jägerstätter...

...I must tell you bluntly...

...if you continue to refuse military service...

...the court has no alternative but the death sentence.

Your motives are immaterial.

Franz:

I am clear about the outcome of the sentence, General.

Comments of wife and friend insert:

Wife:

Many were afraid of the consequences if they didn't join up.

And many he said...

...hadn't the divine grace given them to refuse.

Friend:

When I was in Russia he wrote to me...

...and said one shouldn't kill or be killed.

Back to court:

Franz:

1:10:35 I cannot serve any authority which persecutes my church.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

My conscience forbids it.

Counsel:

It's always your conscience,
Jägerstätter.

Prosecutor:

Hundreds of thousands...

...millions of Catholics
are on war service.

Student priests, even ordained
priests are at the front.

Has none of them a conscience?
Only you?

Franz:

I don't reproach these men.

Prosecutor:

That's very decent of you.

Franz:

They were not granted the grace
to see the truth.

Prosecutor:

1:11:12 But you were; you alone, the peasant,
Franz Jägerstätter.

Counsel:

Give me a single instance, just one...

1:11:23 ...when a bishop in a pastoral letter, or a
sermon—any time, anywhere...

1:11:29 ...has called on Catholics to
refuse military service.

1:11:34 Just one instance; do
you know one?

Franz:

That only means they weren't granted
grace to see the truth, either.

Admiral:

I'm no theologian; I'm not even
Catholic, I'm Protestant...

1:11:59 ...but I know the Bible: Render unto Caesar
the things which are Caesar's.

After all you accept the advantages
Caesar gives you.

Franz:

No Admiral,
I don't accept anything.

1:12:16 I want nothing from this state. I refused
Family Assistance...

...and compensation for the
storm damage.

Counsel:

1:12:25 Do you really think you're more Catholic
than priests or bishops?

Franz:

It's a moral commandment; every Christian
must settle with his own conscience.

That is the point at issue.

Are these Caesar's matters,
or God's matters?

Official:

This is getting nowhere;
I suggest we end it.

Admiral:

Just one moment.

1:12:49 I appreciate your motives but you
are wrong, believe me.

There's a difference between
supporting a government...

...and defending the fatherland.

You're not a politician...

1:13:06 ...or a staff officer, you don't know the facts.

You can't pass judgment.

Franz:

My conscience tells me what I must do.

Counsel:

You'll drive me mad!

For goodness sake be reasonable for once.

Don't you see what's at stake? Do you think you're the only one involved?

1:13:39 You have a wife and children; they'll go the same way as you.

Do you know what it means to be a relative of a condemned man?

And you go on about conscience!

Franz:

I know, I know it all.

Everyone's told me: the priest, the bishop...

...the major...

...I know it all. I've thought it over and over.

I can't do otherwise, I'm in earnest about my belief...

...even though it will cost me my head. You gentlemen must believe me.

Admiral:

We do, otherwise we wouldn't have talked so long.

Counsel:

There sits the President of the Court-Martial, the prosecutor...

I've never known a situation such as this before.

Admiral:

Don't make it so hard for us, man; don't force us to execute you.

Counsel:

They want to help you. I beseech you, this is your last chance.

Withdraw your refusal...

Admiral

...and we'll try to ensure unarmed service for you.

This is not a trap. You have my word as an officer.

Counsel

1:14:50 Don't you understand? Say you are prepared to serve...

...and the gentlemen will try to help you.

Go on say it, and everything will be settled.

Franz:

I can't.

If I do, I will commit further sin...

...the sin of falsehood, the sin of lying.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

God gave me grace to
recognize the truth.

It is an unjust, wicked war.

I will not be implicated
in its crimes.

Admiral:

As you wish.

The trial must be held before
the State Court-Martial.

In Franz' home:

Wife:

I think you've come to tell
me something, Father.

Priest:

I have to.

Wife:

It's about Franz, isn't it?

You must tell me if you know something;
we're prepared for it.

Priest:

1:16:05 His counsel in Berlin has
sent me a letter.

It's not good news.

It's not that Franziska;
he's alive and well.

The Court-Martial passed sentence.

Wife

They're going to hang him.

He's written to me.

He wrote that he had no more hope.

Priest

The death sentence was expected...

...but it doesn't yet mean he'll
really be executed.

There's always hope of a
reprieve if...

Wife

1:16:54 Say it, please tell me.

Priest

If the condemned...
...changes his attitude.

Wife:

Franz doesn't change
his attitude.

Priest:

Before sentence and after
are two different things.

Counsel says he could do
something for him...

...if he comes to his senses.

1:17:22 If he were to see you, and you spoke
to him about the children...

...then he might come to
his senses.

Now he's been through the
court-martial...

Perhaps he'll give in.

Wife:

We must try it.

Priest:

The counsel thinks you and
I should go to Berlin...

...and try once more.

Prison at Linz

Guard:

It's against regulations to hand over food.

It's only a Ribisel cake and some bacon.

They call it red currant cake here, I think.

You Austrians speak a funny language.

Still, gifts must be handed in at the office.

1:19:02 Wait here. And I want no scenes, understand?

Wife

Is he all right? I mean, is he healthy?

He used to suffer with his stomach at home.

Guard:

1:19:20 I don't know, he's not held here.

He's been brought for the visit.

2nd Guard:

Stay right there.
Talk, but be quick about it.

We're off in twenty minutes.

Franz:

Franziska, it's more than I hoped for, to see you once more.

You look well; are you all right?

And the Children?

Wife

They are well. Everyone's all right,
they send their regards.

All the village...

...and Karl, the policeman,
even the mayor...

...and the harvest has been
brought in already.

Don't worry about us,
we'll get by.

Priest:

Now listen carefully, you know
we can't stay long.

Your counsel wrote to us.
He's gone to a lot of trouble.

Your pigheadedness doesn't
make it easy for him.

Franz:

Yes, he's very friendly,
they're all very kind to me.

They lecture me and take
a lot of trouble.

Priest:

They take a lot of trouble,
but you remain stubborn.

Wife:

Don't you understand?
It's all over now.

1:21:02 You'll die if you don't come
to your senses.

We arrived yesterday and
spoke to your counsel.

Priest:

1:21:12 He said that if you're prepared to join up...

...he might get a reprieve.

Franz:

He means well, I know...

...but what would I gain from a reprieve?

1:21:26 They wouldn't free me Father. I'd be sent to a punishment company

There I'd have to do more evil things, than other soldiers.

Priest:

You said everyone goes to great trouble to help you.

Franz:

If they'd go to such trouble over every man...

1:21:47 ...to keep him from the sin that brings eternal death...

...I believe that on Judgment Day...

...Satan would reap a poor harvest.

Insert—Actual priest from village—not an actor and others:

Actual priest:

1:21:57 I endeavored once more to make him change his mind.

I told him I'd been assured...

...he wouldn't be punished if he enlisted.

When I told him that, he said it wasn't possible.

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

He believed there would be other consequences.

1:22:23 If he were to enlist, he would be sent to a punishment company.

And in the punishment company he would surely perish.

1:22:32 Therefore he would rather abide by his conviction...

1:22:35 ...which he had and which he would keep...

...and he'd rather give his life...

...as a sacrifice, as it were...

1:22:48 ...so that it became clear to the Führer and others...

...that he wouldn't fight for them...

...because everyone was persecuted and the war was unjust.

Wife:

So many family men were called up...

1:23:08 ...and I thought he'd go, too and God wouldn't abandon us.

Man (probably in 1970s)

I doubt whether what he did was right for his family.

If I have a wife and kids I must think what I'm doing.

After all, I'm here for their sake.

Wife:

I tried to persuade him, but it didn't help.

Back at the prison:

Priest (actor):

What about your wife and children?
What will they do without you?

Franz:

Today, many children
won't see their father again.

All of you load my conscience
with my wife and children.

1:23:51 Can one offend God with lies for wife
and children? I think not.

Wife:

Franz we need you. What will become
of us without you?

Franz:

Christ said: He who loveth father
or mother more than me...

...is not worthy of me.

You know that Franziska.

Wife:

They'll kill you!

Franz:

Fear not them who kill the body, but
are not able to kill the soul.

But rather fear him who is able to
destroy both soul and body...

1:24:29 ...in hell.

Guard 2:

Time's up. Say good-bye.

Franz:

1:24:41 Something for the children; chocolate
from a cell mate.

He got them from home.

Guard 2:

Don't make things difficult for me.
This is confiscated.

You know very well I
can't let it pass.

Priest:

For the last time, withdraw your refusal.

Become a soldier...

...in God's name.

Franz:

I can't do it.

Franz continued:

1:25:17 I can't swear allegiance to a government
fighting an unjust war.

Priest:

Then no one can do anything
more for you, Franz.

Priest from village (not actor):

There I stopped trying to
persuade him...

...and he told me he had found
his path in Berlin.

He had been to the priest
for confession...

...and he had indeed found
his way in life.

Then I gave him my
priestly blessing.

Franz:

Is it a sin, Father, if I follow
my conscience?

Priest:

No Franz.

Franz:

Then I beg only for your blessing.

There is no need to be afraid.

Priest:

No one sins when he follows the dictates of his conscience.

Franz is shown writing in his cell.

There is a voice-over and the audience hears:

All my dear ones.

The hour draws near...

...when I shall return my soul to God the Father.

I wanted to say much more to you by way of farewell.

And it is hard not to see you again.

I would like to save you the pain and suffering...

...you'll bear for my sake.

But you know we must love God more than family...

...and leave all we love and cherish on earth...

...rather than offend God.

And if I had hesitated and offended God for your sake...

...do we know what suffering God might have sent you...

...for my sake?

Although I have been accused

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

of a crime...

...and sentenced to death
as a criminal...

...it consoles me before God that not all the
world's crimes are true crimes.

And I hope that because
of this crime...

I needn't fear eternal judgment.

Yet my death sentence should be
a warning example...

...because the Lord God will not deal
with us very differently...

...if we choose not to obey
his command...

...to believe and obey through
his church.

Many believe in simply
following orders...

...and if they do wrong, then others
will bear the responsibility.

Those who have the belief and
will to obey any order...

...for them the oath is not a lie.

But I am well aware that I cannot
obey every order...

...I lie if I swear an oath to the state.

Therefore I believe it best
for me to state the truth.

1:29:03 I cannot obey every order
even if it costs my life.

1:29:10 None of God's commandments state that it is a sin...

...to fail to obey all the orders of secular societies.

Now my dear children...

...when mother reads this letter to you, your father will be dead.

I'd have liked to return to you, but the Heavenly Father decided otherwise.

Grow up to be good, obedient children.

Pray for your father, that we shall soon meet in heaven.

Forgive me all by which I have offended and hurt you.

I have forgiven everything.

Franz is led before an officer who asks:

What is your name?

Officer:

You were sentenced to death under Special Military Law.

There is no reprieve.
Sentence will now be carried out.

Franz is led without further word to the guillotine and executed.

People discuss at the end of the film.

Man:

It is so difficult to give an opinion.

What can one say?

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

Perhaps he did right from a
Catholic viewpoint.

Perhaps he did right.

He was a Catholic.

There's little more to be said.

Another man:

Some say one thing about him,
others say something else.

Other man:

How can you judge? Who can say
what's right and what isn't?

He got it into his head and
he did it, didn't he?

I reckon there was no way of
getting it out of his head.

I mean I don't reckon he could
have acted otherwise.

Young people have no idea how
it was in those days.

They can't form any opinion about war,
one way or another.

I know the problem.

I don't know what to say about it.

I...good God...

Everyone out at the front
was doing his duty.

Jägerstätter too did his duty
according to his conscience.

Other man:

Why? I don't know. Isn't it a personal
matter for everyone?

The Refusal—Franz Jägerstätter

I would have taken up arms,
because it was an order.

What can one say?

I mustn't say it.

I won't say anything.

Other man:

All in all he wasn't really right.

What would have happened
if we'd all done that?

A country must be defended,
mustn't it?

As for unjust war...war's
always unjust.

What can you do about it?

When another war comes
it'll again be unjust.