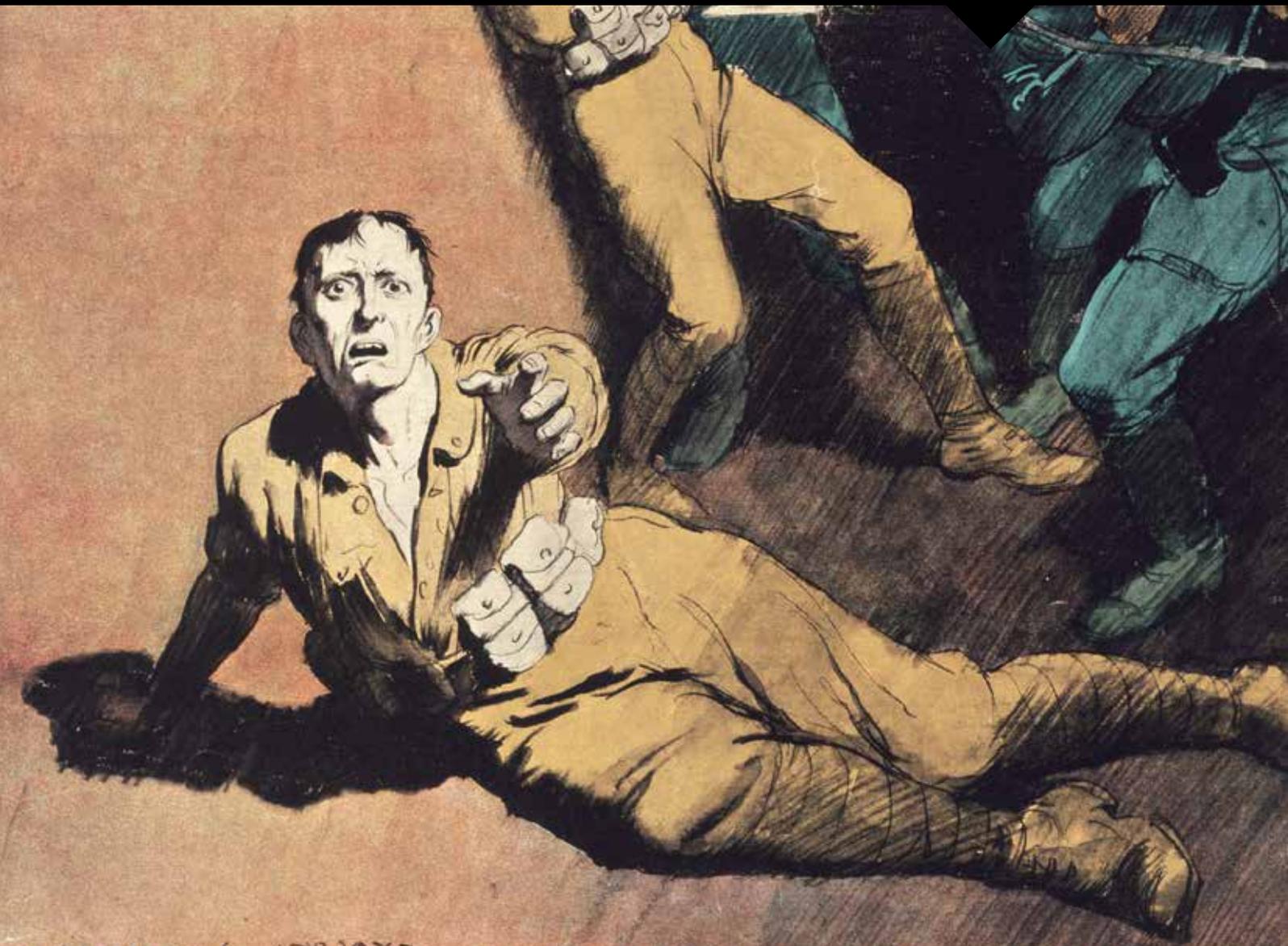


# GREAT DEBATES: ARGUMENTS FOR CONSCRIPTION

CHARACTER PROFILE

3

Canon Joseph **Pike**



Great Debates: Conscription

© Commonwealth of Australia 2015

This work is copyright.

Permission is given by the Commonwealth for this publication to be copied royalty free within Australia solely for educational purposes. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced for commercial purposes.

To the best of DVA's knowledge, copyright permission has been obtained for any non-Commonwealth material used in this book and for the use of such material for education purposes. The Commonwealth shall not be responsible for any actions resulting from any errors or omissions contained in this book. If you believe there has been an error or omission in any of the material, please contact DVA at [education@dva.gov.au](mailto:education@dva.gov.au).

For enquiries about reproduction or other uses of this publication, contact:

Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Commemorations Branch  
GPO Box 9998  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6289 1111

Website: [www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au)

Email: [education@dva.gov.au](mailto:education@dva.gov.au)

P03075

Published by the Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Designed by Fivefold Creative  
January 2016



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Veterans' Affairs**

### Source Analysis Worksheet

Source	What is the source? Who created it?	What information does the source provide?	What argument does this provide your character?	What questions are you left asking?

## Biography

### Canon Joseph **Pike**



***“...why should I associate with these ... when I can associate with men who are with the war workers for the vindication of the greatest cause the world has ever known.”***

AWM H16093

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/H16093/>

The Kangaroos marching to Sydney.

It is November 1917. Canon Joseph Pike, a clergyman in Wagga Wagga, is busy working hard for the war effort, recruiting men of military age from the local area.

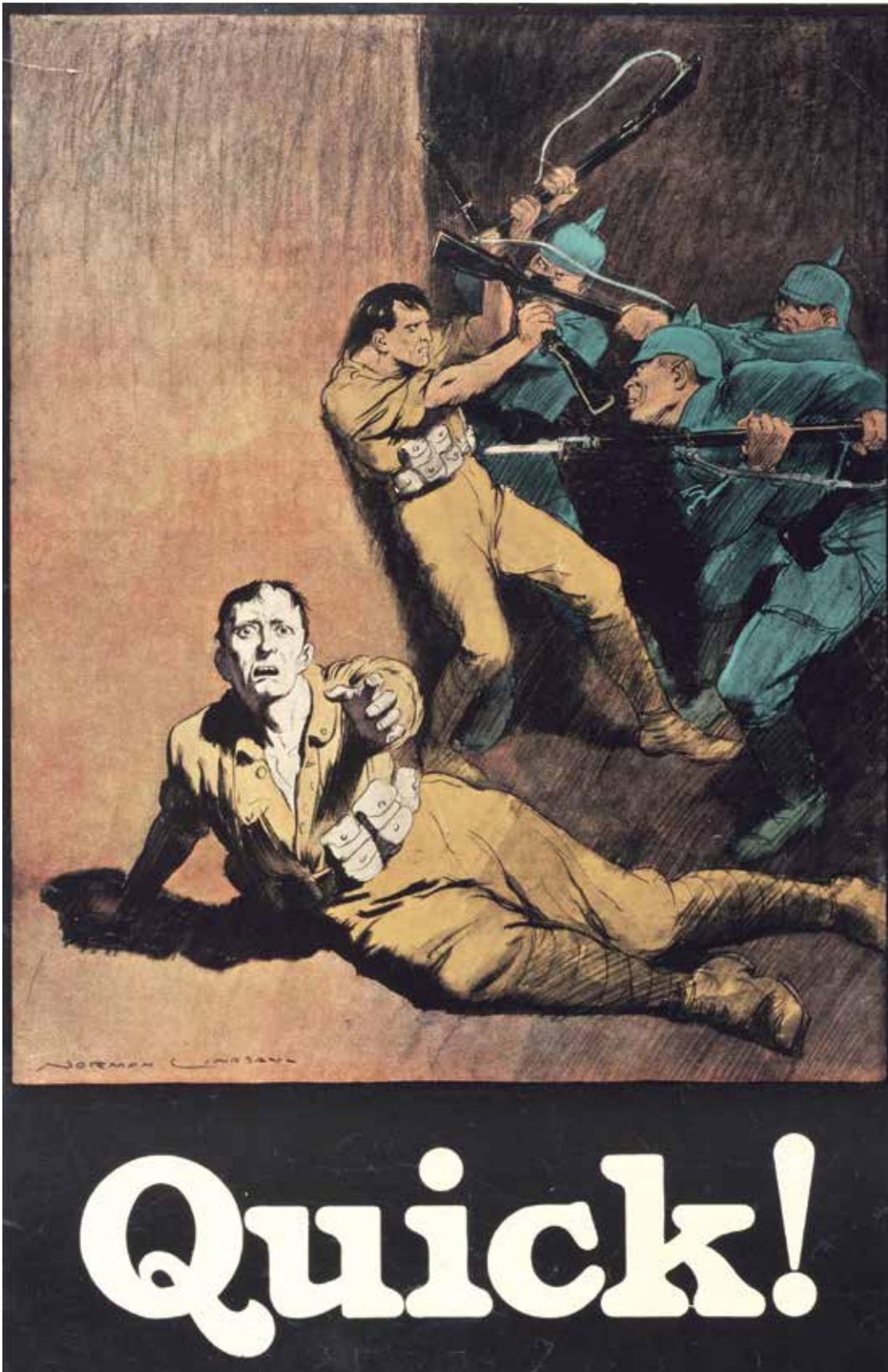
Earlier this year, Prime Minister Billy Hughes determined it necessary to introduce a referendum on conscription. Falling enlistments and rising casualties have led to a shortage of reinforcements for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Hughes has announced a referendum for 20 December. Australians will vote on whether conscripts can be sent to fight overseas.

Pike is pro-conscription, although he has not always been. In early 1916, he was a strong supporter of recruiting efforts but he did not support conscription as it went against his principles. He was a supporter of the war but opposed to conscription. He was a strong backer of the ‘Kangaroos’ recruiting march, a march that left Wagga Wagga by foot, recruiting men for the war effort on the way to Sydney.

By the time of the first conscription referendum, Pike had changed his mind. The referendum was held on 28 October 1916. It was defeated: 49% voted for the proposal, 51% were against. Only a narrow majority of soldiers serving in the AIF voted in favour of compulsory overseas service.

In the aftermath of the referendum, Pike continued his recruiting efforts by delivering patriotic speeches to local school children and the general public.

## Source 1.1



AWM ARTV05294  
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ARTV05294/>

## Source 1.2

Canon Pike invited people to walk the length of the town and “make a note of all kinds of men in Baylis and Fitzmaurice streets. Then for comparative purposes mark off the names of those men who were making personal service in the cause of the nation, and leave the others who were not making any personal service blank.” and to later ask themselves “why should I associate with these last when I can associate with men who are with the war workers for the vindication of the greatest cause the world has ever known.”

**RECRUITING. (1917, January 29). Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga, NSW: 1911 - 1954), p. 4. Retrieved September 4, 2015, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article142333060>**

## Source 1.3

‘The people of Australia have decided that they will not resort to compulsion to fill the ranks of the Australian divisions at the front. The Government accepts the verdict of the people as given on October 28 last. It will not enforce nor attempt to enforce conscription, either by regulation or statute, during the life of the forthcoming Parliament. If, however, national safety demands it, the question will again be referred to the people. That is the policy of the Government on the great question. It is clear and definite.

The Government accepts the verdict of the electors on October 28, and appeals to the patriotism of the people to uphold the honour of Australia by maintaining the Australian divisions at their full fighting strength by voluntary enlistment.

It appeals to the manhood of Australia to strike a blow for this their country. It appeals to every lover of liberty who is fit to take his place in the ranks to go and stand by the side of those heroic men whose glorious deeds gain them fresh laurels every passing day. It appeals to every loyal Australian not to let the supreme sacrifice made by the thousands of young Australian lads who have offered up their lives on the altar of their country be in vain.’

**William Morris Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, speech as part of the election campaign delivered in Bendigo, Victoria, 27 March 1917, in *Australian Federal Election Speeches*, Museum of Australian Democracy <http://electionspeeches.moadoph.gov.au/speeches/1917-billy-hughes>**

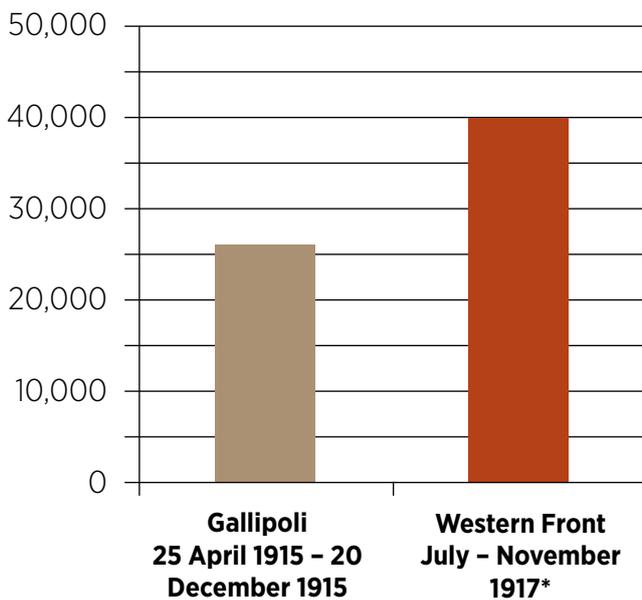
**Source 1.4**



AWM ARTV10140  
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ARTV10140/>

**Source 1.5**

Casualties Comparison\*



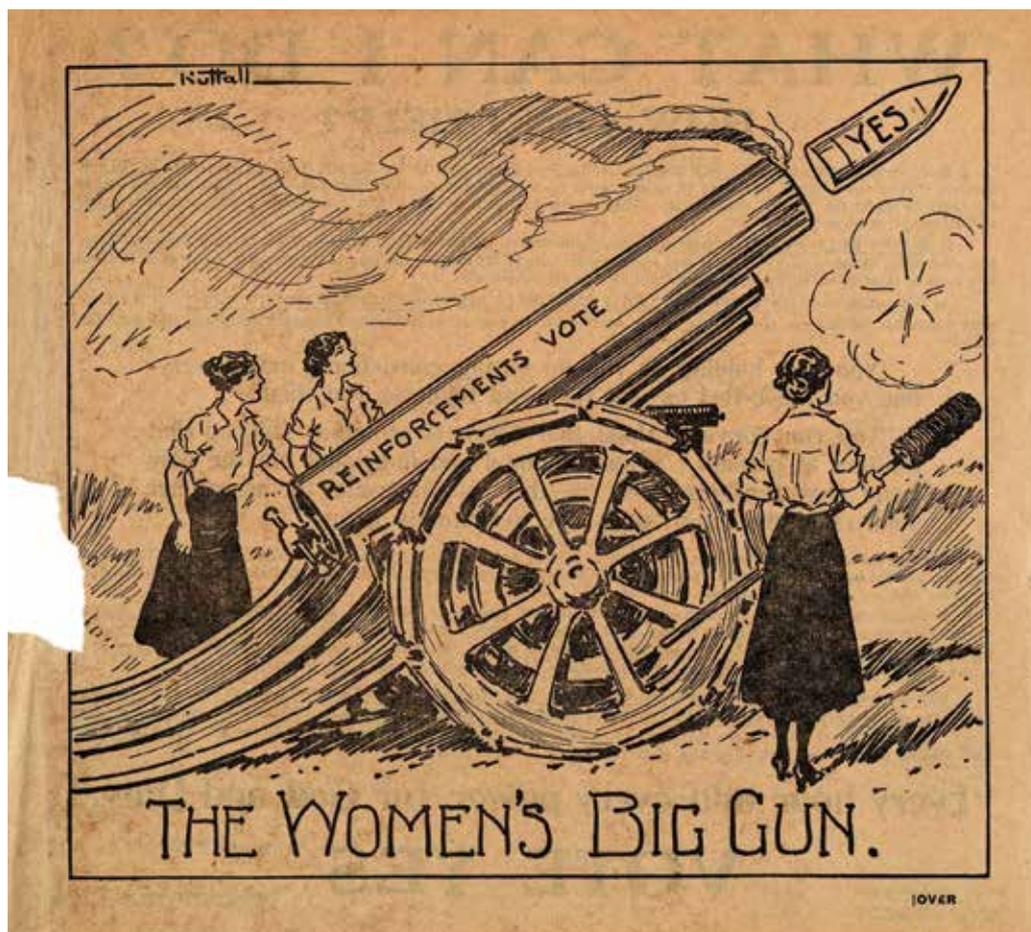
The heaviest Australian casualties were suffered in the fighting on the Western Front.

Based on *Campaign casualty statistics – First World War (Australia)*, Australian War Memorial, accessed 2 September 2015

\* Approximate only

[https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/statistics\\_table.asp#casualty](https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/statistics_table.asp#casualty)

## Source 1.6



AWM RC00320

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/RC00320/>

## Glossary of terms

**conscription**

A policy that compels citizens of a nation into military service.

**referendum**

A public vote called by the government to approve a change to the Australian Constitution. The 1916 and 1917 referenda were in fact plebiscites. A plebiscite, also known as an advisory referendum, is used to decide a national question that does not affect the Constitution. It can be used to test whether the government has sufficient support from the people to go ahead with a proposed action.