

## THE REUNION PLACEMATS AND COASTERS

Presented at the 2015 Reunion Dinner by  
CPL Todd Dovey - 5 RAR Warr-Khan Trophy Winner 2014



The Placemat and Coasters Set placed in front of you commemorates the history and significant milestones of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions in the Australian Army, spanning 100 years from 1915 to 2015.



Importantly the Placemat and Coaster set celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the raising of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. The battalion was raised at Holsworthy on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1965, 50 years ago today. The Battalion served two tours in South Vietnam but has in more recent times served our nation in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In this the 100<sup>th</sup> year of ANZAC it is appropriate to recognize those deeds of our former 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions as well. They too have in 2015 reached significant milestones in the celebrations their respective history.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, was raised in Melbourne, Victoria in 1914, only two weeks after the declaration of war. The Battalion sailed for the Middle East and after additional training landed on the beach at ANZAC Cove, in the second wave of troops, on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. The first of our 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions later went on to serve with distinction on the Western Front in Europe.

The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF, was also raised in Melbourne, Victoria in October 1939. The Battalion arrived in the Middle East in May 1940, 75 years ago this year. After further training the Battalion





took part in its first campaign of World War II against the Italians in Eastern Libya.

The Battalion was engaged in continuous operations in Africa and the Mediterranean Theatres. The Battalion returned to Australia in 1942.

The 2/5<sup>th</sup> was then deployed to Papua New Guinea, distinguishing itself at the Battle of Mount Tambu. The Battalion continued operations against the Japanese Forces until the end of World War II on the 15 August 1945.

And now the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, continues our heritage, building a strong history of its own, having been re-raised in 2006. The Battalion has distinguished itself in operations in Iraq, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan.

Further details of our history can be found on the 5 RAR Association website.



I invite you to enjoy your evening and may the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment continue to be “Our Battalion” and “Our Future”.

Ladies and Gentlemen please turn your Placemats over.

Depicted on the back of your Placemat are 1,236 Poppies. Each Poppy represents one of our Fallen.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF 1914-18 is represented with 970 Poppies.

The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF 1939-45 is represented with 216 Poppies.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion RAR is represented with 50 Poppies.

**TOAST TO THE FALLEN**

**LEST WE FORGET**