

CAIRNS

Edge Hill veteran David Bradley tells of war experience in PNG

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Alicia Nally, The Cairns Post

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 World War II veteran David Bradley with his medals
PICTURE: ANNA ROGERS

THE day David Bradley turned 18, he filled out his papers to join the army.

World War II would play out around the Pacific and in Europe for another two-and-a-half years and the young Cairns man would be thrust into the thick of it.

The 92-year-old former infantry gunner spent more than a year in the jungles of Papua New Guinea and Borneo holding back the Japanese.

“The temperature was 40 degrees 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and every afternoon at exactly 3pm it poured,” Mr Bradley recalled.

“After about three days your nerves are starting to get shattered. After the war it took years to recover.”

The Edge Hill retiree attends the Esplanade Anzac Day dawn service and this year will be accompanied by his daughter.

“What I think of on Anzac Day is all my dead mates,” he said.

In the lead up to Anzac Day, *Cairns Post* has 14 coins, each depicting a different medal awarded in service, to collect. Coins are available at participating newsagents for \$3 each with a token found each day in the *Cairns Post* and *The Sunday Mail*. Today’s coin is the Distinguished Flying Cross.