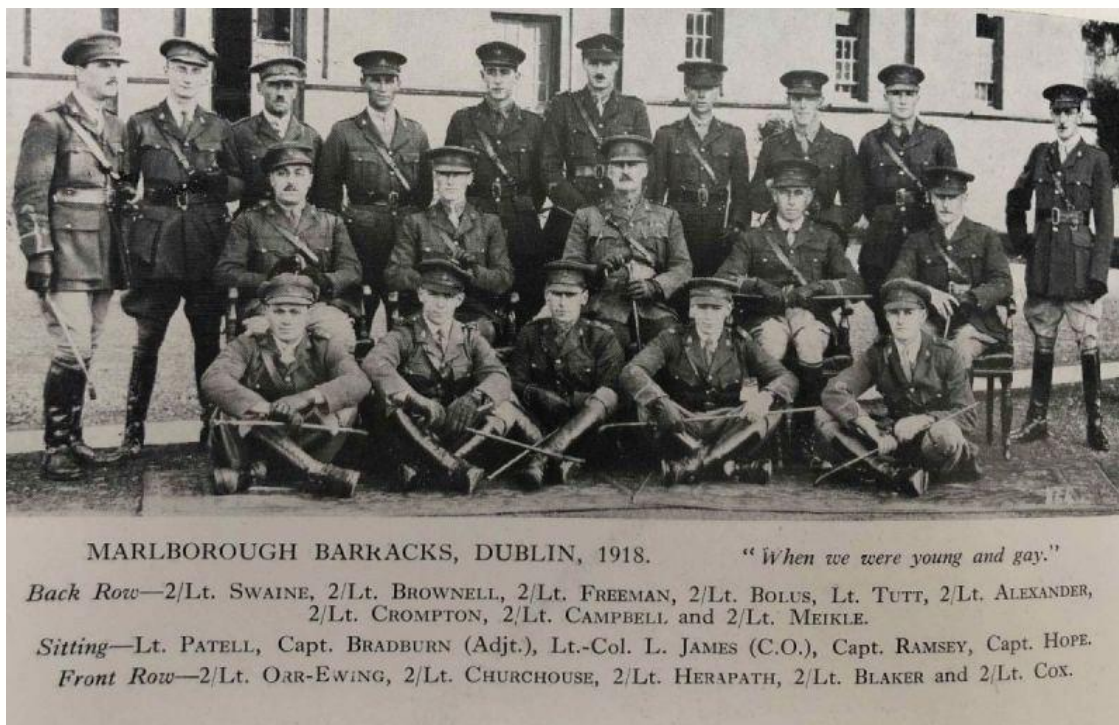




William Ernest Horatio Bradburn

61 Statham Street



William Bradburn can be seen seated 2nd left. This photograph was taken when he was serving with the King Edward's Horse in Ireland. (Thanks to Dr Dean Moss www.kingscolonials.com for verifying WEH Bradburn and sourcing the photograph from the King Edward's Horse Senior and Junior Old Comrades Association Bulletin Number 14, 1947).

From a quick glance at the basic historical records available it might appear that William, born in Derby 1884, like many other young men working in an office, signed up for the army at the outbreak of war in 1914. In the 1901 and 1911 census returns he is listed as a Railway Clerk – in 1901 he is living with his mother and stepfather in Otter Street. His own father had died when he was just two.

Digging deeper we find that he volunteered for the army during the Second Boer War (1899-1902), staying on to serve in the South African Constabulary until 1907. In 1910 he married Evelyn Snell (an engineer's daughter from Derby) and two years later their son William Stewart was born. By this date they were living at 61 Statham Street.

William's previous military experience meant that he was posted to France with the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars in January 1915, without the need for long months of training. This was a cavalry regiment – not ideally suited for the new trench warfare. In between sending forward-parties to dig trenches, this regiment was held in reserve waiting for the rare opportunity to mount a charge: the regiment saw its last mounted charge in 1917.

In February 1917 William was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant and posted to Ireland with the Reserve Regiment of King Edward's Horse, and here he remained until the end of the war, based at Marlborough Barracks, Dublin.



William Ernest Horatio Bradburn continued

He served as an Adjutant (an administrative staff officer) for which he was given the title of Acting Captain – a temporary rank, although he was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1918.

After he was demobilised in 1919 he was selected to serve with the Cypress Military Police. Cypress at that time was governed by Britain. He rose through the ranks from local Commandant to acting Chief Commandant of the Cypress Police, and in August 1926 he was nominated as a member of the Legislative Council.

In January 1927 he took up the post of Inspector-General of Police in Georgetown, British Guiana, a post he held for over 10 years. Here he also served as acting Inspector of Prisons and member (unelected) of the Legislative Council from 1928 to 1930, and of the Executive Council from May to December 1929. (This was before independence was achieved for Guyana in 1966). He held the rank of Colonel in the British Guiana Militia, and was President of the British Guiana Local Forces Rifle Club. Other roles he performed included censor of the film board and judge of the “Miss Guiana” beauty pageant, first staged in October 1931 to mark the centenary of British Guiana.

During these years, William and Evelyn made visits home by ship to Britain – no doubt mainly to visit their son William, who attended boarding school at the Imperial

Service College, Windsor, which specialised in educating the children of men serving in the armed forces. The ships’ manifests for these journeys survive and they appear to have spent 3 or 4 months in Britain before returning to Cypress or British Guiana. As a teenager William (jnr) also made the long voyage out to visit his parents, usually over the summer holidays. For some years the Bradburn family had 14 Vernon Street in Derby as a base.

Young William was obviously destined to follow a similar career-path to his father and began a career with the police in Trinidad. Tragically he died aged 25 on 19 June 1937 when he was shot in the chest during a local riot.

In August 1937 William and Evelyn returned to England. William retired from the police, but the 1939 Register suggests he then worked for a petroleum company. Evelyn died in 1942 in London and William retired to Budleigh Salterton where he died in 1968. From humble beginnings William rose through the ranks to serve at a very high level within the colonial powers of his time.

Outside of work William was a supporter of St John’s Ambulance and was awarded the honour of Officer (Brother) of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in 1935. Before he went abroad he was a member of Derby Rowing Club and his name is on a scroll listing those members away fighting – it is still on display in the stairwell of the club.