Walter Bradney was born in Monmouth, England in December 1892 and attended Lucton School.

Walter commenced the HAC Full Diploma Course in 1911 aged 19, and gained the First Year Certificate that same year.

Walter was a member of the College Life Saving Club and achieved the Proficiency Life-Saving Certificate and bronze medallion in 1912.

Finishing 11th in the class, Walter completed the Second Year Certificate and left the College in December 1912. His College reference said ‘during his course here he exhibited a keen interest in every section of his training. He is a steady conscientious worker and a close observant student’ (HAC student card 12/015360).

By January 1913, Walter was travelling through Canada, and by July of that year he wrote to the College saying he was studying in Vancouver with the intention of taking a science course at Harvard, Massachusetts.

Walter’s student card notes he was on active service in 1914. He was a Second Lieutenant with the British Army 1st Battalion Tank Corps and was Killed in Action near Peronne, France, on 24 March 1918. Walter was 25 years old, and, with no known grave, is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Walter as the Son of Colonel Sir Joseph Bradney, C.B., and Rosa Lady Bradney, of Tal-Y-Coed, Monmouthshire. Walter is also recorded as having previously served as a Private in the 4th Hussars, and a Second Lieutenant with 10th (Rhondda) Battalion, Welch Regiment.

Walter’s father, Sir Joseph Alfred Bradney, and brother, John Harford Bradney served during (and survived) World War One. Sir Joseph had a long civil service and military career, serving as a Captain in the Royal Monmouth Engineer Militia 1882-92, a Lieutenant-Colonel and commander of the 2nd battalion Monmouthshire Regiment 1892-1912, and then the Territorial Force Reserve 1912-19, serving in France 1917-18. John was a Captain, then Major, in the Welsh Guards.