Sydney Bolton “Billy” Cragg (XC 1905)

From “The Xaverian” 1917, p. 59

Second-Lieutenant Sydney Cragg—Joined the Royal Naval Air in 1914, and beginning as 1st Air Mechanic, won his way right up till he gained his commission and won his wings on August 1st, 1917, in the 25th Squadron of the royal Flying Corps. Thereafter he was engaged in active service in France and in an aeroplane action near Lecrottoi, on November 9th, was killed. Cool and calm to an unusual degree, and intensely keen on his work, he was eminently fitted “for the life he had chosen.” As one who knew him well wrote: “With his combination of modesty and capability, I feel certain he would, had he lived, have done great things.” But it was not to be. God was satisfied with the great things he had done, and took him home after the greatest of them all—the sacrifice of his life. Rest to him and comfort to his parents, proud of their boy, yet sorrow-stricken in the loss of their child.

The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

AWM ~ Commemorative Roll

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant
Unit: 25th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps
Service: British Army
Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918
Date of death: 9 November 1917
Place of death: France
Age at death: 27
Place of residence: Findon Crescent, Kew
Cemetery: Le Crotoc Communal Cemetery, Le Crottoy, Abbeville, Picardie, France

SECOND LIEUTENANT
S.B. CRAGG
ROYAL FLYING CORPS
9TH NOVEMBER 1917
AGE 27

The nature
Of his actions ascended
Because of the nobility
Of his thought

Sopwith aeroplane 1917 similar to that flown by Sydney Cragg

Le Crottoy Communal Cemetery contains four Commonwealth burials of the First World War which can be seen in the photo.