Caius WW1 War Dead

When the war started, many battalions needed to be redeployed in order to resist the German thrust through France and Belgium. The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers were in Dublin but sailed on the SS Kingstonian on the 15th August 1914 and fought in the ‘Retreat from Mons’. By September, the battalion was in the Poperinghe area and coming under serious artillery fire. The trench system at this time was only just being developed and protection from the shelling was relatively rudimentary.

John Lionel Wordsworth was killed by this shelling on the 4th November 1914, aged 32. A Lieutenant with the battalion, he had been born near Wakefield and orphaned before he was five years old. Matriculating in 1901, he was a noted rower at College when the coach was that dedicated member of the Boat Club, Dr Robert Michell who was killed in the war as well. John was also a polo player.

John Lionel Wordsworth