

## **Roland Allen Bird**

### **1911 census, 14 Hunnyhill, Newport**

Henry James Bird	Head	63	Retired Army Schoolmaster	Gibraltar
Rebecca Bird	Wife	53		Pietermaritzburg, Natal
<b><i>Roland Allan Bird</i></b>	<b><i>Son</i></b>	<b><i>18</i></b>	<b><i>Studying privately at home</i></b>	<b><i>Newport, IW</i></b>

**Isle of Wight County Press – 21<sup>st</sup> November 1914**

### **NEWPORTONIAN'S "CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY."**

Mr. H. J. Bird, of 14 Hunnyhill, Newport, has received a letter from his son Roland, a lance-corporal in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment at the Front, enclosing a printed card sent to him by the Major-General commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. The card reads: "Your commanding officer and brigade commander have informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery on the field. I have read their report with much pleasure and have forwarded it to higher authority for recognition." Lce.-Corpl. Bird remarks that he has heard no more of the matter yet, but hopes the card will arrive safely, as it will be a decent souvenir. He is quite well and mentions that on the day previous to writing he received 13 papers and eight or nine letters, owing to the fact that in consequence of the fighting the mails could not be delivered for 10 days.

**Orkney Herald, and Weekly Advertiser and Gazette for the Orkney & Zetland Islands**  
**30 June 1915**

### **A BRAVE SERGEANT'S DEATH.**

The *Natal Mercury* of May 8 contains the following:- Mr. John Irvine, of Bellair [an Orcadian], who has three sons – Robert, Arthur, and William – at the front, has just received word of the death of his nephew. The *Isle of Wight County Press* in comment said: Another Newport man, Sergt. Roland Bird, 1<sup>st</sup> Hants Regiment, was killed at the front on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. He was the youngest son of Mrs. Bird and the late Mr. Henry James Bird, Army schoolmaster, of Hunnyhill, Newport, and was 21 years of age. Before joining the Army three years ago he was for four years a pupil at the Secondary School, Newport, and a month ago he was on leave in Newport. He was a smart soldier, with a career full of promise, and his gallant conduct on the battlefield had won much commendation. In a letter to deceased's mother, his company officer, Capt. B B. Im Thure, wrote on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult.: "I deeply regret that it is my painful duty to inform you that your son, Sergt. R. Bird, D. Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Hants Regiment, was shot yesterday afternoon about 1 o'clock. He was in a wood at the time, and was hit in the head. He was quite unconscious, and suffered no pain. He died in about 15 minutes. He was seen at once by our medical officer, but the wound was fatal. May I offer you my deepest sympathy in your sad loss? Your son was one of my best, and certainly one of my bravest N.C.O.'s, and, as you doubtless know, had greatly distinguished himself since the commencement of the war. May I again say how deeply I regret his loss, and also you may like to know that he is being buried in the cemetery near here, where many of his comrades already lie."