

Western Times 5th January 1912

LOST HIS PENSION

Soldier and his Family at South Molton

At the South Molton County Police Court on Friday, before Mr. R. S. Bryan in the chair) and Mr. W. Mountjoy, Henry Palmer, labourer of Winkleigh but formerly of Witheridge, was brought in custody and charged with, on the 4th April 1910, deserting his wife and four children, under the age of 16 and leaving them chargeable to the South Molton Union. Prisoner pleaded guilty.

Superintendent Chammings stated that the prisoner was arrested at Winkleigh on a warrant. After he left his wife he went to Wales. The army papers were lost, and he received no pension from that time. The officials had been making enquiries, but had prisoner applied for his pension he would have been arrested.

The Chairman : 'Will it possible for him to regain his pension?'

The Superintendent: 'It is possible, but he will have to give them much information to again establish his claim, but no doubt if sent to prison the Governor of that institution would assist him to regain it.'

Prisoner was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

Supt. Chammings asked that the prisoner's South African medal might returned to him ?

Mr. Powell: 'The Guardians have one keeping for his wife.'

Prisoner: It is mine. You won't try to keep that from me after having fought and bled for it.

Mr Powell: The wife does not want to hand over, and cannot do so without consulting the Guardians, but there would be no obstacle put in the way.

Supt: That is about his only evidence for regaining his pension.

Mr. Powell: I will see to the matter. I do not think the Guardians would refuse.