

**Henry Biss, husband of Agnes Biss**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 23 February 1901**

**YESTERDAY**

**NEWPORT PENSIONER'S WANDERINGS.**

**REPORTED DEAD, BUT ARRESTED IN SOMERSETSHIRE.**

Yesterday (Friday) morning *Henry Biss*, army pensioner, of Newport, was brought up at the Borough Police-station, before the Mayor (Mr. Geo. B. Purkis, J.P.) and Alderman R. Bird Cheverton, J.P., charged with non-compliance with an order, dated June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1892, requiring him to contribute 3s. 6d. towards the maintenance of his wife, Agnes Biss. From the statement of Supt. Ayres, it appeared that the prisoner absconded at the beginning of last April, after drawing his pension, and his pension papers were found in the street and taken charge of by the Superintendent, who communicated with the staff-officer of pensioners for the district, to whom the papers were ultimately forwarded. On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. the staff-officer wrote asking, as the prisoner had not reported himself for his pension, whether Supt. Ayres could verify the report of prisoner's death. Singularly enough, on the same day a wire was received from the police at Wincanton, Somersetshire, stating that prisoner was detained there. It appeared that prisoner has been tramping about the country since he left the Island and was within a few miles of his native place when, on applying for admission to a workhouse casual ward for a night's lodging, he gave his name and was thus traced. P.S. Sharp was thereupon despatched with the warrant to bring prisoner back to the Island. Nearly a year's pension was due to prisoner, who now said he was quite willing that the money should be paid over to his wife. – The prisoner was remanded in custody till Monday to await a reply from the pension officer as to whether the pension money was available.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 2 March 1901**

**NEWPORT BOROUGH POLICE.**

**PENSIONER WITHOUT HIS PENSION.**

*Henry Biss*, pensioner, of Newport, was charged on remand with failing to comply with an order to contribute towards the maintenance of his wife. Prisoner was arrested in Somersetshire last week in the course of his wanderings, after having been absent from the Island since last April. Having left his pension papers behind, he had not since his departure applied for his pension, and on the day of his arrest an inquiry was received from the pension office asking if the police could verify his reported death. A further letter had since been received by Supt. Ayres from the pension office stating that steps were being taken for the payment of the arrears of pension due, and as prisoner was willing that the money should be paid to his wife through the police the case was adjourned for a fortnight and prisoner was released after signing the necessary document to secure the continuance of the pension.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 16 March 1901**

**NEWPORT BOROUGH POLICE.**

**PENSIONER AND HIS WIFE.**

*William Biss*, pensioner, of Newport, came up in answer to an adjourned summons charging him with non-compliance with an order for the maintenance of his wife, Agnes. – Supt. Ayres stated that the pension due to defendant had now, according to defendant's promise at the previous Court, been handed over to his wife, and as complainant wished to withdraw from the case the defendant was discharged.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 27 October 1906**

The death of *Henry Biss*, aged 67, of the Newport district was recorded at the House of Industry.

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