

Article in the Lancashire Daily Post – 17th or 18th January 1905

RAZOR IN EACH HAND

EX-CUSTOMS OFFICER'S DETERMINED SUICIDE AT MORCAMBE

An inquest was held at Morecambe last evening, before Mr. Holden, Coroner, on the body of Edward Delves a retired Customs officer, who was found by his landlady lying on the floor of the bathroom, in a pool of blood, with his throat cut, and a razor grasped tightly in each hand.

The evidence of the landlady was that deceased had lodged with her about 13 months. His wife, who resided at Bingley, occasionally came to visit him. He seemed rather depressed at times, but more especially on Sunday evening.

The Coroner expressed surprise that none of the deceased's relatives were present, whereupon P.C. Mitchell said deceased brother had been over the previous night, but had returned home, saying he would come to the inquest if he could manage it.

The Coroner (surprised): Manage it. He ought to have managed it.

Summing up, the Coroner commented upon the fact that the deceased's relatives were duly informed by the police of the occurrence, and a brother came to Morecambe, but afterwards went away, knowing perfectly well that an inquest would be held, and that the jury would require some information with regard to deceased's life and habits. Such conduct was unbecoming, unnatural and absolutely cruel. If the jury wished, he would adjourn the inquest and compel the relatives to attend.

The jury deliberated for some time, and gave a verdict on the evidence given, which was that deceased committed suicide whilst temporarily insane. They thoroughly concurred with the remarks made by the Coroner concerning the absence of the relatives at the inquiry.

The Coroner remarked that never in all his experience had he known a case where a person used two razors to cut his throat.