

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this fourteenth edition of The Folker Phyles with the customary long delay between publication

This edition features my grandfather Sydney Folker and his siblings and is stimulated by an exciting recent event. I was contacted by a dealer in military medals who had found the name Folker on my website on the internet. It turned out that he had acquired the medals of two of my grandfathers brothers and was researching their story. The long and short of it is that I managed to purchase the medals together with a batch of documentation.

In the previous edition of Folker Phyles, I told of the letters we had found behind a secret panel in a writing case. One of those letters was written by great-grandfather Alfred Folker, describing how he had been clearing out the house after his wife had died. It seems likely that he would have disposed of these medals at the same time

## THE FAMILY

Alfred Henry Folker (1855-1939) married Hannah Maria Keevill Mann (1853-1929) at Regents Park, London on 15 June 1880. The family home was at 12 Park Road, Harlesden. The children were :-

Evelyn May Folker (1881-1955)  
Oscar Llewellyn Mann Folker (1882-1938)  
Edgar Reginald Folker (1884-1915)  
Arthur Lawrence Folker (1886-1960)  
Sydney Newton Folker (1888-1955)

## EVELYN MAY FOLKER

Evelyn remained a spinster throughout her life. She initially lived with her parents and looked after them when her father retired.

She was musically accomplished and was choirmistress at her church where she also played the organ. She was also artistic and specialised in tinting colour onto black and white photographs

I described in the last issue how we had discovered a box of her clothing including her VAD uniform from her duties in a local hospital.

She inherited her parents house in Brondesbury where she spent her remaining years

## OSCAR LLEWELLYN MANN FOLKER

Oscar had the middle name Mann after his mother's maiden name. I believe that at one time he was a policeman on the Northwest frontier.

He became a professional soldier and joined the South African Field Artillery where he reached the rank of major and was awarded the Military Cross and Distinguished Service Medal. The citation with the MC stated that he was responsible for silencing an enemy gun.

After leaving the army Oscar remained in South Africa and bought a grapefruit farm

Oscar had married in South Africa in 1913

## EDGAR REGINALD FOLKER

Edgar, known as Eddie, seems to have been quite charismatic and a bit of a daredevil.

He was active in sport and a member of several rowing clubs. He spent his working career in the motor trade with positions at Vauxhall and Rover and drove a Vauxhall car at the Isle of Man trials. He latterly had his own business in Haymarket, London.

Edgar joined the 1st battalion of the York & Lancaster regiment in 1914 and was sent to France. He was sadly killed early in 1915 by poisonous gas and is now has a memorial in the military cemetery at Ypres.

He was awarded the 1914-1918 star, British War medal and Victory medal.

## ARTHUR LAWRENCE FOLKER

Arthur joined the 3rd battalion of the York & Lancaster regiment in 1915, three months after marrying Constance Fifoot.

Arthur received a severe head wound at the beginning of 1915 whilst serving at Armentieres and was invalided back to England. He recovered enough to rejoin his regiment and served until 1919 reaching the rank of captain. He was awarded the 1914-1918 star, British War medal and Victory medal

Arthur became a professional singer and is known to have made some records. He and his wife lived near Kew Gardens before moving to Budleigh Salterdon where he spent the rest of his days.

## SYDNEY NEWTON FOLKER

Sydney was given the middle name of Newton in recognition of the family's connection to Isaac Newton.

Sydney had an ambition to be an actor and took part in amateur dramatics at Stonebridge in London which is where he met his wife to be, Vera. He particularly studied the work of Charles Dickens and often played characters from his novels.

Like his brothers, Sydney joined the York & Lancaster regiment but, due to having a weak chest, did not see active service. However, in the rank of sergeant, he served as a musketry instructor also trained horse teams to pull gun carriages.

Sydney managed to get into films during the silent days in the early 1920's. He worked with many of the big stars of the day and achieved a notable career in his own right. He was more than an actor though as he also designed and helped to construct some of the sets.

He followed his father as a pottery and china agent with showrooms in London, becoming London & European agent for Crown Derby.

Sydney and Vera retired to a large plot of land in Marlow where he build a house and they became self-sufficient.

---

### TO MAKE CONTACT

This is my current home address (but it is soon to change) :-

Malcolm A Smith  
1 Pine Walk  
VERWOOD  
Dorset  
BH31 6TJ

My e-mail has been changed to [malcolm@masmith100.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@masmith100.freeserve.co.uk) due to an unsolved technical problem with the former address.



The family in the back garden of 12 Park Road, Harlesden. Parents Arthur and Hannah sitting at the table with Evelyn seated at the right. The boys in the back row from left to right are Arthur, Edgar, Sydney & Oscar



1914-1915  
star



British  
War medal



Inter-Allied  
Victory medal

### CURRENT RESEARCH

My work on the Folker family is dribbling along on a rather passive basis at the moment and I follow up anything that comes to light. In this respect I am looking at USA immigration documents which have revealed several Folkers, some emigrating from UK and others just visiting the country.

I was recently contacted via e-mail in connection with my fathers side of the family. This has proved to be most fruitful so some of my effort is being directed towards that. I had been having great difficulty in making progress on that branch of the family so I am pleased to be able to add to it now. And so it goes on .....