

Family Related Great War Groups 1914-1920

1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals (**2 Lieut. E. R. Folker**), York & Lanc. R. on Star

1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals (**Lieut. A. L. Folker**), 2 Lieut. York & Lanc. R. on Star, with MID Oak Leaf;
together with original Commission document, dated 2 September 1914 in 3rd York & Lancaster Regiment **NEF**

£1600

2nd Lieutenant Edgar Reginald Folker and Lieutenant Arthur Lawrence Folker were the sons of Alfred Henry and Hannah Maria Keevil Folker, of 12 Park Road, Harlesden, London.

*2nd Lieutenant Edgar Reginald Folker was born in Tufnell Park, London and was educated at St. Paul's College, New Southgate and at Willesden High School. Also Junior Cambridge and College of Preceptors. "He was afterwards apprenticed to the Vauxhall Engineering Co., soon becoming by his aptitude and diligence an efficient motorist, driving the car specially constructed by his company for the **Isle of Man trials**, and taking part in many other racing tests." He later worked for Rover and on his own account in the Haymarket. "He was always a keen sportsman and a member of the Thames Rowing Club, which he represented at Henley and other regattas. He once performed a remarkable feat at the Goring regatta. He felt his rigger break, and recognizing that he was only dead weight in the boat, - he weighed nearly 14 stone and was 6ft 4in in height - threw away his oar, and standing on the sliding seat for a moment, when the oars were in the water, diving overboard, coming up after the stern oars had passed him. He was a member of the Twickenham Rowing Club, the Remenham Club, and the Motor Club." He was commissioned in August 1914, went to France in January 1915 and whilst serving with 'A' Company, 1st (attached from 3rd) York and Lancaster Regiment, aged 30, was **killed in action on 20 February 1915 in Trench 37, near Verbrandon Molen, Ypres, when a shell exploded in a connecting sap and having gone to investigate the damage, he was killed by the poisonous fumes.** See *Bond of Sacrifice* for further details and photograph. An account in *The Willesden Chronicle* of 26 March 1915 is also alluded to.*

*Lieutenant Arthur Lawrence Folker lived in Willesden and received his commission in September 1914, serving with 2nd York and Lancaster Regiment in France from 24 January 1915. On 13 March 1915, at Armentieres, **he was severely wounded in the head, rendering him permanently partially blind in both eyes** and was sent home to Lady Evelyn Mason's Hospital (for Officers). He left hospital on 17 April 1915 for home and at some stage must have recovered enough to be attached as Adjutant to No 4 Group Machine Gun Training Centre, at Grantham. He then applied to return to York & Lancaster Regiment, left M.G.T.C., Grantham on 19 September 1916 and rejoined 3rd York & Lancaster Regiment. He was discharged on 16 May 1919 as Captain and despite his disability went on to be a professional singer.*

*Two other brothers served during the Great War, the eldest brother, Major O. L. M. Folker was a fruit farmer in South Africa and served with 1st Bde South African Field Artillery and the youngest brother, S. N. Folker served in York & Lancaster Regiment as a Sergeant, without appearing to do overseas service as he was held back as a musketry instructor and was invalided out of the service on account of a weak chest. He went on to become a renowned actor and film producer. Sold with copies of MICs, Officers papers (21 pages), London Gazette entry for MID, details from CWGC and *Bond of Sacrifice*.*