

Humphrey Evans HALL

Captain
2nd Battalion Norfolk Regiment

Humphrey Evans Hall was born in Kensington in 1890 to Frederic Evans Hall, and Helen Elizabeth Hall. He was educated at Winchester and then joined the Army as an officer cadet at Sandhurst Military College. He was gazetted 2nd Lieut in September 1909 into the Norfolk Regiment. He was promoted to Lieut in March 1912, and Captain in September 1915.

When war broke out, Humphrey Hall was with his Battalion in India. By November 1914, they had arrived in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) to protect the oilfields around Basra.

In September, The Norfolks formed part of a force sent to take Baghdad, but their supply lines were extended over hundreds of miles and could not cope.

They were stopped at the Battle of Ctesiphon, 20 miles south of Baghdad and it was here that Humphrey Hall was killed in action on 24th November 1915. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Basra Memorial.

Following the battle, the British force withdrew, harried by the Ottoman forces. They reached Kut-al Amara, dug in, and were surrounded and besieged. Attempts to break the siege were repulsed, and finally after nearly six months, the British forces surrendered.



The Arch of Ctesiphon, Mesopotamia



The Basra Memorial, moved inland in 1997