

Pte. John Henry Dennis Bass

<i>Name</i>	John Henry Dennis BASS		
<i>Birth Place</i>	Bugbrooke		
<i>Occupation 1911</i>	Last Maker in shoe factory	<i>Parents</i>	Benjamin and Johanna BASS
<i>Date of Birth</i>	Third quarter of 1892	<i>Married</i>	Single
<i>Date Enlisted</i>	March 1915		



BASS, J. H. D., Private, Machine Gun Corps.

He volunteered in March 1915 in the Northamptonshire Dragoons, and, after serving at various home stations, was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and drafted to France. There he took part in the Retreat and Advance of 1918, and, after hostilities ceased, proceeded to Germany with the Army of Occupation. Demobilised in November 1919, he unfortunately contracted influenza, and died on October 22nd, 1920, and was entitled to the General Service and Victory Medals.
 "He joined the great white company of valiant souls."
 Bugbrooke, Northants. Z3229/C.



A machine gun post during the advance of 1918

John Henry Dennis BASS is believed to be the soldier commemorated as Driver 'D.BASS.' He was one of nine children and the eldest of six sons; his father worked at the Army Ordnance Depot at Weedon. In the 1901 Census, John's name is recorded in full by the enumerator, but in 1911, when the Census was completed by his father, he is recorded as plain Dennis, so perhaps that is how he was known at home and locally.

He enlisted in March 1915 and served initially with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry. At some point he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, serving with its Cavalry units, an indication of competent horsemanship and Yeomanry experience, perhaps. He transferred at the same time as his younger brother Arthur and they received consecutive service numbers. He saw active service in France and was demobilised in November 1919, by which time young Arthur had died in the influenza pandemic while serving with the Army of Occupation in Germany. Sadly, Dennis also succumbed to the influenza pandemic September