



Picture Not Available

Joseph C. Cline, Ensign, USN
(Naval Aviator # 1832)

Joseph Charles Cline was born March 1, 1893 in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Hyde Park High School, Hyde Park, Illinois in 1910. He entered the Navy before the U. S. entered the World War I, enlisting as a Quartermaster in Chicago on April 3, 1917. He and 121 other aspirants for wings who made up the First Aeronautic Detachment under the leadership of LT Kenneth Whiting, arrived in France on June 5, 1917, the first American combatants to set foot in France after the Declaration of War.

He received his ground and flight training at Tours, flight training at Ecole de Aviation Militaire in Caudron biplanes (Land planes) and instruction in FBA flying boats at Hourtin near Bordeaux. They helped put Moutchic on the map wielding picks and shovels and helping to erect canvas hangars on the shores of the lake. Subsequently, the detachment was split up. Some of the men went to Scotland, some to Issoudon, a French Army field, and others to Lake Bolsena and Porto Corsini in Italy. Joe was sent to LeCroisic, France on June 7, 1918, and in November was engaged in the first offensive patrol in Europe.

He received French Brevet No. 346, his designation as a Naval Aviator (No. 1832) at Brest on November 11, 1918 and was commissioned Ensign on January 20, 1919. He returned to the States and was assigned briefly to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and then to Air Squadrons, Pacific. He resigned his commission as Ensign on May 22, 1922.

He later enter the Civil Service and became an inspector of Naval Aircraft for the U. S. Navy. He died on November 4, 1974 at Coronado, California.