

**FRENCH WW1 PILOTS FLYING LICENCE AND VERY SCARCE CASED
BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUE. KILLED 1918**



Group consists of:

1) license from the Federation Aeronautique Internationale number 9983 to Adalbert JOSSE dated 17 June 1918

2) Very scarce cased 46 x 67 mm bronze 'LIGUE AERONAUTIQUE DE FRANCE' memorial plaque, named to;

"CAPORAL ADALBERT JOSSE - PILOTE MORT POUR LA FRANCE LE 5 JANVIER 1918 - ECOLE DE PAU - COMBAT" (Corporal Adalbert Josse – pilot died for France on 5th January 1918 – School of combat Pau)

Corporal Adalbert Arthur JOSSE, born 13th April 1894, of Radepont, joined the Army in 1914, served with the 39th Infantry Regiment before training as a pilot. Being at some point Awarded the Croix de Guerre; probably while serving with the infantry. He would have passed his initial flight schooling and been Awarded the pilot badge and licence around November 1917. He was then selected for advanced training as a fighter pilot at the combat flight school at Pau. During his time at Pau he crashed his aircraft, being severely injured and succumbing to his wounds on 5th January 1918 in hospital at Pau.



The date of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) licence being near six months after his death is due to the way French pilot qualifications were awarded; each by different bodies. Directly on passing as a pilot, the pilot school would issue a pilot badge, numbered at and by the School. He would then be issued a numbered paper qualification Military Pilot licence. However the FAI licence was again issued by another body (different number) and usually months after qualification. Indeed comparing to known groups, at this time of the War, it seems to be 5/6 months wait. In this particular case the FAI licence would have been issued direct to the deceased's family. It is of course not signed as Corporal Josse was already dead when issued. The photo has been removed but it is not clear if by authorities before issue or not.





Condition of license is very good but oddly has light wear you would normally find on a licence that had been used' ie kept in a pocket or such.. The plaque case is a little worn but plaque is mint. A very scarce and interesting pair