

Joseph Allen DeJean

Joseph Allen DeJean was born on April 2, 1890 in Cleveland, Ohio. His parents were Aaron DeJean and Julia Souer DeJean. He had six siblings. In 1910, Joseph was living with his family in Cleveland. Joseph moved to Hastings, Minnesota in July of 1914 and worked for F.H. Simmons on his farm for one month. Then, he worked on the Whitney Farm in Farmington for three months. Then, he worked for W.M. Prehall in Lakeville for three months. Then, Joseph went back to Farmington and worked as a cook at F.R. Blake's restaurant for three years.

Joseph enlisted on February 22, 1918 in Hastings, Minnesota. Joseph reported for active duty on February 23, 1918 at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He served as a cook with Company D, 352nd Infantry, 124th Machine Gun Battalion overseas from May 16, 1918 to December 19, 1918. His rank was Private. He was honorably discharged on March 4, 1919 at Camp Sherman. The reason for discharge is listed as "E.T.S. per Tel. A.G.O. Nov. 15, 1918". This is probably related to Joseph being gassed and "10% disabled" during active duty. His character was noted as "excellent".

After his discharge, Joseph visited his family in Ohio, then took up his prior residence in Farmington. In 1922, Joseph was living in Cleveland, Ohio and working as a laborer for C. Henniger in Parma, Ohio. In 1930, Joseph was living in Glenfield Township, North Dakota and working at a meat market. In 1942, Joseph was living in Hot Springs, South Dakota and was unemployed. He died on May 15, 1959 and was buried at Hot Springs National Cemetery in Fall River County, South Dakota.