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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Johnston, St. Croix

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ST. CROIX JOHNSTONE
Early Chicago Bleriot Monoplane Pilot
[[stamp]]
FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHY OF HAROLD E.
MOREHOUSE
[[end stamp]]

[[image]]

St. Croix Johnstone was born in Tortono, Canada in 1885, son of a prominent physician. When he was a small boy his parents moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he attended local schools, and in his youth raced motorcycles and automobiles.

With the advent of early aviation interest in the Chicago area he tried to build an aeroplane, which was not a success. As a result he went to Europe during the fall of 1910 and enrolled for a flying course at the Bleriot School, Hendon Aerodrome, near London, England. There, through November, he learned to fly from instructor M. Pierre Prier. Continuing his practice, Johnstone obtained F.A.I. British Flying License No. 41, dated December 28th, 1910.

Johnstone returned to the United States very early in 1911, joined the Moisant International Aviators at Hempstead, Long Island, New York and began flying a Moisant-built Bleriot-copy monoplane with a 50 hp's, Gnome rotary engine. His first exhibition engagement was at an aviation meet in Havana, Cuba beginning March 19th. Moisant aviators also flying there with him were French Piolet's Rene Barrier, Rene Simon and Rolland Garros. Curtiss pilot J. A. D. McCurdy also flew there on March 22nd Johnstone made a flight over Havana and the harbor, then circled Morro Castle. While returning to the aviation field



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