

# Manfield, Jack Stannas

**Age:** 33

**Nationality:** Canadian

**Rank:** Sergeant

**Unit:** No. 3 OTU

**Occupation:** Flight Engineer

**Service No:** R/50969

**Birth:** 1 July 1910,  
Bodmin, Cornwall  
England

**Home Town:** Edmonton, Alberta,  
Canada

**Death:** 28 December 1943  
Shaughnessy Hospital,  
Vancouver, BC

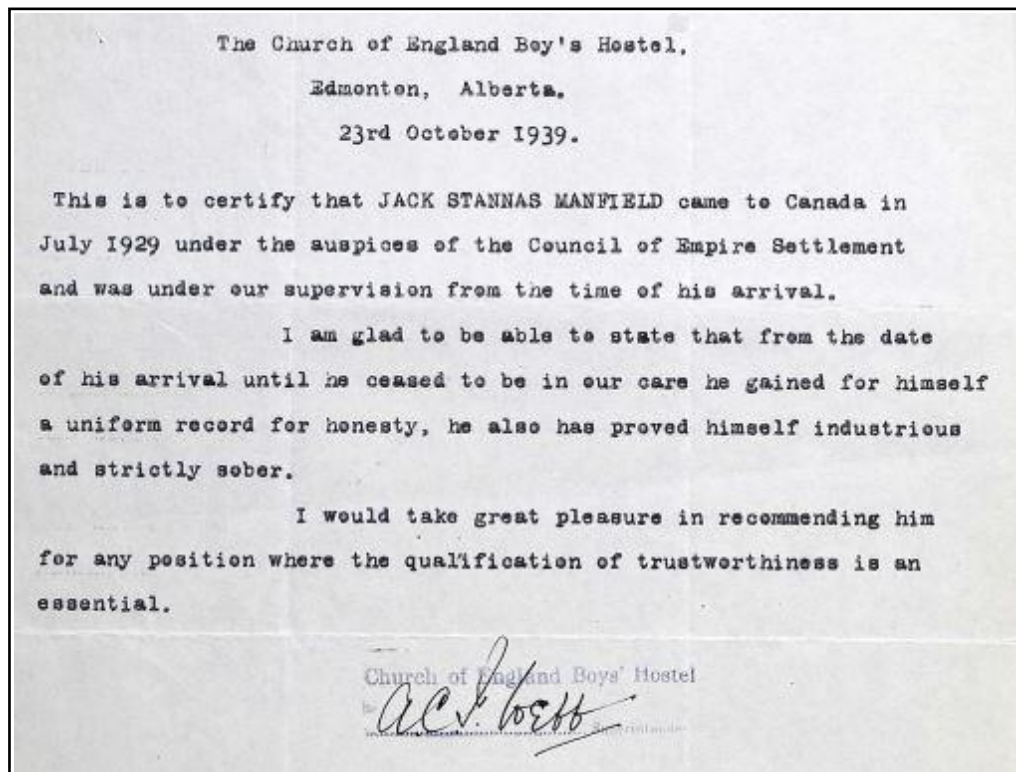
**Burial:** Beechmount Cemetery, Edmonton,  
Alberta, Canada



## Biography

Jack Manfield was born in Bodmin, Cornwall, England; the first child of John Alexander and Evelyn Manfield. His father was serving in the British Army.

After completing his schooling in England, the last two years, 1924-1925, at a technical school training as an engine fitter, Jack came to Canada under the Council for Empire Settlement. He settled in Edmonton, Alberta, where he trained at the Canada Dominion Trade School as an auto Mechanic from 1929 to 1930.



Jack, who was a keen motor-cyclist, held various positions as a mechanic and chauffeur over the next eight or nine years and in 1939 he joined the Edmonton police as a constable. He married Rosabelle Slawson in 1936.

On 1 April 1940, three weeks before his only son, Jack Stannis, was born, Jack enlisted in the RCAF for ground duties. He was an "excellent type" of very good appearance and very fit. His training as an aero-engine mechanic started in

Canada and a year after enlistment he was posted to the UK. Jack did well in England and was promoted to sergeant and became a flight engineer in October 1942. In May 1943, Jack was diagnosed with Diphtheria and later with post-diphtheria polyneuritis. He complained of fatigue, irritability, and weakness and was expected to need six months convalescence so was repatriated, leaving England on 5 June 1943 and arriving back in Canada on the June 13<sup>th</sup>.

In Canada, Jack was examined and reported on in August and again in October. He seemed to be improving but was very tense and disturbed. He claimed he was going through a very unpleasant divorce, which was adding to his distress. His final medical report states:

On August 8, 1943, when I first saw him he was making a good recovery and on October 11, 1943, when I re-checked him I recommended he be given flying duties again. He was put back on flying duties and was said to be one of the better instructors, keen and competent and gentle and considerate of his students.

On November 23, 1943, he was hospitalized because of a urethral discharge. Subsequent investigation revealed an acute G.C., but patient denied any recent contact. His roommate, however, did have a heavy discharge and it is quite probable that the patient helping his roommate contaminated himself. Knowing something of the patient's background and past, I am absolutely willing to accept that explanation. Patient was badly frightened and in some pain, also upset with his roommate, etc., with the result that upon persistent and none too kind questioning at his station hospital, he became somewhat emotionally upset, and was incorrectly considered non-cooperative and a sore head.

Apparently his infection has resisted treatment and at present he is on his way to Shaughnessy Hospital for further therapy. He was admitted to #3 R.D. without warning of his arrival and without any adequate preparations or available space late evening December 15, 1943. At that time he was in great discomfort and very upset. At present he has had a day's comfort and comparative rest.

I regard this patient as having had his share of bad luck, he is of a somewhat rigid and emotional make-up but essentially cooperative and amenable. Any consideration, reassurance of humanity which may be shown him will be greatly appreciated both by him and by me.

When he returned to Canada, Jack wrote to his wife, who was in Edmonton with their small son. She found her husband greatly changed in temperament with no interest in his family. She wrote to the RCAF begging for information on his condition and is very concerned about him, making a point of having been faithful to him, and makes no mention of divorce proceedings.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> Jack died at the Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver.

The cause of death is given as:

*“Acute Haemorrhage of Oedema of Lungs,  
Parachymatous Changed of Lungs,  
Myocardial-  
Degeneration and  
Dilation,  
Fatty –  
Degeneration of  
Liver.”*

Jack was buried at  
Beechmount  
Cemetery in  
Edmonton,  
Alberta. His wife  
remarried and by  
1949 was Mrs  
MacDougall.

