



# Captain John (Jack) C.S. Miles

March 6, 1918 – December 11, 2021

Born March 6<sup>th</sup> 1918 passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Surrey B.C. at 103 years of age.



Captain Jack Miles passed away peacefully at his home at 103, and frequently said that the only way that he would give up living there was if they carried him out feet first. Being a man who always tried to keep his word, he fulfilled that objective.

Jack grew up in Argentina where he was sent to a British Boarding School where he excelled at athletics and was a good student. While at school one day at the age of 14 a U.S. Air Force group were down there and he saw a young Jimmy Doolittle, soon to become a General, perform some aerobatics over the School in a Curtis biplane, and he said to one and all that that was what he wanted to do in the future.

Initially it did not turn out that way, as he started work for a British Bank.

Upon the declaration of World War II, he volunteered to join the Royal Air Force but it was a long way to get to the UK. He was finally scheduled to leave on a merchant vessel, but the day before departure, he had a motorcycle accident and he was unable to leave. It was a fortunate incident as the ship that he was supposed to be on, was sunk off the coast of Ireland with few survivors.

He finally reached the UK in August 1941, and joined up in London where he was sent to Helmswell for initial training. Following initial training and exams

he was told that he would be selected to become a pilot and that he would be going to Canada to do his primary flight training. He crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary and after arrival in Canada he did his primary training in Dewinton, Alberta.

After getting his wings Jack then did his Service training on Airspeed Oxford aircraft and after qualifying he was told that he was to become an Instructor and he was posted to Moose Jaw to instruct on Ansons.

After 13 months as an instructor he was transferred to Transport Command and to Comox, B.C. to a Long Range Operational Training Unit on DC3 Dakota aircraft. Following three months of training, Captain Miles was sent to India and joined RAF 96 Squadron operating Dakotas as a Captain out of the Burma jungle on resupply missions.



Following the end of the war in the Pacific, he continued operating in difficult conditions into Java supporting the Dutch Forces. Jack returned to the UK and was released from the RAF in November 1946 and returned to Canada where he had married his wife Lorna.

He then moved back to South America and operated for a large airline flying DC3s as a Captain. He returned to Canada in 1952 and was a Captain with Queen Charlotte Airlines that was subsequently purchased by Pacific Western Airlines. He operated DC3s until 1958 when he was transferred to Edmonton as Check Pilot and flew DC 3s, C 46 and DC 4 Aircraft.

He continued to get promoted and soon became Chief Pilot, Northern Division in 1962 with newly introduced DC 6 aircraft, also being operated. It was with this aircraft type that the Company started overseas charter operations.



In 1963 he was moved to Vancouver as Director, Flight Operations and as Pacific Western Airlines expanded, DC 7 aircraft were then introduced for International Charter Operations.

From 1965 to 1971 Capt. Miles was made Vice President Operations and during that time Convair 640 aircraft plus Boeing 707s, Lockheed Hercules and Boeing 737s were brought into Pacific Western Airlines.

In 1972 Capt. Miles was made Senior Vice President Operations responsible for Flight Operations and Maintenance.

Capt. Miles retired from PWA in 1978 and was soon hired by Swiftair to assist them in obtaining Operating Certificates for a cargo operation. After completion of this work he started and operated an Aviation Consulting company under the name of Harris Miles.

He finished his career as an executive and after also having operated Boeing 707s and 737s, but his favourite aircraft was the DC3, where he had completed 11,500 hours on that superb aircraft.

During his retirement years Capt. Miles followed his great interest in music and was notorious for having very large parties and barbecues at his residence in Surrey.

He married his second wife Enid in 1957 with whom he spent many happy years until her passing.

He leaves behind to mourn his loving companion and partner Pauline, his two daughters Diana and Janet (Australia) his Daughter in Law Mary Frances and his grandchildren John, Tara, Anthony and James. His two sons Chris and Alec predeceased him.

Captain Jack Miles always felt that his life was full of adventure and challenges, and that any successes and achievements he had were thanks to the many aviation professionals that he had the pleasure to work with in the aviation industry.

