

414894 Sergeant Gordon Francis STEVENS.

Widow: Mrs. J.E. Murphy of New Plymouth (Remarried)

Gordon Stevens was born in New Plymouth on January 31st 1915 and attended the Motorua School where he obtained his Proficiency Certificate. He played rugby football and was a member of the New Plymouth Rowing Club and the New Plymouth Cycle and Athletic Club. At the time of making application for War Service in the Royal New Zealand Air Force on June 17th 1940 he was the proprietor of a Grocery business at Waitara.

Sergeant Stevens was enlisted at the Ground Training School, Levin, on August 30th 1941 as Air Gunner/Wireless Operator under training. On October 20th he embarked for Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

On his arrival in Canada he was posted on November 8th to No.2 Wireless School, Calgary, Alberta, then proceeded to No.5 Bombing and Gunnery School, Dafoe, Saskatchewan, on May 23rd 1942. Here he was awarded the Air Gunner's Badge in June and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the same month. He afterwards proceeded to No.3 Reception Depot, Vancouver, for embarkation to New Zealand.

Sergeant Stevens on arrival in New Zealand was posted to Nelson on August 26th.

Sergeant Stevens was a member of the crew of a Hudson Bomber Aircraft which crashed in the sea five miles from Motueka on September 29th 1942. Six of the crew were drowned, including Sergeant Stevens, the only survivor being Warrant Officer Colway. Two other bodies were recovered but those of Sergeant Stevens and the others were never discovered.

5/2/5084 A.S.2.

No Log Book.

Mrs. J.E. Murphy (W),

217 Gill Street,

NEW PLYMOUTH.