

BEARD, John Maurice Bentley, from Shoreham, Sussex, served as a Sergeant in 609 Squadron, before joining 249 Squadron in early 1940. On 18th September 1940 he shot down a Bf110, his first victory. He next scored on 27th September when he chased a Do17 which he damaged. He was attacked by two Bf109's, and turning on them, shot both down. During the rest of the month he destroyed another Bf109 and a He111, bringing his score to 5. He was awarded the DFM in October, but on the 25th was shot down and wounded. He returned to the squadron in January 1941 and was commissioned, but left soon after. He did not see further combat, but by 1942 was a Flight Lieutenant.