

ORTMANS, Victor M. M., served in Belgium in 7/IIIe G.R., flying Fairey Foxes in 1940. After the fall of Belgium he made his way to France, and then to Britain via Montpellier and Gibraltar, arriving at Liverpool in July. He was posted to 229 Squadron in September, and on the 15th shared a Do17. On the 30th he probably destroyed a Bf109 and a Do17. He was posted to the Belgian flight in 609 Squadron in April 1941 and on 16th May damaged a Bf109. He shared one of these on the 21st, and on 4th June destroyed one. He damaged one on the 21st and claimed another on the 30th, and on 3rd July shot down Hauptman Balthasar of JG2, at that time one of the leading Luftwaffe aces. He destroyed another Bf109 on 18th August and damaged one next day. On the 29th he shared in damaging another. On 21st October he was shot down and was taken prisoner. This was the fifth time he had been shot down, but on all the other occasions had safely returned to the squadron. His score at the time was 7, with 2 probables and 3½ damaged. He was killed in an air crash after the war.