



Piper Cub



PT-17 Kaydet



BT-13 Valient



**John Weist Graham**  
**Second Lieutenant U.S. Army Air Corps**  
**21 May 1943 – 10 October 1945**



AT-6 Texan



P-40N Warhawk



P-51 D Mustang



John was born on 23 January 1925 in Syracuse, New York, where he attended grade school and Junior and Senior High Schools. After graduating from Central High School in 1942, John attended Syracuse University for a year before enlisting in the Army Air Corps as a Private on 21 May 1943. He attended basic training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, followed by Introduction to Flight Training in Piper Cubs at Pennsylvania State University. After passing a rigid physical examination, he was classified as a Pilot at the Nashville, Tennessee, Classification Center. He then underwent Preflight Training at Maxwell Field, Alabama; Primary Flight Training at Lakeland, Florida, where he soloed in the PT-17; and Basic Flight Training in the BT-13 at Gunter Field, Montgomery, Alabama. He then attended Advanced Single Engine Training at Craig Field, Selma, Alabama, after which he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 22 December 1944. He then went on for further training, first in Gunnery in the AT-6 at Eglin Field, Florida, followed by Fighter Transition Training in the P-40N, and Single Engine Fighter Training at Sarasota, Florida, in the P-51D. John completed all his flight training in 1945 and then, while awaiting assignment to the China-Burma-India Theater, the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, and World War II came to an end. John and the other fighter pilots in Florida were then discharged. John left active duty as a Second Lieutenant on 10 October 1945 at Rome Army Air Field, New York. He returned to Syracuse University and completed his undergraduate work, earning a degree in Business Administration. In 1948, he joined Porter-Cable Machine Company, leaving there in 1961 after becoming Director of Product Development. From 1961 to 1967, John was back at Syracuse University where he was a Lecturer in Product Design Technology, completed work on a Masters Degree in Industrial Design, and was the Director of the Syracuse University Research Corporation's Control/Display Laboratory, which developed airborne avionics and ground-based radar detection systems during the Vietnam War. John married **Phyllis Ann Naugle** (born 27 October 1930) in Syracuse on 19 July 1952. In 1967, they moved from Syracuse to Baltimore, Maryland, where John was employed by Black & Decker Manufacturing Company in Towson, Maryland, serving successively as Vice President of Product Development and Vice President of Ventures Technology until becoming an independent Management Consultant from 1973 to 1980. He and Phyllis then moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, and John went to work for Knoll International in East Greenville, Pennsylvania, first as Vice President of Engineering and then as Vice President of Product Development. In 1987, they moved to Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, and John became a Partner and Consultant in Product Development for Core Planning in Chicago, Illinois, until retiring in 1991. John and Phyllis had five children: **Sandra Jean, Kathryn, Jacqueline, Nancy, and Scott Baker**. John's parents were **Dr. Raymond Weist Graham** (15 February 1891 – April 1942) and **Frances Irving Earle** (1 September 1889 – 13 February 1987). John's brother, **Robert Earle Graham**, also served in the Army during World War II, as did his brother-in-law, **Donald W. Dumville**, and his cousin, **Richard Merrick**.