



*Alan A. Dale* sinking after being torpedoes – 23 Dec 1944



**James Warren Bausman**  
**Gunner's Mate 3/C U.S. Navy**  
**20 May 1943 – 30 Jun 1946**



*Taylor Piper Cub*



*Focke Wulf Aircraft*



*U-Boot Biber* with two torpedoes attached

James was born On 22 May 1925 in Bausman Village in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1928, where James attended grades 1-8 at Francis D. Raub School from 1930 to 1939, and graduated from Allentown High School in 1943. While in high school, James also worked as a Clerk for West End Pharmacy in Allentown. He enlisted in the Navy V5 Flight Program as a Cadet in Allentown on 20 May 1943, and was ordered to Naval Air Station, Banana River, Florida, for flight indoctrination training. In the autumn of 1943, he was ordered to the University of Pennsylvania for training in Meteorology, Aerial Navigation, Morse Code, and Aircraft Recognition. He then was sent to Westminster College in Wilmington, Pennsylvania, for flight training, where he soloed and had 12 hours flight time in the Taylor Piper Cub. In the summer of 1944, James received orders to Bainbridge, Maryland, for recruit training, after which he attended gunnery training on the 5-inch, 51 caliber gun at Camp Shelton, in Little Creek, Virginia. He was then ordered to the merchant ship freighter *Alan A. Dale*, originally the Danish cargo ship *Norvest* that was one of 84 foreign ships seized by the U.S. during World War II. After she was seized, *Alan A. Dale* was assigned convoy duty. During her second convoy while crossing the Atlantic bound for Antwerp, Belgium, she came under strafing fire in the North Atlantic by a German *Focke Wulf* fighter aircraft. She was then torpedoes on 23 December 1944 by the *U-Boot Biber*, a one-man submarine, in the Westerschelde Estuary. As she was sinking, James went over the side with other seamen into a lifeboat. After rowing partway to the shore, the Danish captain of the *Alan A. Dale* approached them and asked them to return to the ship to jettison ammunition from her above-deck magazines before she sank. After doing so, they went over the side again, and were picked up by a British Fireship in the convoy and given some “Nelson’s Blood” – British grog to warm their souls from the harsh winter cold. *Alan A. Dale* then went to her final rest in Davy Jones Locker. James and the other seamen then rowed ashore to Terneuzen, Holland, from where they were trucked to Antwerp. James then returned to the States to attend Yale University for a year under the Navy V-12 Program until he was discharged from the Navy as a Gunner’s Mate 3/C on 30 June 1946. After his discharge, he joined the Navy Reserves and continued his education at Lehigh University from 1946 to 1948, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration while living in Allentown. In 1950, James was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy Reserves. He then worked for Trojan Powder Company in Allentown as Supervisor, Accounts Receivable, until 1956. At that time, he became a Stockbroker in Easton, Pennsylvania, prior to joining Merrill Lynch as a Stockbroker in 1959. James married **Patricia Whitaker** (born 17 March 1931) on 19 July 1952 in the old chapel of Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They initially lived in Allentown, then moved to and settled in Lower Macungie Township in 1965. James and Patricia had five children: **Eric Warren**, **Andrew David**, **Karen Whitaker**, **Karla Whitaker**, and **Paige Whitaker**. James became a Director of Lehigh County Housing Authority in 1997, and President of Episcopal House in Allentown for which he also served 25 years on the Board of Directors. He served as Master of Trexlertown Grange (1980–1996), and taught evening classes at Pennsylvania State University, Allentown Campus, in Accounting, Corporate Finance, and Accounting for Contractors from 1955 to 1965. James’ parents were **Franklin Warren Bausman** (16 Jan 1895 – March 1974), who served in the Army in World War I in the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, 103<sup>rd</sup> Ammunition Train (Trucks), at the Battle of Argonne Forest in France, and **Mary Risser Hoffman** (25 March 1897 – 9 Oct 1997).