

Commander Dudley W. Morton



Morton was born in Owensboro, Ky., in 1907. He attended high school in Florida and entered the Naval Academy in 1926. Upon graduating in 1930 he was commissioned an Ensign. In 1933 received training as a submarine officer.

He served as the commanding officer of a submarine *U.S.S. R-5* until 1942. In mid- 1942, Lt. Cmdr. Morton joined Submarine Squadron Four as a prospective commanding officer briefly in charge of the elderly *U.S.S. Dolphin*. After the *Dolphin* he served as the commanding officer of the *U.S.S. Wahoo*.

Morton proved himself to be one of WWII's most daring and able sub commanders. He sank or crippled several Japanese ships off the coast of New Guinea in January and February 1943.

From February to October 1943, he served four patrols in the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. He sank sixteen more ships. In the Sea of Japan on October 11, 1943, while exiting through La Perouse Strait, the *Wahoo* was lost with all hands.

Morton received four Navy Cross medals, and the destroyer *USS Morton* was named In his honor.