

## Mush Morton WWII Veteran from Nortonville, Submarine

Written by Marion Miller

Saturday, 06 June 2009 21:00

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**Nortonville, KY WWII Veteran Profiles** - USS Wahoo (SS-238), under the command of Dudley W. "Mush" Morton (From Nortonville, KY) revolutionized American submarine warfare in the Pacific during World War II.

The *Gato* class submarine *Wahoo* arrived at Pearl Harbor in August of 1942. She joined a submarine force struggling to find success. Her first two patrols under Captain Marvin Kennedy mirrored the force's as a whole: marked by attack failures and internal strife. However, when charismatic LCDR. Dudley "Mush" Morton assumed command at the end of the year, her fortunes, and the rest of the submarine fleet's, began to change.

### Tactical Innovation

Personable with his crew and aggressive in his leadership, Morton reorganized *Wahoo's* patrol procedures.

*Wahoo*

transited to her third patrol's operating area on the surface in daylight despite the threat of Japanese planes. He also trained his executive officer, Richard O'Kane, to make all periscope observations during attacks, freeing Morton to conn

*Wahoo*

unimpeded.

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Photo # 19-N-48937 USS Wahoo off the Mare Island Navy Yard, 14 July 1943



[http://www.uss-wahoo.com/1943-1944.html](#)



For his May 1943 photo of the wreck, there are new stats about time to find the wreck. The photo is a significant discovery. For more information, see the article in the Hopkins County Historical Society's newsletter.