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# DEFENDING LIBERTY

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AFTER A CAREER OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, DID ADMIRAL GEORGE MORRISON'S REMARKS CONCERNING ISRAEL'S DEADLY ATTACK ON USS LIBERTY RESULT IN THE MURDER OF HIS SON?

BY KELLY BELL



Formal portrait of R/Adm. George S. Morrison.



Morrison would go aboard the USS Pruttt just in time for the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

**T**he former Confederacy gave America one of its greatest military heroes when George Stephen Morrison was born the son of a railway worker in Rome, Georgia, on 7 January 1919. The Morrison family descended from Scottish settlers that emigrated to America in the late 18th Century. Morrison said his family was originally from the Outer Hebrides and claimed direct descent from Robert the Bruce. His family also had Irish ancestry, with routes tracing back to County Cork.

Young George wanted to enter the military and his choice of a service branch was the Navy. He did well with his application forms and the recruiters quickly realized his capabilities. He graduated from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis during February 1941 and the clock was ticking for America. He was just in time for his country's



Morrison's command of the USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31) would put him right in the middle of the disaster that was the Gulf of Tonkin.