

Archives Branch  
Naval History and Heritage Command  
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Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

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# William D. Sams Papers

## COLL/479

**Creator:** Lieutenant Commander William D. Sams, USN

**Extent:** 2 boxes  
.7 cubic feet

**Date Range:** 1928-1937 and 1955

**Classification:** Unclassified

**Access:** Open

### Scope and Content Notes

The Papers of William Sams include a subpoena to a Crossing the Line Ceremony and crossing certificates dated 1934, 1936, and 1937, while he was serving on USS Ranger (CV-4). Also in the collection are a diary kept from 1928-1929 and a copy of Sam's separation report.

### Subject Headings (LCSH)

United States. Navy – Storekeepers – Diaries

Shellbacks – United States

### Biography

William Doyle Sams was born on 7 August 1907 in Martinville, Arkansas. He enlisted in the Navy in July 1927 at age 19. Sam had a successful 27 year Navy career, earning the Purple Heart, Good Conduct, American Defense, Atlantic and Pacific Area and World War II Victory medals before his retirement in 1955. During his career, he had duty on USS Raleigh (CL-7, Langley, Ranger (CV-4), Hornet (CV-8) and was wounded by enemy forces in the Santa Cruz Islands in 1942.

### Box and Folder Listing

#### Box 1

Series I: William Sams, 1928-1936 and 1955

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Crossing the Line    | 1934-1936 |
| 2. Diary                | 1928-1929 |
| 3. Report of Separation | 1955      |

**Box 2 (Oversized)**

1. European Cruise of the USS Raleigh
2. Crossing the Line Certificate
3. Crossing the Line Certificate

1928-1929

1934

1937