



OBJECT ID	1998.42.6
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
OBJECT COLLECTION	George's Collection (is part of)
DATE CREATED	1945
OBJECT ENTITIES	Sotos, George (is related to)
RELATED ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photograph, 1998.42.1 Photograph, 1998.42.2.A Photograph, 1998.42.2.B Photograph, 1998.42.3 Photograph, 1998.42.4 Photograph, 1998.42.5 Photograph, 1998.42.7 Photograph, 1998.42.8 Photograph, 1998.42.9 Photograph, 1998.42.10 Photograph, 1998.42.11 Photograph, 1998.42.12 Photograph, 1998.42.13.A Photograph, 1998.42.13.B Photograph, 1998.42.14 Photograph, 1998.42.15.A Photograph, 1998.42.15.B Photograph, 1998.42.16 Diary, 1998.42.17.1-4

ACCESS POINTS

ceremony
crossing the line
equator
king neptune
photograph
ship
uss willis

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Lieutenant Commander George P. Sotos, Commanding Officer of the USS Willis (DE 395) sitting atop a barrel, right side of image, during the "Crossing the Line (Equator)" ceremony aboard the ship. Sailor dressed as King Neptune seen at back left corner with trident and fake beard.

ORIGIN

The ceremony of Crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the Royal Navy, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and other navies that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the Equator. Originally, the tradition was created as a test for seasoned sailors to ensure their new shipmates were capable of handling long rough times at sea. Sailors who have already crossed the Equator are nicknamed (Trusty) Shellbacks, often referred to as Sons of Neptune; those who have not are nicknamed (Slimy) Pollywogs.

Equator-crossing ceremonies, typically featuring King Neptune, are also sometimes carried out for passengers' entertainment on civilian ocean liners and cruise ships. They are also performed in the merchant navy and aboard sail training ships.

CITATION

Photograph, 1945, George's Collection, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/05/26.
