

# LIFE Magazine “Picture of the Week” Features Bataan CVL-29

By Jim Ward

For the “home folks” eager to hear news of the USS Bataan CVL-29, the October 22, 1945 issue of LIFE Magazine was one to be saved. Page 37 was a full page shot (see next page) of our plane-loaded vessel passing through the Panama Canal. We were en route to Navy Day, October 27<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to setting foot on the soil of the USA.

This was the second time through the canal for us. In 1944 we were mostly an inexperienced crew, tired of training and ready for action. We had a short liberty, bought souvenirs, but not much of a visit.

Another Panama Canal shot, taken from the dock, shows eager sailors lined up at the rail near the ship’s bow. It must have been just before liberty, as there is a predominance of white uniforms—not a common garb aboard ship.

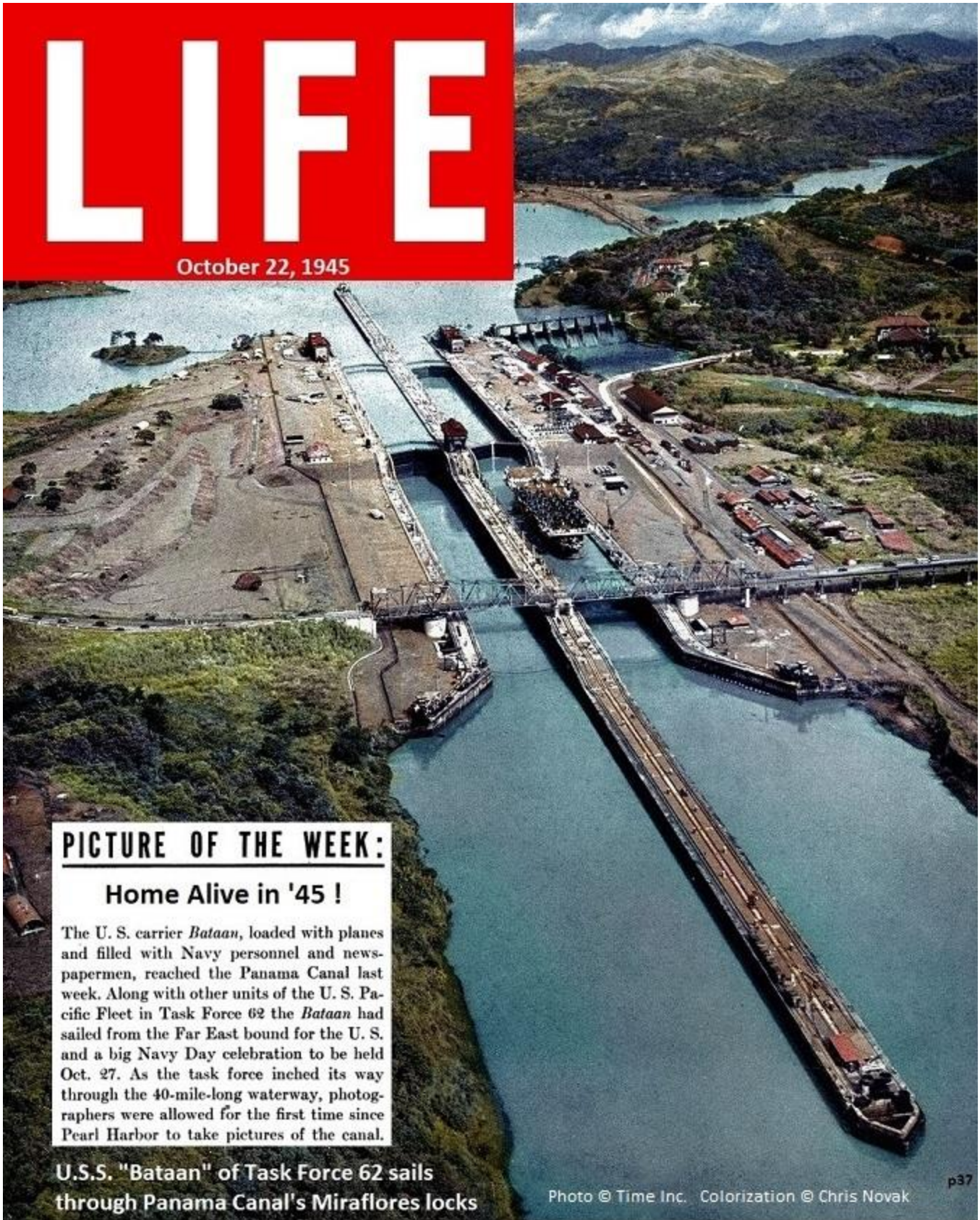


If you’d like to read additional comments, look on the website’s “History” section for October 1945 <http://www.bataancvl29.org/oct '45.htm>

For Korean Association members, you had only a westbound crossing—the Bataan was decommissioned in San Francisco and later cutup for scrap on the west coast.

# LIFE

October 22, 1945



## PICTURE OF THE WEEK:

### Home Alive in '45 !

The U. S. carrier *Bataan*, loaded with planes and filled with Navy personnel and newspapermen, reached the Panama Canal last week. Along with other units of the U. S. Pacific Fleet in Task Force 62 the *Bataan* had sailed from the Far East bound for the U. S. and a big Navy Day celebration to be held Oct. 27. As the task force inched its way through the 40-mile-long waterway, photographers were allowed for the first time since Pearl Harbor to take pictures of the canal.

**U.S.S. "Bataan" of Task Force 62 sails through Panama Canal's Miraflores locks**

Photo © Time Inc. Colorization © Chris Novak

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Note: "Task Force 62" was a special unit was organized just to send military personnel home. Bataan operated under Task Group 58.2 (Fifth Fleet) which later merged into TG 38.2 (Third Fleet).