

## CATHERINE BANIGAN BAUCKE

Born Jan. 11, 1920 in Providence, RI. A graduate of St. Joseph's Hosp. School of Nursing, she enlisted in the AAC Jan. 19, 1943 with her first station being Maxwell Fld. Montgomery, Ala. until Feb. 1944 when she went to the SAE at Bowman Fld., Ky. graduating Mar. 11, 1944 and was assigned to the 818th MAES serving in the ETO. Departed NY Mar. 22, arrived in Scotland April 3. Was stationed in England and France, making flights to NY and Fla. while stationed at Paris, France. Left Belgium on a Liberty ship Aug. 23, 1945, arriving in the US Sept. 25, 1945, was discharged Sept. 25, with the rank of 1st Lt. Received the Air Medal, European and American Campaign Ribbons. April 22, 1945, she was privileged to be home in RI on leave, having transported a plane of battle-front casualties to the states, when a broadcast she had made from a newly-won airstrip within the sound of the guns of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army on April 8 was heard in this country. Due to funeral of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the program which was to be broadcast April 14th, was not put on the air until the 22nd. As the radio interviewer for "The Fighting AAF" was interviewing her, trucks were backing up to the plane on which she had arrived — the first craft to land on the airstrip — with whole blood donated by resi-



Catherine Banigan Baucke

dents of NYC and Boston, designated for the front lines. She married Maj. Chester Baucke, pilot with 9thTC, Jan. 2, 1946 in CA and they had 4 children. Chester retired with 31 yrs. service with United Air Lines in Chicago and they retired to Punta Gorda, Fla.