



**Richard Ralph Schmick**  
**Corporal U.S. Army Air Corps**  
**9 July 1942 – 6 January 1946**

Richard was born at home on 27 February 1921 on his family's farm on the western end of Fish Hatchery Road in western Salisbury Township, Pennsylvania. He attended seven years of grade school at Washington Elementary School on Emaus Avenue in Salisbury Township from 1927 to 1934. He then worked on the family farm driving tractor and operating and maintaining other farm machinery until 1941, when he went to work for Fairview Cemetery in Allentown as a Grave Digger until he was drafted into the Army. He entered the Army as a Private on 9 July 1941 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. He was then sent to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he underwent basic training and advanced training as a Heavy Equipment Operator from 19 July 1942 to December 1943, and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. On 5 December 1943, he left the States by ship for overseas, arriving in the European Theater on 16 December 1943 where he was assigned to the 1403<sup>rd</sup> Army Air Force Base Unit located in the United Kingdom. While there, Richard operated all types of vehicles, carrying equipment, ammunition, and other supplies in support of U.S. combat missions flown over Continental Europe. Richard was later transferred to the 1408<sup>th</sup> Base Unit where he provided similar support during the remainder of his service. He left the European Theater on 20 December 1945 for return to the States, arriving the following day for further transport to Indiantown Gap where he was discharged as a Corporal on 6 January 1946. Richard was awarded the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for his service. He returned home, and two weeks later married **Joyce Mabel Fisher** (29 January 1923 – 20 January 2007) on 19 January 1946 in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. He and Joyce initially lived in Emmaus, and Richard returned to work for Fairview Cemetery as a Grave Digger for the next two years until he started the Lehigh Burial Service in Allentown, with his brother-in-law, where they also dug graves and assisted in manufacturing burial vaults. In 1951 he started his own company, Richard R. Schmick, Inc., in Allentown just off Emaus Avenue, contracting for the installation, maintenance, and repair of septic tanks. In 1951, Richard and Joyce moved back to western Salisbury Township. In Richard's youth, he and his family were closely associated with the residents and events of nearby Wescosville, Pennsylvania, and during the war he was placed on the Honor Roll of *The Home-Town Mirror*, a local newspaper sponsored by the Wescosville Fire Company that honored area wartime veterans and provided news of area servicemen and other events for area servicemen wherever they were serving and to their families at home. In 1982, Richard and Joyce moved to Kempton, Pennsylvania, where they settled. Richard retired in 1985, and his daughter **Carol Lynn** and her husband, **Fred James Ritter**, took over the business. In 2005, they relocated the business to Limeport Pike in Upper Saucon Township, Pennsylvania. In addition to Carol, Richard and Joyce had four other daughters: **Shirley Ann**, **Janet Joyce**, **Betty Mabel**, and **Cindy Ellen**. Richard's parents were **Ralph Edgar Schmick** (3 October 1895 – 28 October 1973) and **Ellen Clara Fenstermaker** (4 December 1895 – 4 December 1986). Richard's brother, **Howard Archie Schmick**, also served in the Army during World War II.