



Ordnance Branch  
Insignia



87th Infantry Division  
Patch

**Merritt Curtis Schmoyer**  
**Staff Sergeant U.S. Army**  
**12 June 1942 – 25 October 1945**

Merritt was born on 29 December 1921 in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He was one of nine children born of **Charles Milton Schmoyer** (9 June 1893 – 5 June 1967) and **Sarah Louise Fink** (11 September 1892 – 27 June 1994). He and his family lived in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where his father owned and operated a barber shop on Schantz (now Brookside) Road that opened in 1932 in the building that once served as the Wescosville Fire House until 1931. He attended grade school in South Whitehall, Pennsylvania, from 1927 to 1936, and graduated from Allentown High School in 1940. Prior to entering the Service, Merritt worked as a Cabinet Maker for Yeager's Furniture Factory in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and as a Machinist for Catasauqua Machine Works in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. He was drafted into the Army as a Private in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on 12 June 1942. He was then assigned to Fort George G. Meade where he underwent basic training. He was then transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he received advanced training in ordnance and was assigned to Service Battalion, 48th Infantry ("Phantom") Division. He also received Army Special Training in engineering at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. After that, he was transferred to the 787th Ordnance Company, 87th Infantry ("Acorn") Division, at Fort Bragg and was assigned duties as a Supply Sergeant. The Division was ordered overseas to the European Theater of Operations, arriving in England and later crossing over to the Continent, where the Division participated in the Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe Campaigns, earning three battle stars. After World War II ended, Merritt returned to the States for discharge as a Staff Sergeant on 25 October 1945 at Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. He returned to Wescosville to live and attended Lehigh University from February 1946 to June 1948, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering. He then went to work successively for Western Electric Company in Allentown as an Engineer and for Bethlehem Steel Company as a General Foreman, retiring from the latter in 1981. He married **Marie R. Yeager** (16 January 1917 – 7 May 1986) on 9 May 1942. Merritt lived in Wescosville until 1990, when he moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania, until 2004. He then relocated to Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Two of Merritt's brothers, **Floyd Carl** and **Vernon M.**, also served in the Army during World War II.