



Howard Archie Schmick
Private First Class U.S. Army
19 January 1943 – 8 November 1945

Howard was born at home on 18 November 1922 in South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. His family later moved to a farm at the western end of Fish Hatchery Road in Salisbury Township, Pennsylvania. He attended eight years of grade school at Washington Elementary School on Emaus Avenue in Salisbury Township, and then worked on the family farm until he was drafted into the Army. Howard entered the Army Air Corps as a Private on 19 January 1943 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, and then underwent training as an Aircraft Radar Plotter. On 7 December 1943, Howard left the States to join the 78th Fighter Control Squadron, 63rd Fighter Wing, 12th Air Force, on the Island of Sardinia, Italy. The squadron had left the States in early 1943 and was located at the Alghero airfield on Sardinia at the time Howard arrived there on 15 December 1943. The squadron was responsible for the installation and maintenance of facilities and for the support of forward fighter aircraft air-ground operations. The squadron subsequently relocated from Sardinia to Pisa, Coltano, and to Bologna on the Boot of Italy, where they provided support to the Allies in during the Rome-Arno Campaign (22 January–9 September 1944), North Apennines Campaign (10 September 1944–4 April 1945), and Po Valley Campaign (5 April–8 May 1945). Howard was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal with three bronze stars for supporting these three campaigns. Howard left the squadron on 18 August 1945 for home just after the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and the Army was being demobilized. He arrived back in the States two weeks later on 1 September 1945, and was discharged on 8 November 1945 as a Private First Class at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania. In addition to his European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, he was awarded the Good Conduct medal, American Theater Service Medal, and Distinguished Unit Ribbon. After his discharge, Howard returned to work on the family farm for a while, and subsequently worked as a Truck Driver, including driving a tractor trailer truck for D.F. Bast, Inc., in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for 33 years until his retirement in 1984. Howard married **Helen Mae Erney** (born 30 May 1925) at the family farm on 26 September 1945. They moved from the farm to Macungie, Pennsylvania, in 1949, where they settled. Howard and Helen have two children: **Judith Kay** and **Jeffrey Dave**. Howard was one of seven children born to **Ralph Edgar Schmick** (3 October 1895–28 October 1973) and **Ellen Clara (Fenstermaker) Schmick** (4 December 1895–4 December 1986). In Howard'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. Howard died in the Allentown Osteopathic Medical Center on 8 April 1987. He is buried in the cemetery of Solomon's United Church of Christ in Macungie, where he was a member. He was an active member of the Macungie Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9264 and the Macungie Volunteer Fire Company. Howard's brother, **Richard Ralph Schmick**, also served in the Army Air Corps during World War II from 9 July 1942 to 6 January 1946.