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GENERAL 'LY SPEAKING

May 8, 2020

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Special 75th V-E Day Edition

"Mission Fulfilled"

This week we celebrate Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in the European theater. Given General Eisenhower's pivotal role in securing the Nazi's unconditional surrender, it seemed only fitting to dedicate his memorial on V-E Day 75.

In lieu of the May 8 dedication ceremony (which has since been postponed to September), we invite you to join us virtually as we honor the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation and commemorate the spirit of the first V-E Day. A socially-distanced SALUTE to all those who served and sacrificed in the Great Crusade -- both at home and abroad!

***"The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241, local time,
May 7th, 1945."***

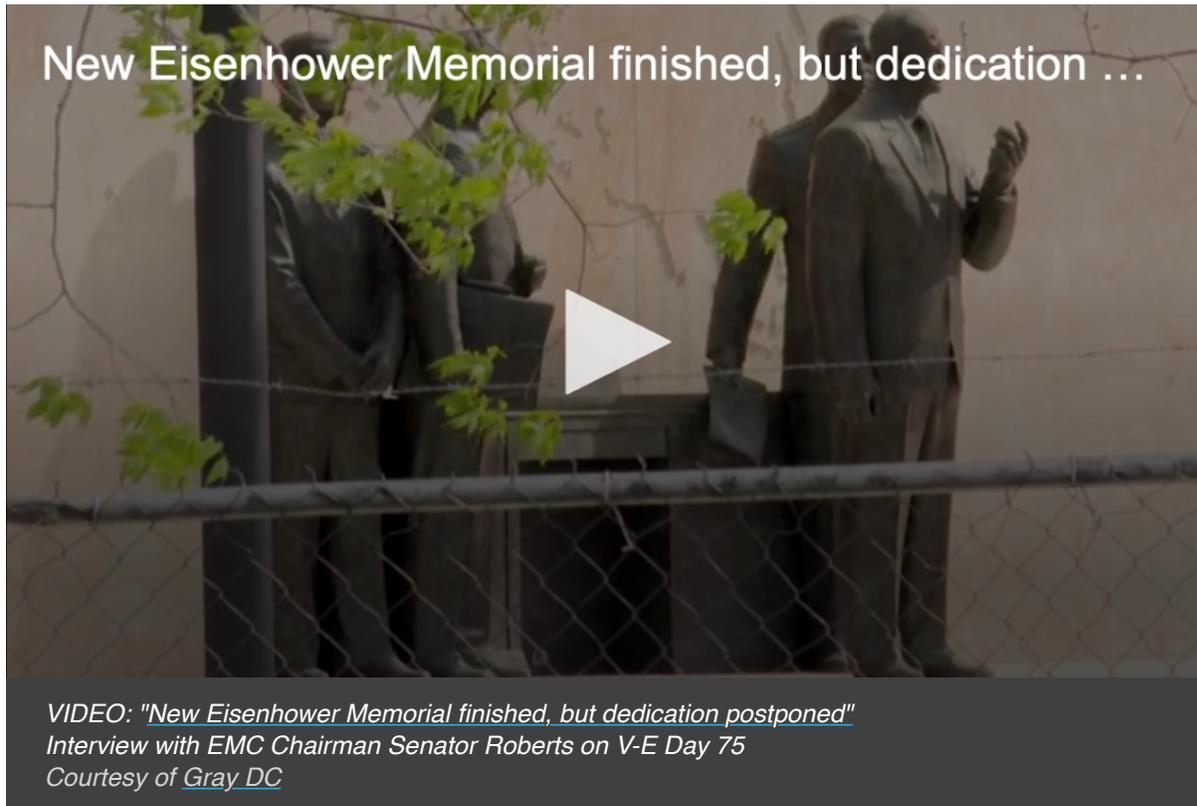
– General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force
Telegram to the joint British and American command, May 7, 1945



*General Eisenhower makes a V for victory after the surrender at Reims, France, May 7, 1945
(Image courtesy of the Associated Press)*

EMC Chairman V-E Day 75 Reflections





"Most military historians agree, it was Eisenhower's unique skill and persuasion that enabled the allied effort to be successful..."

Simply put, Ike led the effort to preserve Western democracy and freedom and later, as president, America experienced eight years of peace and prosperity."

– EMC Chairman Senator Pat Roberts

[Marking the 75th anniversary of V-E Day and paying tribute to Eisenhower's leadership,](#)

OpEd published in *The Hill*, May 8, 2020

Victory Order of the Day



Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower (left), sitting with Deputy Supreme Allied Commander British Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder (right), broadcasts a victory speech from the SHAEF war room, Rheims, France, 0400 hours, May 7, 1945 (Image courtesy of the [Meserlin Family](#))

"As we celebrate Victory in Europe let us remind ourselves that our common problems of the immediate and distant future can be best solved in the same conceptions of cooperation and devotion to the cause of human freedom as have made this Expeditionary Force such a mighty engine of righteous destruction."

– General Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force
Victory Order of the Day, May 8, 1945

City of London Honors Supreme Commander Eisenhower

Shortly after V-E Day, General Eisenhower was awarded the Freedom of the City of London and delivered one of his most notable speeches - the *Guildhall Address* - in which he eloquently expresses the pursuit of

peace from the ashes of the destruction of war.



VIDEO: [London Welcomes Newest Citizen](#)

June 12, 1945, London, England, courtesy of [British Movietime](#)

"Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends....The only attitude in which a commander may with satisfaction receive the tributes of his friends is a humble acknowledgment that, no matter how unworthy he may be, his position is a symbol of great human forces that have labored arduously and successfully for a righteous cause."

- General Eisenhower, Guildhall Address, London, June 12, 1945
(portion of excerpt to be inscribed on the Eisenhower National Memorial)

Our Deepest Gratitude on V-E Day 75

75 years ago today, people flooded streets to rejoice in the end of the war and celebrate victory over the Nazi war machine. Yet despite the revelry, it was a day of deeply mixed emotions - jubilation and relief for the liberation, mourning and sadness for all that was lost, and a new hope for a free and peaceful future.

As we celebrate this pivotal milestone, let us remember the men and women of the armed forces who served so bravely, the essential workers and suppliers at home and abroad who provided the backbone of operations, the victims of the Holocaust for atrocities endured, and the millions of lives lost. And for General Eisenhower's steadfast leadership and "devotion to duty" through some of the world's darkest days. May the sacrifices and courage of that remarkable generation be a solemn reminder to us all to never take for granted the democratic values and freedoms of our great nation.



Eisenhower returns to Normandy 20 years after D-Day, American Cemetery, Normandy, France, 1964

"I devoutly hope that we will never again have to see such scenes as these.... Every time I come back to these beaches... I say once more, we must find some way to work to gain an eternal peace for this world."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower
CBS Reports (1964): D-Day Plus 20, June 6, 1964, Normandy, France

Although circumstances prevented us from gathering today to dedicate Ike's memorial, we very much look forward to celebrating with you at the opening in September. In the meantime, stay safe and be well!



General Eisenhower's accomplishments as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force are commemorated at the Memorial by heroic-sized bronzed sculpture

Memorial design by Gehry Partners, LLP; Sculpture by Sergey Eylanbekov; Tapestry by Tomas Osinski

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Countdown to Dedication

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- September 17, 2020 -

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* *Deceased*

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