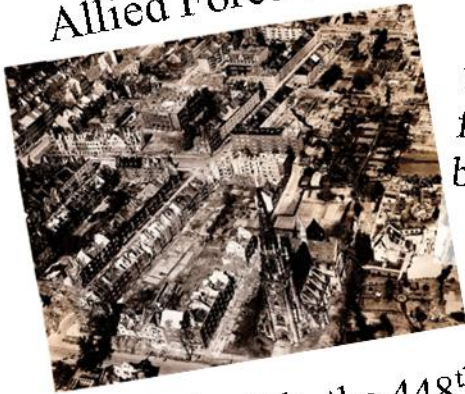


# VE DAY

At 2:41am on May 7 at a little red schoolhouse in Reims, which was Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, General Dwight D Eisenhower accepted the German surrender. Allied leaders received a simple cable from Eisenhower which announced: "The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 3am, local time, 7 May 1945. Eisenhower".



April 25th was the 448th Bomb Group's last mission. After that they performed "trolley" runs. Ground personnel, were flown at heights ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 feet over bombed-out cities to show them the results of Allied bombing.



On May 7th, the 448<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group received a message that there would be an official announcement stating that the war in Europe was officially over. **"They've been expecting VE Day to be announced all day long but so far (1900) it has not been"** Lt. John Stanford wrote in a letter home.



On the evening of May 7<sup>th</sup> word finally came announcing the war had ended and fireworks and flares lit up the sky. **"May 7<sup>th</sup> we flew VIP ground personnel on a sight-seeing tour of Germany to observe the results of our bombing. We came back to the base to hear that the cease-fire was gong into effect at 11:01 that night. This turned out to be true and the base went crazy: flares and pistols were fired for over an hour."** Joe Nathan – navigator