the ankle. The doctors told Tinney that it would take about six weeks before Palmer could leave. There wasn't much else Tinney could do, so he and Palmer agreed that Jack should continue on back to his base. So Tinney went to Marseilles in Southern France where he got a ride in a B-25 to Italy. Shortly after he arrived in Italy a B-24 crew flew in on their way to England and took Jack with them. After returning to England, Jack was there about ten days when in walked Palmer! He had "conned" the doctors into letting him leave the hospital in Lyon, France, after they had told Tinney it would be at least six weeks before Palmer could move freely.
WORLD WAR II PURPLE HEART ENGRAVED "HARRIS M. PALMER." (VERNON BROOK COLLECTION).

WORLD WAR II AIR MEDAL ENGRAVED TO "2ND LT. HARRIS M. PALMER, A.C. (VERNON BROOK COLLECTION).
Shortly after this Tinney was piloting a B-24 again, just about ready to leave the runway when he was summoned to the commanding officer's office. There he was told that he would be reassigned because once a military person had escaped from German occupied countries (France), he was usually returned to the U.S.A. According to Tinney, the reason for this was that if a person were shot down and captured a second time he could be shot as a spy for his first escape, supposedly because the first escape must have been made in clothes other than that person's uniform, through enemy lines.

An interesting side note about Palmer's and Tinney's escape (they called it "evaded") refutes a rumor about American airmen during World War II. Just about the time Tinney and Palmer "evaded" Switzerland, by the end of August 1944, there were 94 Eighth Air Force crews interned in Sweden and 101 crews in Switzerland. About the same time the rumors began making the rounds wherever U.S. Armed Forces were that many of the flyers faked emergencies and landed in order to enjoy a comfortable respite from the perils of war. Those rumors got started because when American flyers landed in Switzerland they were interrogated by diplomatic officials who reported that a disproportionate number of the emergencies were not genuine. When General Spaatz read these reports he demanded that Air officers and civilians interview the internees. In August 1944, when this was done, all of the charges of cowardice were dispelled. "As late as mid-September 1944, not a single instance of unnecessary internment had been proved."7

Palmer returned to the Army Air Force Redistribution Station, Miami Beach, in November 1944. Tinney was reassigned to the Air Transport Command as a B-24 instructor. From then on, wherever Palmer was, he would phone Tinney three or four times a year and thank him for saving his life in France. Both men retired from the Air Force; Palmer as a Major and Tinney as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Jack Tinney's decorations and medals are:

- Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters
- Purple Heart
- Presidential Unit Citation
- American Defense Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- European Theater Campaign Medal with two battle stars
- World War II Victory Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- USAF Longevity Ribbon with three oak leaves
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force
- Small Arms Expert Ribbon
- Command Pilot Wing

Harris Palmer's decorations and medals are:

- Air Medal
- Purple Heart
- Good Conduct Medal
- American Defense Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- European Theater Campaign Medal with one battle star
- World War II Victory Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- USAF Longevity Ribbon with two oak leaves
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force
- Senior Navigator Wing