

## JOE PACK

1919-2004



### **Margaret (nee Dillon) & Joe Pack lived at 48 Fowlers Walk between 1990 & 2004**

WW2 pilot Joe Pack's escape from occupied Europe is part of the history of the famous Comete line and his evasion is documented in the M.I.9 Debrief Reports. (Cartoon above of Joe en route) Joe was born in 1918 to Delia and Jeffrey Pack, a builder. He was the third of four children and later wrote an entertaining account of his rural childhood in the Kent village of Egerton. Keen on bell ringing at 15 he became apprenticed to a bell foundry but later felt that there was a better future for him in civil engineering. By 1940, when he joined the RAF, he was working in the Dagenham Borough Surveyors office.

After 12 months training Joe was assigned as a Halifax bomber pilot. On his 18<sup>th</sup> operational flight he was shot down on the German/Dutch border and found himself "swinging across the skies on my parachute, like a huge pendulum" His adventures involved the men and women of the Resistance who risked their lives to take him through Belgium and France and across the Pyrenees. On his return in 1942 he was reassigned to flying boats which was when he first met Margaret, a WAAF Officer (his senior in rank) serving at RAF Oban. During his action packed posting on patrol in the Indian Ocean they began an air mail courtship, marrying only five weeks after their second meeting in a pub at Euston Station in 1945. *"Love is in the Air" The story of Joe's early life, wartime exploits and the letters of Joe and Margaret is available from [www.woodfieldpublishing.com](http://www.woodfieldpublishing.com)*

Joe & Margaret had two sons and a successful business career living for most of their lives in Ealing. They spent their final years in Brentham to be near their family. Joe rarely spoke of his wartime experiences and his sons only became fully aware of his bravery after his death. He never lost his interest in bell ringing and rang regularly in Ealing including quarter peal of 1260 doubles rang at Christ Church in June 1995 to celebrate his and Margaret's Golden wedding Anniversary. Margaret died in 2002 and Joe in 2004.