

THE BASQUE CHILDREN ARRIVE

Welcome at Cambridge Tea Party

A crowd of several hundred people gathered at Cambridge Station shortly before 3 o'clock last evening in readiness for the arrival of a party of Basque children who are to be cared for at the Pampisford Hostel. At the YMCA hall, where the children were given tea before starting the last stage of their long journey, an outburst of spontaneous applause indicated the feelings of the people.

It was just on 3 o'clock when the children arrived at Cambridge, having travelled from the camp near Southampton by way of Bletchley in a special coach. Several adults were in charge of the party and several Spanish-speaking members of the Cambridge Committee were at the station to extend a welcome.

Pouring rain and a biting wind hardly seemed a happy welcome, but fortunately there was a break in the shower as the kiddies entered the cars which were to take them to tea.

Tired they obviously were and a little awed. But gradually the ice was broken and smiles were to be seen on the faces of most when they heard an interpreter in their own language repeat the welcome extended to them. Occasionally, too, a ripple of laughter was heard, and, once, there was applause.

The reception over, they got down to tea - with plenty of cakes and bananas and also a big iced cake - before setting off by car to Pampisford.

The Mayor and Mayoress were unable to come, but Councillor Peck read a letter from the Mayor conveying warm greetings and a hearty welcome to Cambridge, and expressing the hope that the children would soon forget all the problems they had been through.

Councillor Peck endorsed the Mayor's words and also added a word to the people of Cambridge, appealing to them to see that the little visitors lacked nothing in the way of clothing and food and the pleasures which made for a happy life. Finally, he read, in Basque, the greeting: "Cheerio; I wish you well; goodbye."

Mr E W Hawkins, of Trinity Hall, translated Mr Peck's remarks into Basque.

(Cambridge Daily News, Friday June 8th 1937)