

The Sutton and Carshalton home had begun life in August 1937 with twenty-two children living in The Oaks, a large house at Banstead. Ten years later, there were still some twenty young Basques, students, trainers or workers, living in The Culvers, another large house to which they had moved in September 1940, shortly before The Oaks was destroyed by a bomb. At first The Oaks, which had been lent by the local council, was supported by religious organisations, with a Mr Richardson as warden, supported by a Mr Lowry and a Liberal chicken farmer, called Phillips, from Banstead. It had been got ready for the children by members of The Young Communist League, and much of the equipment had been collected by the Sutton Aid Spain Committee from residents of the St Helier estate, many of whom had moved out from east London. Visitors brought gifts but the house was short of money. It was saved largely by the energy of Charlie West, a local baker's roundsman and a Labour party activist.

Jim Fyrth, *The Signal was Spain*, London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1986, p.237