



Memorial in the Channel Islands.

Gary Font, the son of a Spanish Republican worker on the island, organised and lead the proceedings with the laying of over 30 wreaths from Russian, Polish, French and Jersey official government representatives, organisations like Amnesty International and the International Brigade Memorial Trust, religious bodies representing Christians, Jews and, for the first time, a woman from the Muslim community, and then from friends and families. Many countries and bodies still have to a lot to recognise and learn. We will teach them.

The grave was an abundance of colour, of all colours, all bright under the sun. Flags were lowered, a minute's silence respected and Bob Le Seur, from the local A1, gave a moving speech reminding us that every day horrors still persist and we must work to eradicate them. Amongst the flags, amongst the plaques on the graves, the three colours of the Spanish flag shone proudly.

Our little band, our growing band, was there to remember the Spanish Republicans who were amongst those men: Gary and many other Spanish descendants from the islands, Fernando de la Torre, always there with the republican flag, Rob Smith from the IBMT and family, and myself, there again to remember the tragedy of the Republicans and the Republic, the loss of a nation left by the Allies in the hands of a dictatorship under Franco.

We will not forget. More and more are reading about this now and every day, here and in Spain: our children want to know. "¡No pasarán!"

## Language taster

by Mirella Santamaria

For the past five years I have been working with the Head of Modern Languages at Haywood School, Nottingham, on various joint projects with the Modern Languages Department at Nottingham Trent University, designed to bring foreign languages to schoolchildren, many of whom come from under-privileged backgrounds.

One project provides children with the opportunity of taking GCSE Spanish at age 14, two years prior to the national norm. Three cohorts have successfully completed the course so far. This is a joint project between inner city schools and the university's Wider Participation Unit, designed to raise awareness of higher education among children who may otherwise

# Scouts and the Basque children

## Stoneham

Tom Webb writes...

The story of North Stoneham Camp has been told many times and there is usually mention of the fact that the Scouts and Guides were among the countless volunteers who set up and assisted at the camp. I recently met John Guilment, now in his nineties, who was the Rover Scout Leader in Southampton at the time and who organised the work of the Rover Scouts. Rovers were young men aged from 18 to 24, who came from four scout groups in Southampton, which we can now identify.

As was the case for all the volunteers called upon to help set up the camp, everything was done at extremely short notice. Some of the scout groups were just about to depart on their Whitsun Camp, but willingly cancelled these activities in order to work on the preparation of the site at Stoneham. About 80-90 Rovers were involved in the work, generally on a shift system of 10 or 12 at a time.

Many volunteers were engaged in putting up bell tents and marquees, but the Scouts, with their camping experience, took the lead and demonstrated how to put up tents that actually stayed up! Before the *niños* arrived, the Scouts dug field latrines, erected hessian screens, and when the children were on site, demonstrated their use. With such basic living conditions as the camp provided, maintenance of a high standard of hygiene was essential.

During the evenings, younger Scouts and Cubs visited the site to hand over treasured toys and to organise games and activities for some of the *niños*. The Girl Guides were active in repairing damaged clothing and running games for the younger children.

When the *niños* dispersed to the various colonies, many local Scout and Guide units held a weekly games evening for the young refugees awaiting placements. We know that some of the *niños* became members of the Scouts and Guides during their time in Britain (see below) and I would be interested to hear from any of the present *niños* about their experiences in the movement. Through my involvement with the Scout movement, I may be able to put them in touch with the unit they joined over sixty years ago. I can be contacted on 01793 782109 or e-mail [tclwebb@btinternet.com].

## Margate

"The Basque Children's home at Laleham School, Margate, is just about to make history by producing the first troop of Basque Boy Scouts in England. Mr FW Angell, a member of the Basque Children's Committee, has recently formed a scout movement in the Home, consisting of six patrols, each of six boys. He reports that they are making wonderful progress and that when they have passed their Tenderfoot tests, they will become part of the local body and be known as Margate such-and-such a number, and receive financial assistance for uniforms, etc. Already they have aroused a great deal of local interest, which is all to the good. The boys, too, are very keen and since joining have taken more pride in their persons."

*Extract from Spanish Relief: Bulletin of the National Joint Committee, Bulletin No 16, October 1938.*



Scouts help out at Stoneham.

never have aspired to go to university.

Recently I was asked to help organise a joint University/Haywood School Spanish taster day for junior children. An exhibition representing the countries of Latin America and Spain was organised, in particular highlighting the existence of the minority languages. The children were given the opportunity to learn some Euskara and Catalan. They were also made aware of the existence of Kechua and Aimara. A small section of the exhibition was dedicated to Euskadi, in particular to the story of the Basque children's

exile to Great Britain in 1937. The children also experienced music, ranging from Carlos Santana to Pantxo eta Peio, and from Cuba, Colombia and Nicaragua. The aim of the day was to demonstrate the globalisation and the inextricably linked nature of culture on a world-wide level. La Tasca, the Spanish chain of restaurants, provided and funded a lunch of tapas for the children. The day culminated with a performance of Mexican folkloric dancing by Tierra Nueva, a group formed by Mexican