

MEMORIAS DEL

# EXILIO

LOS NIÑOS VASCOS DEL 1937

Written by Begoña Garrido

Pictures by Oskar Gorroño



Martina, Antonio, and Lucía are children growing up in greater Bilbao during the war year of 1937. Their lives of war, evacuation and exile are told by Begoña and Oskar in this new comic book available in Spanish and Basque, but not yet in English. Begoña has written the story and Oskar has illustrated her words. The children are evacuated to France, England, and the USSR. Fear, uncertainty, hope, illusion, uncertainty, and homecoming are the lives of these three children aged 18, 11, and 12. Martina goes with her mother and two sisters and a brother to France, Antonio has a younger brother with him on the *Habana* and travels across the stormy Bay of Biscay to *England and* Lucía travels with her older brother to Russia and is away for the longest until 1956. Martina and Antonio return in 1939.

My father's journey into exile is most similar to that of Antonio as he also came to England and stayed in Colonies at Wickham Market, Margate, Barnet and Carshalton. He was amongst the 450 children still in Britain at the start of the Second World War and never returned to live in Spain / Euskadi. So he lived and remembered as an exile. So many memories and his life was the same as the children in Begoña's introduction to the *Niños de la Guerra* and yet different and unique to him. In her stories about Martina, Antonio and Lucía and in the pictures crafted by Oskar in the muted colour palette he adopts only a couple of panels show the tragedy and the violence of the war in Bilbao in 1937. Mostly we see the wonder of events seen by exiles eyes as they explore with their hosts the difference between cultures and language seen through the eyes of children with reference points of what and who they have left behind. Do get hold of a copy on your next trip to Bilbao or San Sebastián to enjoy the layers of memory experienced by *Los Niños Vascos del 37*.

*Memorias del Exilio – los Niños Vascos del 37* is available from bookshops in Spain / Euskadi (Elkar etc) or directly from Begoña -[beghona.garrido@gmail.com](mailto:beghona.garrido@gmail.com)