

## The Fighting Basques

Did a member of your family that came on the *Habana* in 1937 go onto serve in the armed forces during World War 2? **You are invited to join the *Fighting Basques Project***

When the War in Spain ended on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1939 it was apparent to the Basque Children that remained in the UK that they had been evacuated from one war and were about to be plunged into a second. In September 1939 the older boys, who had travelled on the *Habana* as twelve to fourteen year olds, were preparing for adulthood not only by thinking about their future working life but also about joining the fight against Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. These Children, now young Basque Men became part of *The Fighting Basques*.

We are proud to offer you the opportunity to join a research project which will recover the records held in the UK National Archives. We have entered into an agreement with [Sancho de Beurko Association](#) to find the stories of your family's involvement in WW2. We are not aware of any of the *niñas* being in the Services but do contact us if your mother or grandmother was involved in the War.

Guillermo Tabernilla, Ander González, and Pedro Oiarzabal of the [Sancho de Beurko Association](#) have researched two of *The Fighting Basques* who died during the D Day Landing and Operation Overlord which we were pleased to link to on our website at: [www.basquechildren.org/activities#fightingbasques](http://www.basquechildren.org/activities#fightingbasques)

If you would like to join this project to find out your family's role in the Second World War then please contact Simon Martinez by email at <mailto:simon.martinez@btinternet.com> and he will explain the project more and answer any questions you may have.

The two wars our families lived through – The War in Spain and the Second World War – were things they did not talk about. And, if they have left us, we all wish we had talked to them more. Now thanks to the research partnership with the [Sancho de Beurko Association](#) we can offer you the chance to hear from the Archives your parents' and grandparents' roles in the War that ended 75 years ago this year and they will write articles about some of them.