

THE HYDRO HOTEL - Port Erin



The Hydro Hotel on the Promenade in Port Erin was a luxury hotel of its time which could accommodate 200 guests. This was one of the hotels which was to be a billet to a number of the women internees and their children during WWII.

The Hydro was used as a camp headquarters, where the Commandant, Dame Joanna Cruickshank, had her office. The ground floor was set up as the hospital, with a maternity unit, for the internees in both Port Erin and Port St Mary.

This facility was necessary right from the beginning of the camp because, when the women arrived, 300 were expecting babies and there were some serious cases of infectious diseases such as TB (tuberculosis). There was a separate nursing sister and staff for the hospital. Later, when the Married Camp was transferred to Port Erin, the Hydro became the Medical Centre.

In later years, the name of the Hydro was changed to the Ocean Castle Hotel, before it was demolished to make way for new apartments in 2010.