

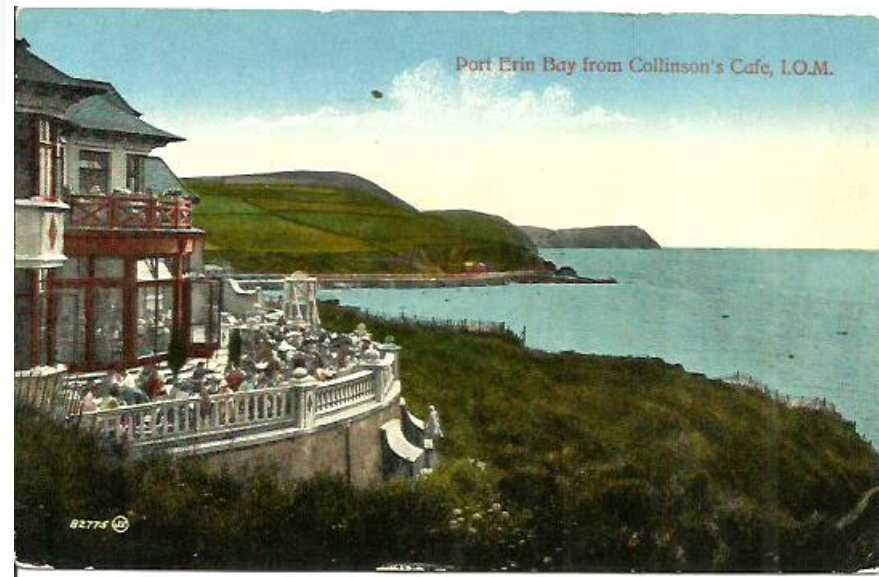
COLLINSON'S CAFÉ - Port Erin

THEN (1940)



The popular Collinson's Café at Spaldrick, Port Erin, with other shops nearby.

The rear of Collinson's Café, where tea could be enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the view towards the Calf of Man.



NOW (2015)



Collinson House, now a private residence, but still recognisable as the former café.

The current rear view of the property, with the former terrace enclosed and further rooms on the lower levels.



Collinson House is an Edwardian building with some Art Deco aspects. As can be seen from the **THEN** photographs, it was a popular café in Port Erin before, during and after World War Two.

It is situated on the cliff top in the Spaldrick area of Port Erin, on the corner of Trae Meanagh Drive. It was built in the early 1900s by McArd's building firm of Port Erin. The red tiles on the roof of the dome and other roof areas are called 'rosemary roof tiles'. They were a popular building material at the time, but quite unusual in the Isle of Man. The round windows of the house have a nautical feel to them (portholes).

Collinson's was a popular social meeting place for the internees and many of the educational courses took place here. It was also a centre for the arts and crafts activities in the internment camp. There were a number of artists interned, including Margarete Klopffleisch, Erna Nonnenmacher and Pamina Leibert-Mahrenholz, all of whom exhibited work in England after the war and whose pieces still form a part of the collections at various art galleries.

At the café there was a dance floor where tea-dances were held in the afternoons and evening entertainments took place. During WWII, events were organised by the internees for both camp members and local people to attend. Activities included musical evenings, entertainments for the children and Christmas performances.

The property is now a private house, but it has been preserved with many of its original external features.