The Walpole, 1 Hutchinson Square, Douglas IOM

1 Hutchinson Square, Douglas was owned by Ernie (died 1937) and May Luft the parents of Jean Luft who married John Joseph Kaighin in 1953 who had 2 sons Clive & Barry.





In 1940 Hutchinson Square was used as an internment camp for people suspected of being Nazi sympathisers. Around 400 people were interned there though at its height numbers reached around 1,200.

By 1944, many internees were moved out and for the final year of the war the square was instead used as a German prisoner of war camp for some of the 5,000 POWs who arrived in the Island that year.

At the beginning of the war May Luft a widow had a week to vacate the property of 1 Hutchinson Square, which was then a boarding house and her primary source of income. All the furniture was supposedly put into storage, but not labelled. After the War it was 'first come first served' and she ended up with the dregs and detritus of what other people in Hutchinson square hadn't claimed. A harsh lesson indeed! However, she built up the repeat business in the following years to make The Walpole a successful business until retiring to the Ballabrooie Estate in Douglas in the early 1970's

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutchinson_Internment_Camp

http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/CG4-Internment_Web.pdf

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/11/a3332611.shtml

Art in Exile http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/images/Schwitters-exhibition.pdf

http://www.manxnationalheritage.im/news/new-exhibition-of-manx-cartoonist-dusty-millers-work-now-open-at-house-of-manannan/

There are very few pictures of the Manx Internment Camps due to MOD restrictions in the war years.



Hutchinson Camp, Douglas, Isle of Man.

