



RAF Killadeas

Killadeas was commissioned and built by the United States Navy in early 1942. However, the US Airforce did not use it as an operational base and it was taken over by the RAF Coastal Command later that year.



Catalina flying over Killadeas.
Photograph courtesy of Breege McCusker

It was from here that No 131 Operational Training Unit (OTU) was formed in July 1942. Killadeas is very close to Castle Archdale by water and it was here that servicemen received the required 72 hours of flying time in Catalinas and Sunderlands to train them for operational flying. Before the completion of Castle Archdale Lough Erne Flying Boat Base some operational flights did originate from Killadeas - including the flight of the famous Catalina from 209 Squadron of the RAF which spotted the Bismarck.

Killadeas had accommodation for 2,800 RAF personnel who were housed in Nissen huts. A Catalina slipway was added to the site and its remains are still there today.

Today the site is owned by the Lough Erne Yacht Club and boats and yachts instead of flying boats are anchored in this area of Gublusk Bay.

