

Complete History of the Shipyard SPRL Plaquet,

The company was previously called Ets François PLAQUET, and has three departments:

- A Marine department since 1850;
- Diesel department since 1950;
- And a Boiler section since 1960.

For 4 generations, the PLAQUET family, originally from PERONNES near Antoing (Belgium), owned this company.

The workshop built wooden barges from 1850 until 1928. After and since 1928, hundreds of steel barges were welded and riveted.

The barges built by the Ets. PLAQUET have a reputation for quality manufacturing, soundness and careful furniture finishing.

When the construction of new barges slowed down, our workshops recycled in the work of boiler making, while continuing transformation and repair works on the barges.

Actually, our firm also repairs and manufactures reservoirs, tanks, truck buckets for quarries, ranging up to 170 tons, and various heavy equipment.

In 1972, further to the Scheldt enlargement, S.A. DUNAMIS, sister company of the Ets. F. PLAQUET, in ANTOING, was expropriated and then reinstalled in new buildings constructed in the PLAQUET site in PERONNES.

This section repairs, revises and sells high power engines ranging up to 1900 Cv., for marine and industry, as well as transmissions and speed reducers.

In 1980, we have expanded our dry dock to be able to accept barges of 1350 tons.

The founder, Clement Plaquet, born in Pipaix, had settled in Peronnes a little before 1820. His two sons will have a significant history in boat construction.

According to oral tradition, they first worked at the Dambrain site, installed on the Scheldt, and then created their own business.

Jean-Baptist (1818-1897) settled in Hollain and in 1846, together with his mother and his brother, created a shipyard in Peronnes, on the Scheldt, at the confluence of the Pommeroeul canal.

This site will be inherited by one of his sons, Edmond Plaquet (1860-1938) and then again by his son, Jean Plaquet (1909-1973), who got the last boat in 1963, before closing its doors shortly after.

Another son of Jean Baptist, Clement (1850-1926), will lead a shipyard in Schoten, near Antwerp.

Paulin (1854-1940), another son, will build another shipyard in Péronnes that will close in the twenties.

In 1850, François (1823-1902), who worked for a time with his brother Jean-Baptist, founded the largest shipyard in the area. He expanded it in Péronnes on the Pommeroeul canal, and it will be inherited from father to son, by Jules Plaquet (1852-1925), François Plaquet (1900-1955) and Clement Plaquet (born 1938). François' brother, Jules Plaquet (1896-1980), became Manager C.C.B. in Gaurain-Ramecroix, and played an important role in regional economic life.

The second branch of the Plaquet family has produced its last wooden vessel in 1928. The same year, in order to bypass the French protectionist policy, they built another shipyard in Mortagne-du-Nord.

From 1928 until 1970, around one thousand of steel ships will come out these sites, and also in the 1950s, vessels intended for the Belgian Congo.

In 1950, 250 workers were employed in the workshop in Péronnes. Clear fall in the classic inland water transport in the 1970s forced the business to convert in the boilers and diesel engines, while maintaining the construction, maintenance and control of vessels in its activities.

The Plaquet family also played a very important role in the political life of Péronnes. The first branch, of liberal tendency, will see Paulin Plaquet municipal councillor from 1900 to 1904, Alderman from 1904 to 1912 and burgomaster from 1912 until 1932. The second branch, of Catholic trend will see François Plaquet municipal councillor from 1872 until 1890 and even Alderman from 1879 to 1881; Jules Plaquet was Mayor from 1896 until 1912 and municipal councillor in 1921, his son Jules burgomaster from 1933 until 1940 and his son François municipal Counsellor from 1947 until 1953.