

The *Cités Rouges* and the stadium

These housing estates comprising 84 homes, with the red tile roofs that gave them their name, were built in 1926, as an extension of the *cités Blanches*, but on a more limited budget, on smaller plots of land. Located on the edge of the Dives marshes, these houses, which form a small, dense urban island, stand in contrast to this site that feels like it is on the edge of the world.

In 1929, the factory built the stadium and subsidised the first football club that was set up by the workers. It lent them a bus to travel to inter-factory cup games, where the Dives team distinguished itself. The first basketball team was set up in 1931 by some schoolteachers, as part of the *Jeunesse laïque divaise*, a secular youth group. The workers had several medal-winning athletes among their ranks, including Marcel Cudorge, boxing champion of Normandy in 1937, after whom the sports hall on the rue Eugénie-Cotton is named, or Mado Boffetti, women's athletics champion of Normandy.

Legend

The *cités Rouges* seen from the stadium, Ville de Dives collection.

Legend

Since 1942, the “*stade des Escalettes*” stadium has been named after Heurtemate, the former director of the football club and an industrial designer at the factory. It also hosted youth festivals held by local schools. Here, a sports festival known as “*lendit*” around 1953, Chantal Bosquain collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.

Legend

During the Occupation, from 1940 to 1944, the Germans used the stadium intensively for their own competitions. JP. Le Guen collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.