

The Port and the Railway

The presence of a port, of a railway line and the modest price of the land on the estuary encouraged Eugène Secrétan to set up his electrometallurgy factory on this site.

The port, which should have been an asset in terms of enabling the supply of raw materials (copper) and fuel (English coal), could only accommodate small fishing boats. In 1909, a dock was built that allowed ships with substantial tonnages to berth here. Unfortunately, from 1915, the port silted up. It was restored in 1923, but quickly became unusable again. Cargo transited through the port in Caen or in Trouville-sur-Mer, and was transported to the factory using freight trains.

The railway line ran along the port and the factory, connecting Dives to Mézidon (the junction point with the Paris-Caen-Cherbourg main line) and to Trouville-Deauville. The factory had its own railway junction and dispatched its products all over France. The Dives-Mézidon line closed down in 1969, from which point on goods transports were carried out by road. Nowadays, all that remains is the tourist line between Dives and Deauville, and the factory has given way to *Port Guillaume*.

Legend

The port, the railway line and the electrometallurgy factory at the beginning of the 20th century. *Port Guillaume* is now located where the factory used to stand. P. Cofrier collection.

Legend

The port was also a place of leisure for families: sea fishing, fishing on foot from the banks of the estuary. Francis Hervé collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.

Legend

Fishing for sand eels in the Dives estuary, opposite Houlgate, Christine Le Callonec collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.