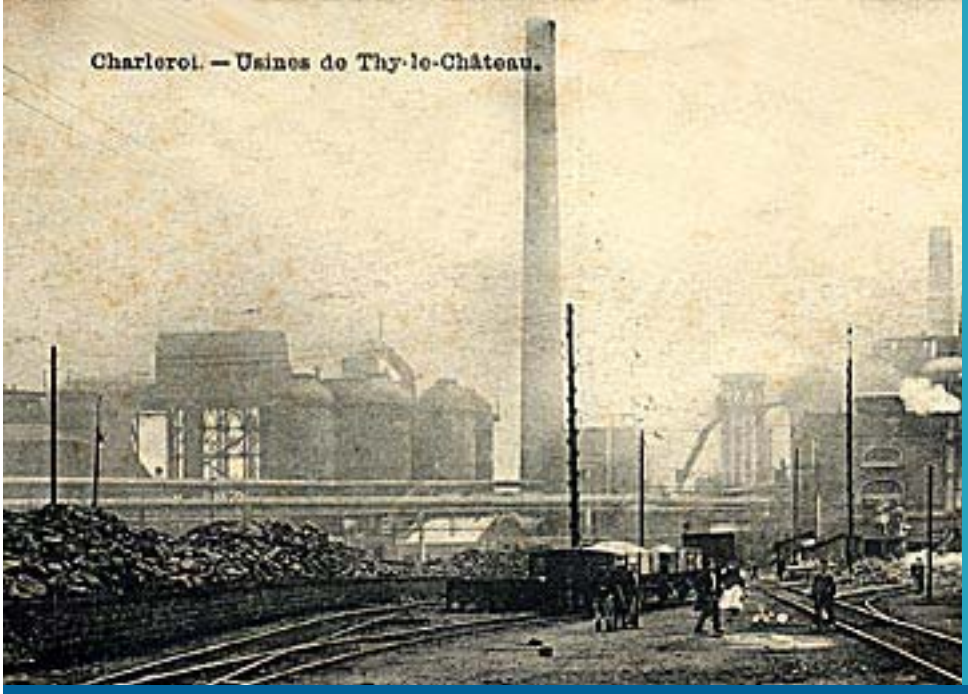
Forges et Founderies
de Thy le Château

Thy Marchinelle
Thy le Château

FORNI ELETTRICI



The history

In the middie of the eighteenth century iron ore deposits we found in the Charieroi region of Belgium. A blast furnace w; built in Thy-le-Château in 1763, operating on the charcc produced from the nearby woods.

The river Thyria suppliti the necessary power. Thus, the Forges et Fonderies de Thy- le-Château were established. In 1845 the Forges was taken over by Eugène Riche & Ci the company in charge of the railway line linking Charler and Vireux.

Two coke blast furnaces were built, plus five r heating furnaces and a rolling mill producing 10,000 t a year of railway track and merchant bars. During the latter half the nineteenth century, the ironmaking puddling process w replaced with the Bessemer steeimaking process.

Later the Thomas process was introduced to refine pig iron containir high percentages of phosphorous. Indeed, it was here at Thy- le-Château in 1878 that Thomas achieved his first succe on an industriai level.
A coke oven piant was set up in Marcinelle-Wez-St-Martin which was found to be an excellent location due to the presence of coal deposits and navigabie waterways.
Between 1863 and 1872 two coke blast furnaces were started up the area as well.
In 1888 the Forges et Fonderies de Thy-le-Château mergr with the Usines du Midi in Marcinelle. The new company w called Hauts Fourneaux, Forges et Aciéries de Thy-le-Ch teau et Marcinelle.

By the end of the century all the plant had been concentrated in Marcinelle.
During the two world wars the company suffered heavy dar age but was reconstructed each time.

In 1962 the company's name became Thy Marcinelle and 1966 it merged with Aciéries et Minières de la Sambre, being renamed Thy Marcinelle et Monceau (TMM). In 1980 TMM was taken over by Hainaut-Sambre, which in turn merged with Cockerill in 1981, the resulting company being named Cockerill-Sambre. The integrated cycle plant in Marcinelle was producing approximately 2 million t/year of steel, 65% of which was devoted to the production of coils, the rest to long rolled products. The latter carne off a modern rolling mill, "nr 3", which was made operational in 1971. It was a multi-line, multi-functional plant, made up of 27 stands producing reinforcing bars, merchant bars and wire rod.

The mill's two lines were extremely flexible, working in parallel or in series, according to requirements. It was thus possible to pass from one production programme to another with only brief retooling intervals, and failures could be tackled without stopping the machinery.

In 1988 Cockerille-Sambre decided to stop production of long rolled products to concentrate on the fiat sector.

The Riva group made an offer for the "nr 3" rolling mill, which was physically separated from the rest of the works by the river Sambre, and invested BF 4 bn to build another steel-works to supply it with the raw material.

The Riva group thus prevented an efficient piant from being dismantied which, after recovering its competitiveness, saved 200 jobs.

90s

Thy Marcinelle produces wire rod up to 16-mm diameters wire in low-carbon steel, deformed reinforcing bars in coils, and a limited quantity of reinforcing bars in straight lengths.

The semifinished products feeding the rolling mill are mostly produced on site. Only a small percentage, coming from integrated-cycle production, is bought on the market. The rol ing mill only works to order, with fast programme shifts so a to reduce the amount of product in stock.

The reinforcing bar production is homologated in Belgiun Germany, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweder The products are sold in Europe, North and South America Africa, the Near East, China and Oceania.

Customers prc duce electrowelded wire mesh, drawn products, electrode (coated electrodes and welding wire), steel wool, cold rolled products and other products derived from drawn wire.

The scrap yard can be supplied by raii, road and viver. The new steelmill has an up-to-date 160-t electric furnace er cased in a doghouse, a ladle furnace, an 8-fine continuos casting machine, a plant which filters the fumes and pelletize the dust collected, a closed-circuit water treatment play serving both the steelworks and the rolling mills. The rolling sector has a mill for bars and wire rod.

Down stream of the 150-t/hr pusher furnace and the nine-stan roughing mill, there are two separate lines, each of whic has a five-stand intermediate mill, a four-stand finishing mi a cooling bed, an automatic cutting-to-size and bundling pian a ten-stand no-twist finishing block for wire rod, a controlled-cooling line.

The finished product is loaded onto barge: trains and trailer trucks from three large deposit sheds. The laboratory carries out mechanical and metallographic tes and controls the quality of the finished product.

The steelm also has two spectrometers to carry out analyses during the manufacturing process.