

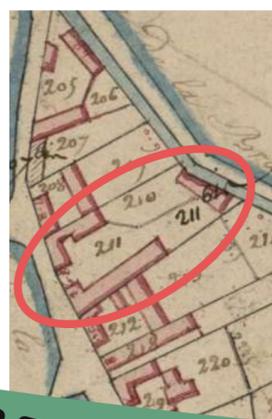


Each point on this map represents a brewery: the Lumbres region (circled in red) is in the middle of this dense concentration of breweries ("Le Pas-de-Calais au XIXe siècle", tome 3 - Industries, 1900).

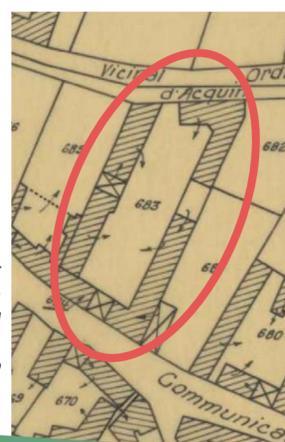
A prosperous business!

Before the Second World War, there were many breweries in the Pas-de-Calais, which is **the second largest supplier of beer in France**. It shows how popular beer was (and still is!) in the region: in the Lumbres district alone, there were as many as **45 breweries in 1898!**

Breweries could be identified by the **large carriage doors** at the entrance to the brewery yard. From the 1860s onwards, Louis Lardeur and his wife Elisa were the owners of Acquin's brewery. **At the turn of the 20th century**, it would appear that business was booming. Whereas in 1891 he worked alone, around 1906 Mr Lardeur hired **two**



Brewery buildings in 1824 (land registry plan, AD62, 3P 008/29).



And their extension in 1935 (land registry plan, AD62, 3P 008/5).

brewery boys, Valentine and Louis Bruniaux, to help him. **New buildings** were added, as we can see if we compare the two land registry plans dated 1824 and 1935.

An example of rural artisan production

Beer brewing went hand in hand with agricultural work. Like the many cafés, there were several small breweries operating in the village, often housed in cellars. They would be called "**farm-breweries**" as their owner would often combine both activities, employing the same workers and using the same horses. Around 1900, these small village breweries only produced one type of beer, blonde, with around 2° of alcohol. It was called "small beer" or "**table beer**" and was consumed daily, almost like water.

The brewer would **deliver it in barrels or kegs**, using a galère (horse-drawn cart or "dray"), to the many cafés, estaminets and farms lying within a radius of around **ten kilometres around the brewery**. The first litre-bottles of beer with labels only appeared around 1925-30, in the larger town breweries.

Decline of this cottage industry

Acquin's brewery closed down after the mass **destruction of the First World War**. There wasn't enough money to replace the equipment. As for the farm-breweries, many farmers preferred to use the compensation money they had received to modernise the farm rather than the brewery. This cottage industry was abandoned, especially with the arrival of **new drinks after 1945** (sodas, lemonade or better-quality wine). Like the railway station, the brewery is now a private home, with another part used as an office building.



The façade of the brewery and its porch in the early 20th century (postcard, coll. CCHP).



Labels of local beers (coll. CCHP).

The front of the brewery today: we can still see its large carriage doors on the main street (photograph by Mathilde Duval, coll. CHHP 2021).

