

The ex Coal Mine of Cludinico

Geological aspect

Carnic Chain is mainly made of paleozoic soils which extended up until Val Pesarina in Comeglains, Val Calda in Paluzza, Sella of Lugosullo in Paularo and Forca Pradulina in Pontebba.

Between these Valleys and the *Tagliamento* river rise the *Tolmezzine* Alps and Prealps made of Triassic soils. Carnia's coal deposits are divided in two groups:

- Carboniferous coals, present somewhere in the Carnic chain.
- Triassic coals, limited to some sectors of the Tolmezzine Alps.

Cludinico area is located on the *Corbolan* Massif *Clap* with a general north slant slope. It emerges across the Degano Valley and is apocopates in the north by the great Sauris -Ovaro- Arta fault.

In 1936 Dell'Oste Umberto from Cludinico sent a report to the National Government with the aim to restart works in the new Cludinico mine.

The proposal was accepted and the assignment was entrusted to the Italian Coal Company (A.Ca.I). In the area, which is the most productive, we notice several coal levels:

1. Rio Malon
2. Creta D'Oro
3. Rio Furioso

During the period of maximum production and expansion, inside the mine, workers increased until 1600 people. They generally came from Lauco, Paularo, Sicily and other regions of Italy.

Those who lived in the surrounding places came to work by foot and return back home every day, while the others stayed in prefabricated houses in Cludinico, each hosted 120 workers.

The technicians' families have the possibility to rent some houses in Cludinico or Ovaro. workers worked in very harsh and difficult conditions. At first, transport was horse-drawn carriages, then the service was replaced by the trucking service run by the Cimenti family. The railway that arrived in Comeglains was decommissioned in 1935.

Mining began in the mid-1800s (1855-1865) and was soon abandoned and resumed in 1873 and 1876 (the same period of British mines' strikes), to close permanently in the early 1900s. The material could be processed on site or sent to Udine (gazometer or Braida refinery). In 1880 there were 50 workers excavators and a numerous womens and carters. Women worked outside and they had the task to choose the coal.