

The village too mourned the departure of the troops and there was a gradual closing down of the small shops that had appeared with the Camp, and Messrs Lloyds Bank put up the shutters on the Fovant Branch of their Bank. The barber took his trade to an area where there was more demand for his services, and although the railway line still existed, there were no locomotives to keep the service open. Passengers wishing to board trains at Dinton station now had to find other means of transport or walk.

Thankful though she was that there was no longer any reason to study the Casualty Lists to find if more of her army friends had been killed, Mother very much missed the social life she had been accustomed to over the past four years. I think what we children missed more than anything else was the Garrison Cinema which been dismantled, leaving only the entrance steps with flanking brick walls.

If the villagers and his own sons bemoaned the passing of the Camp and its amenities, to Father it meant the possibility of regaining his past acreage, and taking up once more the farming programme that the War had so rudely interrupted. But it was not all to be plain sailing. For his landlord, the early of Pembroke, now decided to sell off several thousands acres of his wide-spread estate, the whole of the Parish of Fovant being included in the sale. Sitting tenants were to be treated very fairly, though not all might appreciate the fairness ! They were to be given the option of tendering for the farms in their occupancy. If the tenders were considered reasonable, they would be accepted; but if not, the farm would be put up to sale by auction.

This provided Father with a difficult decision to make, for the price of agricultural land had