Worksheet 10. The beginning of the end.

In March 1918 the German army, giving up on trench warfare, launched a successful all-out attack against the Allies. Their rapid advance towards Paris slowed as their supply lines became overstretched. In July an Allied counter attack in the river Marne area not only halted the German advance but forced them into retreat … right back to Germany. September saw the Bulgarians asking for peace. In October the German navy mutinied. On 9th November Kaiser Wilhelm was *deposed and Germany was declared a republic. In the face of this complete collapse, the Central Powers requested an *armistice.

On the 11th November 1918, in a railway coach in the forest of Compiegne, ten miles outside Paris, *representatives from the Allies, and the Central Powers, met to negotiate peace. This document calling for peace was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month 1918.

The fighting was over … the war ended … peace was declared.

Greeted with delighted relief, the news quickly spread throughout the world.

The Allies representatives outside the railway coach.

Rejoicing in London on Armistice Day

Celebratory street party for the children.

Fighting over…time to go home.

The men who had either volunteered to serve in the army, or were conscripted to do so, had signed on for the duration of the war. As far as they were concerned the war was over so it was now time to go back to civilian life. Delays were inevitable and *frustration grew. Many men waited quite a long time before they were *demobilised.

Problem – How to *demobilise so many men in a short space of time.

Solution – Demobilisation camps in Britain. Fovant Camp was one of them.

After several years as a demobilisation centre, Fovant Camp was demolished and everything was cleared away. Compensation was paid to the farmers involved, and they gradually restored their lands to their former peace and tranquility.

* use a dictionary

It's not quite true to say that everything went. Something was left. What was it?