

Transcript of Dorothea French Audio Clip

Interviewer: So once the war ended were you – did the Women's Land Army stop? Did you exit or did you carry on for a while?

Dorothea: We had – we had to carry on for a while but not for too long, it was about, I suppose, six months or something like that. Perhaps six months, I'm not sure but they told us when we – when we could leave because when the men came they said to us actually, 'When the men come back from the war and they come back to work, you must leave because you're taking their work from – you're taking their job from them, you see'. So when the war was over and the men came home, most of them came back to where they worked before because that was what they knew so we had to leave then because we – our job was done, you see what I mean?

Interviewer: How did you feel about giving your job back to them then?

Dorothea: Well, we knew. We knew that it was gonna happen so we didn't think about it, really. We just knew that it was gonna happen and that was it. So you, I think everybody that did it was quite – probably quite pleased because they'd done a good job. We had to do a good job otherwise nobody would have been fed, would they? So there we are.

Interviewer: What would you say changed as a result of the war?

Dorothea: Probably, I grew up quicker. I grew up quicker than I would have done normally because you learned a lot of things from life on the farm, believe me. You had to make sure that the calves were born every year and things like that. I mean, after my first experience I didn't worry after a while because you got used to it [laughs]. But there we are. So you do – did learn a lot, I mean, I learned how life went on, you know.