

FORESTRY STORY

○ All the men belong to the Australian Expeditionary Force & were recruited specially for this work. They are all loggers (lumberjacks as they are called) by trade & many have been brought up in the bush. 30% fought in the last war. The timber is felled & ~~the~~ the trunks trimmed. The logs are then towed to a clearing by tractor, where they are cut into shorter lengths & then taken by railway tracks to the mill (too dark in wood to get good shot of this). At the mill they are cut up & there is no waste whatever. Timber too narrow to cut is used for pit props & all scrap is burned under the boiler of the portable steam engine which works the saws. The timber cut this side will take 9 months to cut & there are 150 men on the job. The C.O. said that the timber is of very good quality & the quantity per acre compares more than favourably with the average Australia timber districts though of course not so good as some. This is because these trees can be used right through the center after having to be cut out in Australia.

He ran one very fit & keen to do some fighting though of course it is a non-combat unit. Though some 10 miles from Hekha, which is only a small place, this is nothing compared with what they are used to & it is, to the, almost like living near a city.

The officers are all from the Australian Forestry Depts & several are graduates of Australian Universities in Forestry.

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