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books

Forestry books

New Zealand Forestry Companies in Britain and Europe during the Second World War 1939-1944.
 Compiled by David Field, 2006

When Germany cut off traditional timber supply from Europe to Britain in 1939, the British Government sought assistance from Commonwealth countries to harvest and mill domestic forests in Britain. New Zealand foresters, bushmen and sawmillers responded quickly to a call from the NZ Government in January 1940 to form a Forestry Company for service in the Armed Services overseas. Some 600 replies were received, and men were selected and trained as the 11th Forestry Company. The main company of 163 men joined Railway Survey and Construction Companies on RMS Andes and sailed as the 2nd Echelon, 2 NZ Expeditionary Force, via Australia and South Africa, landing in Gourrock Scotland on 19 June. German occupation prevented the foresters setting up their sawmills in France, and 11 Company set up logging and milling operations in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire instead. Subsequent reinforcements from New Zealand led to the creation of 14th and 15th Companies too.

The New Zealanders set up both circular and band saw mills, cutting oak, beech, larch and other species, with some of the timber being used in aircraft manufacture. A reconstituted 15 Company moved to North Africa and Italy in 1943 to work on timber supply for the occupying Allied forces and the domestic market. Production of timber by the New Zealand Companies was consistently higher than forestry companies from Canada, Australia and Britain.

Dave Field is the son of 11th Forestry Company's Quartermaster Sergeant. He has extracted the history of the Forestry Companies from the official NZ War History record, added some reports from members of the companies, and included lists of company members plus some correspondence relevant to forest operations in Cirencester and the estate of the Earl Bathurst.

The 163 page, A5, book is available from David Field,

44 Dalbeth Road, RD2, Rotorua, New Zealand. (email dmfield@xtra.co.nz) for NZD5.00 plus postage.

Genetically Modified Forests: From Stone Age to Modern Technology

Rowland D. Burdon and William J. Libby, 2006

This book provides an engaging summary of tree breeding along with some thoughts about the future. It is written to be accessible to non tree breeders. From the back cover:

"The term biotechnology came into common usage in the 1980s. Broadly defined, it is anything that combines biology and technology, but it commonly refers to genetic manipulation of plants and animals. And it has a long history; the genetics of many tree species have been purposefully modified for more than 5,000 years. In *Genetically Modified Forests*, the authors trace the history of tree improvement, helping the reader to understand both human effect on tree genetics and the real and imagined concerns of genetic engineering."

The 79 page book is available from the Forest History Society, <http://www.foresthistory.org>

Pohutukawa: Ecology, Establishment, Growth and Management

David Bergin and Gordon Hosking, 2006

"80 pages of information about pohutukawa ecology and distribution, a practical guide to collecting, propagating and managing seedlings as well as a guide to managing existing stands for natural character, biodiversity, erosion and property views. Over 200 photographic images. A great practical resource for agencies, community members, industry, schools, universities and other learning institutes. A4 / full colour."

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