LETTER RECEIVED FROM
LUMBERJACK IN FRANCE

Boston, Mass., June 19.—A letter received here from
Fred E. Davis, an Ashburnham woodworker, and a
member of the 10th Engineer Forestry Corps, tells of
the work the men are doing. There would seem to be
little doubt but that our lumberjacks are making good
with characteristic American hustle. “Every man in the
unit,” he states, “is a lumberjack, as the lumbermen call
themselves. My company, B, is stationed in the south­
western part of France, about sixty miles from one of
the largest seaport cities. Our other companies are
scattered all over France, operating in the forests.
“Company B arrived in this region October 26th and
immediately got busy. We first built our camp, which
would compare favorably with any of the French vil­
lages in this district. Next we constructed a corral
which holds about 200 horses and mules. Then we built
a corduroy road into the woods for hauling logs. We
are something like four miles from the railroad and
have built a narrow gauge track from our mill to the
main line for handling the lumber faster.

“The engine is a small affair, worse than the old
teapot which used to rumble on the Ashburnham branch.
While doing the above our mills were arriving a piece
at a time. Finally our small mill, which is a 10,000
Lane outfit, was complete, and on the last day of the
year the first log was sawed. The large mill has not
as yet been completely set up, but expect it will be
running by the first of the month.

“We are operating in large stands of pine which
were set out by the French. They will equal in size
that which grows in Maine and about the same tex­
ture. We are cutting the logs into dock, bridge, rail­
road and trench timber, for which there is very urgent
demand. On the small Lane mill we have, beside the
large saw, an edger and slab saw, so that all the lum­
ber is ready for the carpenters as soon as it leaves
the mill yard. We ship as fast as the lumber is sawed
and have but very little stacked in the yard.

“Besides the railroad we have a number of motor
trucks; also a tractor for hauling supplies and lum­
ber. Horses and mules are used for the logging.

“At present there are two crews on the mill, one on
days and the other on nights. Rivalry exists between
the two crews, one trying to saw more lumber than
the other. The crew on which I work as checker out­
saws the other from a few feet to a couple of thou­
sand. Nearly all work with a spirit that would sur­
prise you. This rivalry has spread throughout the regi­
ment. Company A sent a telegram stating they had
sawed 28,000 feet in 21 hours. Well, you should have
seen us go to it and at the end of eighteen hours we
had 38,000 feet to our credit. Needless to say a tele­
gram was sent to Company A immediately and we have
heard no more from them in regard to their output.
Guess they will keep quiet in the future.

“There are several French saw mills in this region.
It astonishes them to see us get out thousands where
they only get out a few hundred. They don’t seem to
understand the hustling strange Americans.

“England and France may appeal to some, but the
United States will be good enough for me if I ever
return.

“Taps have sounded and I must shake up the straw
in my quartered oak bed before turning in.”