

## IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

### EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

#### HALFTRACK LOG LOADER

A useful, efficient log handler and loader made from a standard war-surplus halftrack vehicle is being used by a logger in central Alabama. As shown in figure 1, the only major alteration is the removal of the armored body.

To the front of the vehicle is added an A-frame boom made of 20-foot timbers. In this case they are hardwood sawed 8 inches square, but locally available round timbers are suitable. These are mounted on the projecting chassis frame as shown in figure 2. The boom is supported by cables attached to its top and the rear of the vehicle.

The front mounted winch, standard equipment on this vehicle, is used to handle and power the loading line passing through a block at the top of the boom. Paying out cable by reversing power to the winch is very slow. Disengaging the positive clutch on the side of the winch, however, allows the drum to run free; the built-on lever for disengaging has been lengthened to make this handier. A simple drum brake has been added to the winch. This is operated from the driver's seat by a long lever, as shown in figure 2.

In contrast with trucks having loading booms on the rear, this equipment affords the operator a full, undistracted view and good control of operations. This equipment is useful for skidding and loading in the woods, especially on soft ground. It is also well adapted for picking up, sorting, and loading logs at concentration points.

Observations indicate that the rubber tracks cause little damage to soft yards, and wear slowly. Tendency to tip forward appears to be negligible. Loading output depends upon many factors, including crew size -- in this case an operator and 3 men. In 6 hours, 100,000 feet of logs averaging about 10 per thousand board feet (Doyle scale) are sorted by species and loaded on 4 railroad cars from a stock pile averaging 75 yards away.

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(Information furnished by C. R. Lockard,  
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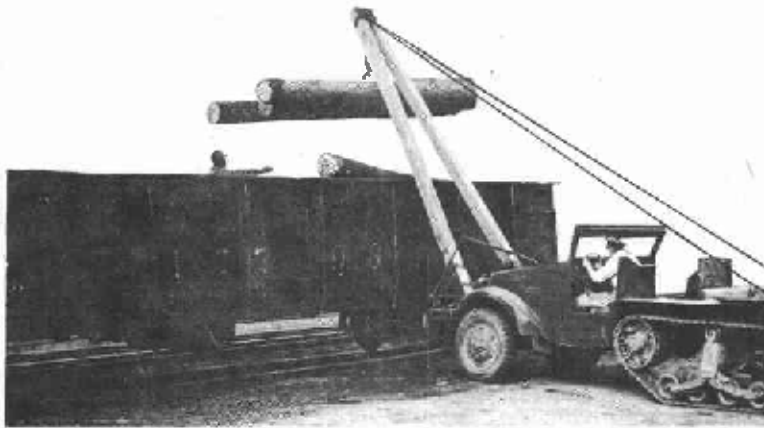


Figure 1.--Loading railroad cars with half-track log loader

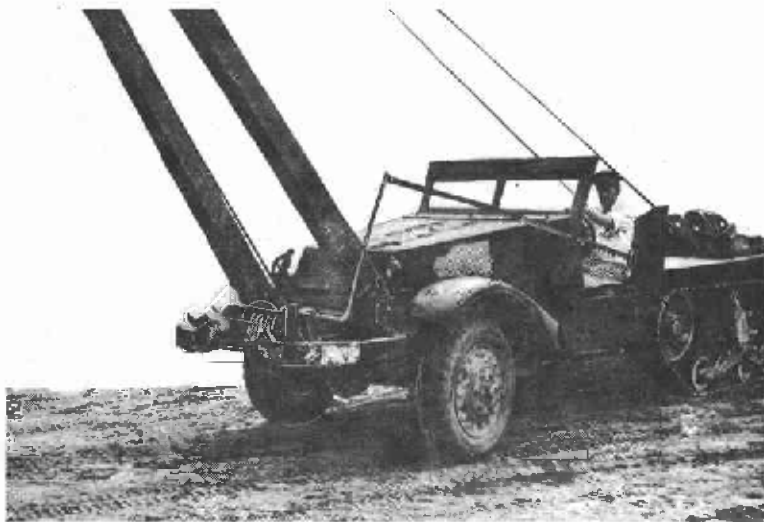


Figure 2.--Boom attachment, loading winch, and control.

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