

# SOLDIERS UNABLE TO READ, WRITE GET SPECIAL QUICK SCHOOLING

By **ROBERT C. WILSON**

FORT ONTARIO, N. Y., Oct. 10 (AP)—Uncle Sam, chalk dust whitening his vest, has become a full-fledged teacher of reading, writing and arithmetic to thousands of educationally-underprivileged soldiers.

At this oldest garrisoned fort in North America, built in 1775, the Army service forces has opened a "little red schoolhouse" designed to educate such recruits to the equivalent of a fourth-grade education.

The pupils at this and other schools opened at Camp Bowie, Tex., and Fort Ethan, Vt., are the thousands of men passing through draft boards who cannot read or write English.

Besides native-born Americans the enrollment embraces Italians, Chinese, Germans, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Indians, and Central Americans. Many are foreign college students. One is a Chinese playwright.

In the last war, such men were lumped into labor battalions.

The soldiers first are classified

according to their particular shortcomings. Every opportunity is given the recruits to express themselves in writing, or through interpreters. Non-language tests also are given.

The soldiers then undergo an intensive eight to 12-week course in the three r's, plus almost full basic military training.

A member of the classification center then interviews him to ascertain his qualifications and desires for a particular branch of the service. His assignment is governed by his school record, civilian background, hobbies, special interests and the needs of the service.

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