

Inter-Racial Educational Program Being Conducted By The Army At Fort Ontario, N. Y.

OSWEGO, N. L.—One of the most vivid illustrations of the American melting pot in wartime is now to be seen here, at historic Fort Ontario, where the Army is conducting an inter-racial educational program. The course is designed primarily for selectees who do not speak, read or write English, but it also includes those lacking in sufficient general education, and those slow to grasp tactical operations.

Upon graduation, the men will enter regular training camps. This pre-basic training is planned to prepare them, not only for efficient military service, but also for a richer civilian future.

In support of the preparation at the Fort, the Oswego USO conducts a recreational program. And it is at the club that the melting pot is perhaps most strikingly portrayed. Almost any night, gathered in the lounge, library, music room or at the snack bar, one can see whites, Chinese, Negroes, Malaysians, American Indians, Puerto Ricans, French Canadians, and Latins of practically every origin. These have either been born in foreign-speaking possessions of the United States, or have lived in this country in colonies made up of their own people, speaking their own language.

The achievement of congeniality and understanding between these varied groups can be accredited to the men themselves, the skill of the Army instructors and of the USO staff. This is the opinion of the club director, Arnold E. Jenny.

"I can perhaps best illustrate how it all works by using the Negro group as an example, for, outside the native born whites, they are the largest single unit here. However, the same procedure applies to all groups.

"To begin with, Negro leaders at the Fort provide the men with knowledge about the people they are going to meet. The men are not allowed into the town proper before they know exactly what the community is prepared to offer them, and what in turn they must offer the community.

"When they come to the club, the first thing the staff does is make them feel warmly welcome. The volunteer hostesses too, have been taught by us how to get this idea across. If men know they are genuinely welcome, they are eager to cooperate, to make themselves agreeable to suggestions, and to make efforts to help others."

— Mr. Jenny indicated a group of men seated around a checker table—a farmer from Wisconsin, an American Indian, a Negro, a French Canadian, a Chinese and a Puerto Rican.

"When those men first came

here," he said, "they were as frightened as lost children. But they were taught to trust each other, to look for the best in each other, and now they are all congenial army-mates."

The Negro population of Oswego is small, said Mr. Jenny, so that the soldiers are entirely dependent upon the USO for recreation. Dancing partners have to be brought in from Syracuse, and Utica. For this purpose extra gasoline for transportation was allotted to the club.

"Outside dancing and games, the men seem to like listening to the radio best," declared Mr. Jenny. "Our library of musical records is in constant use—and the symphonies are just as popular as jazz. The power of music is strong—a group of men who have never before seen each other, who perhaps do not even speak a common language, are drawn together in friendship through their mutual appreciation of a fine concerto."

Africa To Be Subject Of Lectures By Leading White Speaker

Africa as a focus of post war imperialistic exploitation, a "native land" for the Negro, and a "continent of responsibilities" for the United Nations, will be discussed in a series of fourteen free lectures at Cooper Union by leading Negro and white educators, sociologists, historians, and anthropologists, it is announced by Houston Peterson, chairman of the division of social philosophy at Cooper Union.

African culture and the contributions of the Negro will also be presented, as well as an analysis of the part played by geography in the history of Africa, according to Dr. Peterson. A feature of the series will be a symposium on "Wings Over Africa," outlining the significance for that continent of the development of world airways.

All lectures in the series will be given on Friday evenings at 8:15 in the Great Hall at Cooper Square where Abraham Lincoln delivered the address that won him the support of the east in the 1860 presidential race.

Following three introductory sessions devoted to geography and the history of imperialistic exploitation