



Technician Fifth Grade Harold Pivnick of New York City holds a stopwatch while an unidentified pupil in the army's "Little Red Schoolhouse" at Fort Ontario, N. Y., works a simple jigsaw puzzle. It is one of the steps in Uncle Sam's training of educationally under-privileged soldiers. (Wirephoto.)

'Little Red Schoolhouse' Opens For Thousands of Service Men

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 1755, the army service forces have 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, Texas, and Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., are the thousands of men passing through draft boards who cannot read or write English, because they lacked schooling or were foreign-born.

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

In the last war, such men were lumped into labor battalions. But as Lieut. Col. Ralph M. Manter, commanding officer of the service unit, citing the technical nature of modern armed conflict, expresses it: "A soldier has got to be smarter in this war."

The soldiers first are classified according to their particular shortcomings, tests being supervised by officers of the Second service command. 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.

One of the responsibilities of the army service forces is the proper placement of each man in his permanent military assignment. He is given the same examination he was given initially at the reception center and the degree of his improvement is noted.

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.

Some men will not succeed, as in any training course. Those who cannot meet the requirements are given further study, along psychiatric and psychological lines, and if no further training can be of benefit, such cases are then considered for discharge.

The 50 non-commissioned officer-instructors are trained educators like Pfc. Arvid Burke, educational research director for the New York State School association, and are supervised by Lt. Andrew Halpin, consultant psychologist to Westchester county, New York, schools.