

For ROTC Only!

by M.O.

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the basis on which demerits are given out to ROTC men. The prevailing rumor is that they are distributed to those worthies who fail to polish shoes, button uniforms, or wear socks. Also those individualists who see no reason to salute a colleague, merely because he happens to be burdened by a few more bars.

These happen not to be the facts. No sir.

Being closely associated with the higher echelon in the ROTC hierarchy, I happen to know the facts of life here, which I generously pass on to you, who will henceforth never again be misled.

There are roughly three main reasons why officers so generously hand out demerits. They are biological, emotional and mental, in that order.

We will discuss the biological ones first, and illustrate with a scene from the life of two officers. The time is early morning. Says one to the other:

"Man, does my tooth hurt. I feel awful. Let's give out demerits."  
Second officer:

"O.K." End of scene. Conversely, a feeling of well-being may bring on a burst of energy which can only be expressed in the generous giving out of these welcome rewards. It works both ways. Either way you lose.

The emotional reasons are more complicated and less easy to understand. Overheard in the officers' den was the following conversation.

"Tom, who wrote that brummy poem in the last Lit. class? He deserves a demerit."

So you see, your shoes might shine till you can see the scowl on your face in them, but what counts is the delicate emotional balance of your lieutenant.

The mental part is what it says—mental. That is, some of your officer-colleagues may have gone through a severe shock, say, a math quiz. They will be temporarily unbalanced, and the best thing to do is to avoid them, as they will attack their best friend and bite the hand that hands them a cigarette while in this state.

Shiny shoes and slanty hats help of course, the girls inevitably spot a snappy dresser, but you have to delve a little deeper into the makeup of your officers to be really safe. The best thing, of course, is to become one yourself.

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CLAREMONT SETS UP GERMAN HOUSE

The newly-established German House on the Pomona College campus (Calif.) marks an increased interest in the German language and German culture here. The ten coeds living in the Deutsches Haus have agreed to speak only German inside the house, learning to fit a language that they have known previously in the classroom to their daily living.

This renaissance of interest in German is further shown by the increased activity of the German Club, the establishment of an honor society, and a growing enrollment in German classes. The establishment of the local chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the national German honorary society, has been authorized by college officials.

The Deutsches Haus which is the hub of many of the German activities on the campus has been nicknamed "Knusperhausen" meaning the gingerbread in "Hansel and Gretel." There is a rapidly growing library of German books and numerous newspapers and magazines for leisure reading at the house. The walls are decorated with posters from German-speaking countries. The girls living in the house are