



## alpha four

Destined to be known as "F" Troop, Alpha-Four fought what was essentially a public relations battle. Could we help it if we marched funny?

Our troubles began with Indoc Week—Mr. Newlin, the first officer we saw on Monday morning, started with "GIT DOWN AND GIVE ME 20 PUSHUPS"—PANIC! Then haircuts—SHORT haircuts, and no one could remember what his roommate looked like.

But drill isn't everything. Take liberty (if you're on Conduct I, that is)—at Shakey's, Fort Eustis, Washington, Barney's, Virginia Beach, and the "O" Club. Bartenders across the Peninsula are still on the lookout for many of the faces on the following pages. When it came to liberty, we were definitely not slackers.

There were also work details: standing in line for the "Buffa"; the O.C. in charge of George; clogging the head with paper towels; hiding behind lockers.

There were tricks of the trade to learn: Don't sleep between your sheets (except on Friday night); only polish the toes of your shoes when wearing

leggings; stowing jelly in napkin holders; touching up leggings and guard belts with white shoe polish.

There were Saturday morning inspections and finding a place to hide contraband, making hospital corners. Hoping the TDO wouldn't look in your laundry bag or check under the radiator.

Classes and grades, of course, occupied most of the time. Can dead men vote twice? Is east least or west best? If you're on, you're off . . . Collisions in the Attack Teacher. Three-hour plots, dental schedules, watch schedules, Cayahoga schedules. Grades are up! . . . The disillusionment of having never flunked a course in college, and then bombing CGO.

We'll remember all these things, but when it came to drill, we were marching to a different drum, and that's not the way they do it out in the fleet.

We imagine Mr. Moore bought plenty of beer due to our somewhat dubious performances on the drill field. For this we apologize. But we have to admit that he accepted our defeats in the proper manner—with a keen sense of humor.