BAKER HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

Baker House
The Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC

Jan 60

Letter from the House Officer Lt JB Stevens RAOC

I hope that this Newsletter will be the first of a regular series which will enable the parents and guardians of the Junior Leaders in Baker House to keep in touch with their son's activities in the Battalion.

Baker House, of which I am the House Officer, is one of the three houses in 'A' Company (all named after past Major Generals of the Ordnance Corps) commanded by Major EFL Macey MBE RAOC. I have approximately fifty Junior Leaders in the house and I promote a number of these to become Junior NCOs and thus help both my House Sergeant and myself to run the administrative side of Baker House. At present we have the following NCOs in Baker House:

J/Sgt Coleman
J/Cpls Eastwood, Vince.
J/L/Cpls Basson, Heritage, Tebb, Truesdale, Ward.

Most parades and military training periods are carried out on a House basis, and as a result of our policy of handing responsibility to Junior Leaders, on many parades the Junior House Sgt commands the House, which has been trained in Drill by the House Sgt and, under his supervision, the Junior NCOs.

Progressive Weapon Training designed to train the Junior Leader in the care, handling and firing of all the weapons that he is likely to use during his Manservice is coupled with fieldcraft, map reading and Outward Bound training to give the Junior Leader the knowledge that a potential Senior NCO requires. As a Junior Leader approaches manhood so he is worked harder physically and eventually he reaches his last term in the Battalion which qualifies him for Two Star classification. i.e. he becomes eligable for a higher rate of pay.

Great use is also made of Initiative tests, hobbies and the Duke of Edinburghs' Award scheme to produce a young man whose education, military training and characters equip them for early promotion.

The rest of this Newsletter is mainly concerned with past and future House events and will give you a good idea of the activities available to your son during his stay in the Junior Leaders Battalion.

Finally I should like to say that all the Staff at the Battalion are always willing to give you any help or information that you require about your son and his progress and if you do have any problems please write to me at Blackdown and I will do my best to help you.

THE HOUSE COMPETITION

Each term competitions are held between the eight Houses in the Battalion and cover the following sports: Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Rugby, Cross Country Running, Squash, Billiards, Table Tennis and Darts,

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as well as the Commanding Officers inspection of the Barrack blocks, Drill, Shooting and Education. Cups are awarded to the Houses winning each competition and are presented at the Prize Giving following the Passing Out Parade at the end of each term. A Shield is also awarded to the House gaining the greatest number of points overall in all the above Competition.

HOBBIES

There are a wide range of over twenty five different hobby groups held each week and they include Radio, Riding, Canoe Club, Photography, Woodwork, Printing and even Scottish Dancing.

VISITS

Visits are held each term for each House and last term we visited TV shows, saw the printing of two National Newspapers and a small group went to a London Theatre. This term we are visiting the Imperial war Museum in London, and hope to see a performance of the Crazy Gang at the Victoria Palace. During our Summer Camp, held each year in Cornwall, we organise visits to local places of interest and the many holiday resorts.

NEW HOUSE MEMBERS

We welcome this term to Baker House two Junior Leaders J/Pte Carroll and J/Pte Hunter ex Body House and wish them a pleasant stay with us.