

Captain J R Truckle TD Irish Wade Military Tankards

John (Johnny) Truckle was born in Salisbury, Wiltshire in 1922. With the advent of World War 2 he enlisted with the Royal Corps of Signals before transferring to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) some months later. He was stationed in Portadown for a short time in 1942 and it was then that he met, and fell in love with, his future wife, Avril Lyttle, a local Edgarstown girl. He served in France, Germany and Arnhem. After the war he was stationed in Egypt, mopping up after the North African campaign. When he was demobbed he returned to Portadown and married Avril in Bluestone Methodist Church on 17th June 1946.



The newlyweds moved to England before returning to Portadown and taking up residence in the new Woodside estate. He was employed for a short period as a mechanic in a local garage, then as a bus driver with the Ulster Transport Authority before joining Wade (Ulster) Ltd in 1955 where he became purchasing manager.

The Army, though, was in his blood and he was involved with just about every branch in his adopted home. He joined the 'B' specials when he moved to the town and in 1952 became attached to the REME section of the Territorial Army. Then in 1955 he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery TA, where he served until 1969, when the TA was re-organized to become the TAVR. Since the late 1960s, he was involved with the Army Cadet Force, which is for teenagers from 13 to 18 and he was the Area Commander for County Armagh and South Down.

**11th (CRAIGAVON) Bn
ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT
BARRY BUDDON 1979**



Back Row: Lt Armstrong, Lt Salter, 2Lt Cash, Lt Stewart, Lt Baxter, O Cdt Duke, Lt Cassidy, Lt Forsythe.
Centre Row: Capt Tomlinson, Capt McCullough, Capt Wilson, Capt Wylie, Capt Davidson, Capt McCann, Capt Truckle, Lt Shaw.
Front Row: Maj Bicker, Maj Catherwood, Maj Spence, Lt Col Hewitt, Maj Stocker, Maj Robinson, Maj Cummins.


In 1972, he joined the Ulster Defence Regiment on a commission as Captain in the local 11th (Craigavon) Battalion, a rank he held until his retirement in March 1981. Upon retirement he donated many Wade Pottery Tankards to the Officer's Mess of the Battalion. His service to the forces gained him the various wartime service medals, the territorial decoration and two bars, the Northern Ireland UDR medal and the ACF medal for outstanding service. He was also active in the Portadown Branch of the Royal British Legion and Secretary of local branch of the Royal Artillery Old Comrades Association. He was also a member of Wellington Masonic Lodge No 82, Portadown and Services Masonic Lodge No. 182, Newry. Through all this, he remained a firm family man and was particularly close to his only child and daughter, Mrs. Lynn Magee of Derrycarne.).

Medals Awarded:

- 39-45 Star
- France & Germany Star
- Defence Star
- War Medal
- Territorial Efficiency Medal
- Efficiency Medal



His life came to an untimely end when he was killed on 20th September, 1983 outside his home in Woodside. This was the result of an IRA booby-trap bomb attached to his car exploding as he opened the door of the car. He was 61 years of age. Commenting on his death, John Stringer, the then managing director of Wade Ireland Limited, said, "Johnny was held in the highest esteem and regard. There are tears throughout the whole factory today." Johnny was particularly popular with all his fellow workers and his funeral service in Thomas Street Methodist Church was attended by nearly every employee in the pottery.

WADE POTTERIES P.L.C. 

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Directors: Sir George Wade M.C.
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Registered Number 306511

GAJW/GS. 23rd September 1983.

Mrs. J. Truckle,
25 Woodside Hill,
Portadown,
County Armagh,
N. IRELAND.

Dear Mrs Truckle,

I was so very grieved to hear the sad news yesterday.

John had the affection and respect of all his colleagues and over the years had made many friends on this side of the water.

I always made a point of seeking him out for a chat during my visits and have admired him on many occasions for the able way in which he carried out a wide variety of duties.

All of us feel rather numbed that this could have happened to so likeable a person, and I hope it may be some small comfort to you, your Daughter and family, to know that our thoughts are very much with you at this time.

I am sure that Mr. Stringer (who shared my opinion of John) will keep in close touch with you, and if we can help in any way we shall count it a privilege.

John's many friends here join me in sending their deepest sympathy.

*Yours sincerely,
G. A. J. Wade.*

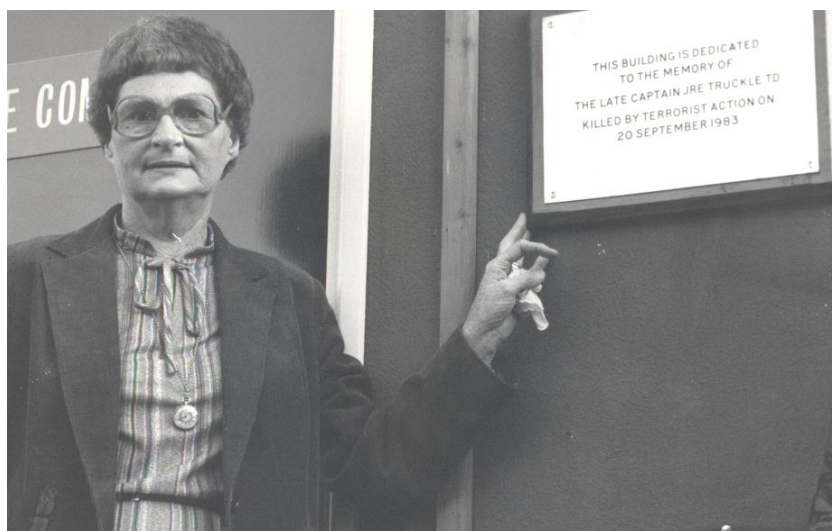
Sympathy Letter from his Employer

The family funeral and service were conducted by the Rev. Hamilton Skillen, Superintendent of the Portadown Methodist Circuit and minister at Thomas Street and the address at the church was given by the Rev. Cecil Newell, president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, also taking part was the Rev. Dr. Hedley Plunkett, chairman of the Portadown district. As well as his wife and daughter, Mr. Truckle is survived by his brother, Mr. Ernest Truckle of Peterborough, son-in-law Mr. John Magee and grandsons Jonathan and David Magee.

Representatives from all his army connections attended and after the service he was laid to rest in Seagoe Cemetery in Portadown.



Permanent Memorial erected in memory of Johnny Truckle & Others outside St. Mark's Church



Mrs Truckle unveiling plaque, erected at Officer's Mess - 1983

During his time at Wade Pottery Factory in Watson street, he took a particular interest in the military tankards that were produced for the various army regiments stationed in the local area during the civil unrest and 'troubles' of the 1970s and early 80s.



Wade Factory, Watson Street - 1950s



*Johnny Truckle showing young German students Wade products
(Managing Director - Mr John Stinger - Far right).*



1970s - Johnny Truckle, Glynis Edgar & Army personnel in Wades Factory

Tankards, ashtrays and vases are also known to have been produced for the Royal Ulster Constabulary Ulster Defence Regiment. When a new army unit arrived in the Portadown and Lurgan area he would approach the commanding officers about the possibility of ordering Wade tankards to commemorate their tour of duty in Ulster. If the commanding officers showed an interest, as nearly all did, he would have a few samples produced for approval.

Around fifty different army units are known to have had sets of commemorative tankards made for them during their posting in Northern Ireland. The number produced for a regiment was normally 500, though in the case of the smaller military units, this figure was often reduced to 100 and in certain specific instances, even lower. Amongst the most interesting of the presentation tankards are the thirty made for the bomb disposal officers of the Royal Logistic Corp. and the hundred produced for Parachute Regiment H Q.

The former carried the cartoon images of Felix the cat – the inference being that, like a cat, a bomb-disposal officer had nine lives. The latter, appropriately enough, was crested with Pegasus, the winged horse, set against a striking red background. Most tankards have the traditional Wade knurled circular bands and are simply and sparsely transfer decorated, though some like that for the Royal Artillery Regiment and the 9th Air Defence Battery are somewhat more elaborate in design. Nearly all are marked on the base with a Wade ‘Irish Porcelain’, backstamp or just ‘Wade Ireland’ in red.



Wade Commemorative Tankards

(With date & Number Issued)



6th Dragoon Guards:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 500

Duke of Edinburgh Royal Regiment:

Date – 1973-75:
Number issued – 500

33rd Regiment, The Duke of Wellington:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 600

Gordon Highlanders:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120



J' Division, Intelligence Section:

Date – 1978:
Number issued – 30

Parachute Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 50

Parachute Regiment Headquarters:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 100

'A' Company, 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 100



Prince of Wales Royal Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 500

2nd Platoon Company, Prince of Wales Regiment: Date – 1971-81:
Numbered issued – 50

'C' Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 500



Royal Military College, Canada:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 100

Royal Air Force Station, Aldergrove:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 500

34th Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Dragon Troop, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1977:
Number issued – 100



Bengal Rocket Troop, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Egypt Battery, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Royal Artillery:

Date – 1972:
Number issued – 500

Gibraltar Battery, Royal Artillery:

Date 1972-77:
Number issued – 120



Battery Headquarters, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1972:
Number issued – 500

Royal Horse Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Plassey Battery 9th Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

30th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers:

Date – 1978:
Number issued – 150



4th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (Desert Rats):

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

Army Technical Officers, Royal Logistic Corp:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 30

Royal Logistic Corp, Army Technical Officers (Bomb Disposal):

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 30



'M' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

13th/18th Royal Hussars:

Date – 1972:
Number issued – 120

Royal Marines:
(Unusual tapered barrel shape)

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 500

179th Provost Company, Royal Military Police:
(Two colours)

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 150



75th Squadron, Royal New Zealand Air Force:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120

1st Battalion Royal Tank Regiment:

Date – 1972:
Number issued – 600

Royal Tank Regiment:

Date – 1973-74:
Number issued – 500

'C' Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 120



58th Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 100

3rd Infantry Brigade & Signal Squadron:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 150

39th Infantry Brigade & Signal Squadron:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 150

3rd Armoured Division, Headquarters & Signal Squadron:

Date – 1971-81:
Number issued – 150



260th Signal Squadron:

Date – 1976-77:
Number issued – 120

1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment:

Date – 1972:
Number issued – 500

11th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment:
(half pint size)

Date – 1980:
Number issued – 500

11th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment:
(pint size)

Date – 1980:
Number issued – 500

Occasionally, as the appended list illustrates, military establishments from outside Britain also took delivery of tankards. No doubt having seen or heard about them from liaison contacts in the U.K. These, overseas examples, like those made for U.K. forces, were manufactured in very limited numbers and consequently, are much sought after by collectors today