Obituary

CAPTAIN CHARLES B. TOTTENHAM
1924 – 1992

During the course of my professional life, I was fortunate to have been associated with the Tottenham family and particularly with Charles. This association arose from an introduction to Ballycurry Estate by Professor Michael Gorman, who was advising on grassland management on the estate in the late 1940s. Around 1950 Charles returned from a distinguished wartime service and was given the management of the woods by his father, who with his family had transferred from Mount Callan estate in Co. Clare in 1946.

Ballycurry woodlands, in common with private estate woodlands had suffered from wartime fellings and lack of systematic management. The first task was to prepare a plan based on a detailed map of the woodland area. This plan Charles followed faithfully and enthusastically, up to the time of his death, and the results of his management are a shining example of what can be accomplished on the woodlands of a private estate.

As an Associate Member, Charles took an active part in the Society of Irish Foresters from the early 1950s. He was a regular attendant at meetings and on study tours in Ireland and abroad. He was also, in later years, a member of the Council. Everyone who had dealings with him came to appreciate his directness, honesty and cheerful disposition and to admire his enthusiasm for forestry.

Amongst his pleasures was fishing and his frequent trips to his old family home in Mount Callan where his younger brother, Robert, lives. Charles was convinced from his association with forestry that the Mount Callan estate would benefit from a positive afforestation programme. In consultation with Robert, Charles and I encouraged him to get involved in a tree planting regime. This resulted in a spectacular improvement in the potential of the estate at Mount Callan and was so successful that it has had a major impact on private forestry in the west of Ireland.

To his wife, Lucy and his children, the Society extends its deep sympathy.

T. Clear.