

Cyril Kendall Butler (1864 - 1936)

In the middle of the 19th century, there were fears that the French would attempt an invasion of England. The fear was real enough for government officials to create a part-time Volunteer Force and the military unit known as the 9th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps was established at Lord's Cricket Ground in 1859. Twenty years later the Corps was still active with volunteer citizens that were from the middle and upper-middle classes within its ranks.

This seems to have been especially true with the discovery of a Patent in the village of Bourton, near Shrivenham. It was in the name of Cyril Butler who purchased Bourton House in 1894. He was born on 28th July 1864 at Paddington in London. He was the eldest of 9 sons of Spencer Percival Butler (1828 - 1915). The family were of the 'Gentleman' class, that is to say were wealthy. Cyril was educated at Harrow. He qualified to become a Solicitor in 1887. He was Knighted in 1920. But the Patent shows that at the age of 17 he was selected to lead the Volunteer Regiment of the 9th Middlesex Rifles. He would likely have attended the annual training manoeuvres at Aldershot at Easter in the latter years of the 19th century, although we have no documentary details of such.

The wording of the Patent as follows:

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith etc. To Our Trusty and well beloved *Cyril Kendall Butler, Gentleman*. Greeting. We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct, do by these Presents, Constitute and Appoint you to be an Officer in our Volunteer Forces from the *thirty first day of August 1881*. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty as such in the Rank of *Lieutenant* or in such higher Rank as We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, of which a notification will be made in the London Gazette, and you are at all times to exercise and well discipline in Arms both the inferior Officers and Men serving under you and use your best endeavours to keep

them in good Order and Discipline. And we do hereto Command them to Obey you as their superior Officer and you to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as from time to time you shall receive from Us or any your superior Officer according to the Rules and Discipline of War in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

By Her Majesty's Command.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's* the *twenty second day of August 1881* in the *forty fifth* Year of Our Reign

Cyril Kendall Butler, Gent

Lieutenant

Volunteer Forces

Married Louisa Mary Pease

Died on 22nd June 1936 age 71.

