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by developing the "Berlese funnel", a device for extracting insects and other organisms from humus and leaf mould. He was also pre-eminent as an applied entomologist and had particular success combating the mulberry scale, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, with the parasitoid, *Prospaltella berlesi*. This is said to have saved the silk industry, not only in Italy, but also in neighbouring countries. He also carried out valuable work on the control of the olive fly, *Bactrocera* (prev. *Daucus*) *oleae*. AB founded the journal, *Revista di Patologia Vegetale*, with his

brother in 1892 (now *Journal of Plant Pathology*) and Redia, in 1903. AB was widely recognised and was elected to honorary membership of numerous societies in the USA and Europe, including The Association of Economic Biologists. Davidson claims that this occurred in 1914, but the original Council Minutes show that membership was actually conferred in 1905. [See: J. Davidson, *Annals of Applied Biology*, **15**, 509-511, 1928]

AAB Editorial, 2011

Preparations for war; a postscript to Harold Gough's reminiscences of Rothamsted

The spring 2009 Newsletter of the AAB (Issue 70) contained an article by Dr Harold Gough describing his memories of Rothamsted in the late 1930s and early 1940s (*Reminiscences of Rothamsted 1938 - 1941*). For me, a retired member of the Rothamsted staff with a continuing interest in Rothamsted's history, the whole of the article was fascinating but it was the reference to the Munich crisis, and Rothamsted's response to it, that particularly caught my eye.

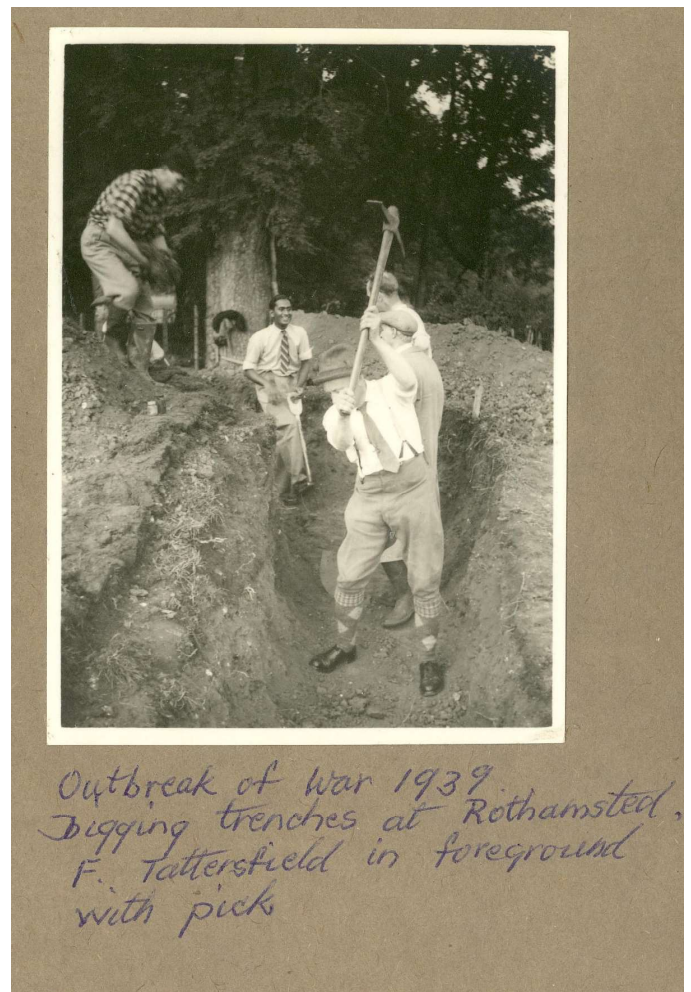
At the time of the Munich crisis (1938), the head of the Insecticides and Fungicides Department was Dr Frederick Tattersfield. By coincidence I had, a short while before reading Dr Gough's article, visited Tattersfield's son to seek his help in identifying people in photographs taken during his father's time at Rothamsted. During my visit he showed me a family album, and allowed me to copy a number of photographs from it including the two reproduced here.

Both photographs show Rothamsted staff digging trenches, exactly as described by Dr Gough. Dr Tattersfield is the person wielding the pick (very energetically!) in the first photograph, and he also appears in the second photograph (left foreground). With one exception, none of the other people have been identified.

The two photographs give a very good impression of the scale of the activities but I can't help wondering what they hoped to achieve. Digging an air raid shelter would seem, to me at least, to have made very good sense. In contrast, I can see little point in digging trenches, which are usually for defensive purposes, unless the apiary buildings in the background were in fact a cover for something

far more clandestine!

John Jenkyn, December 2009



(Below) Digging trenches, 1938, beyond Bee Dept.

