

THE GATHERING STORM

PREPARATION FOR WAR

By D.S. Rawlings.

- 1935** East Sussex County Council set up an Air Raid Precaution Committee.
- 1936** Lt. Col. O. J. F. Fooks (retired) of Swithe Wood, Horsted Keynes is appointed the County Air Raid Precaution Officer. (He resigned from this post in February 1940, having been recalled to the Army).
- 1937** In June of this year the A.R.P. Committee began to organise 'Civil Defence'. Volunteers were asked to come forward. In October came the Munich crisis and gas masks were issued to the public.
- 1938** The Fire Brigade Acts were passed under which fire-fighting became the responsibility of the Rural District Council.
- 1939** In January of this year First Aid Classes were begun at Danehill. On July 8-9th and August 10-11th, night exercises were held in Sussex with a 'blackout' from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. All volunteers taking part were required to bring their respirators. Etherton's Forge (now Curtain Craft) was the Auxiliary Fire Patrol Post for Danehill.

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