

The photos on your site of the early British cathode ray TV sets, from both Popular Wireless (PW) and the Book of Practical Television all show my grandfather, Keith Dudley Ulysses Rogers (1900-1975) fiddling with his first CRTV prototype which he'd built in his then capacity of 'Chief of Research Department' for PW. My father – then aged 3 or 4 - remembers him building parts of it at home and having the life frightened out of him when a valve exploded.

(At left of the photo from the 1935 edition of PW is George Victor Dowding, then editor of PW)

Dowding and my grandfather claimed it as the first British-built cathode ray set, but events were moving very fast at that time so its impossible to verify a claim that's quite probably inflated for commercial purposes (similar to their earlier joint stab at fame and fortune with the Unidyne/Solodyne valve in 1924, and Dowding's later 1946 tome: Short Cuts to Big Money).

As you probably already know, KDUR wrote several chapters of the book and also many articles for PW, including interviews with key players in television of the day such as Logie Baird.

He'd originally got the wireless bug in 1918 when he was conscripted in the final year of WWI, and served as a wireless operator in the Merchant Navy after some training by the Marconi company. He made three and a half Atlantic crossings before the Armistice on November 11th, and then went up to University College London the following year to read Chemistry. He was 'asked to leave' the course after his first year - allegedly due to poor academic performance owing to his keener interest in the ladies.

During WWII, when BBC television broadcasts were suspended, KDUR joined the Royal Airforce RADAR research programme. His first Pilot Officer posting was as Station Commander of one of the Chain Home stations. He rose to the rank of Squadron Leader by the end of the war, working somewhere near Leighton Buzzard for 60 Group.

He joined the BBC from 1946 until 1956. He carried the responsibility for the Outside Broadcast of the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Peter Dymock was the producer for the day; my grandfather was simply one of the team, most likely in one of the scanner vans. In the coronation edition of the Radio Times, his name appears as producer of a short programme screened at 7:45pm the preceding Sunday 31st, explaining the ceremony to take place on the Tuesday.

Shortly after, he was headhunted by ATV, the new commercial channel, and became their Head of Production, but is shown as 'Operations Controller' by the time of his OBE in 1966.(see <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/43854/supplement/13/data.pdf>)

He died in 1974.

It's not clear what became of Dowding himself; there is a record of one George Victor Dowding as the landlord of the Crown Inn, Sherringham (Norfolk) in 1948 but I can't verify that its him.

Kind regards,

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