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SIR ERNEST THOMAS FISK (1886 - 1965)

The man who was to become a pioneer of radio in Australia was born at Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, England on 8 August 1886.

His father, Thomas, was a builder and could only afford to have Ernest educated at the local schools of St.Mary's and Sunbury Boys'.

Ernest later enrolled in a private London Coaching College and, during his stay in Australia, in the diploma course in economics and commerce at the University of Sydney.

He did not sit for any of the examinations.

As a boy he sold newspapers on Sunbury railway station and afterwards, as he put it, 'graduated in engineering' in the works of Frederick Walton. Presumably it was a form of apprenticeship.

His career in radio began when he joined the British Post Office as one of their earliest wireless telegraphists.

In 1906 Fisk joined the Marconi training school. The 22 year old Guglielmo Marconi had been granted the world's first patent for wireless telegraphy in 1896.

Fisk learned morse and wireless telegraphy at Liverpool and Chelmsford and qualified as a radio engineer and operator.

He then took a job as a radio operator on the Cunard liner *Campania* on the New York - Liverpool run.

From 1909 he worked for American Marconi and demonstrated wireless to Newfoundland sealers and at stations along the St.Lawrence River.

He then returned to the Marconi Company's headquarters in London.

