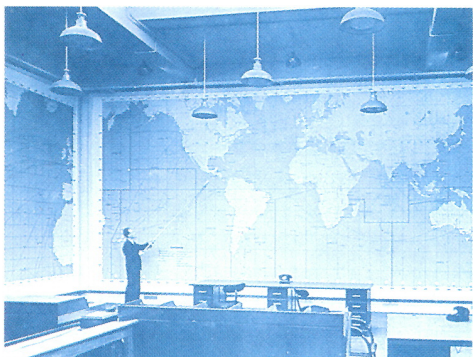Peacetime brought a return to commercial activities, and with it a vastly increased demand for long-range communications. An 'area scheme' was established in 1946 to enable British and Colonial registered vessels to use naval stations around the world to relay their traffic to Portishead.

1948 saw the opening of two new operating rooms with 32 operating positions, a broadcasting and landline room, and a central control room with a steel plotting map of the world measuring 36 by 16 feet. A bureau file of both ship and aircraft positions was maintained, and many were plotted with magnetic indicators.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s transatlantic liners provided a high volume of traffic, all using radiotelegraphy (morse code) transmissions. The development of the landline telex service enabled customers to deposit and receive traffic directly from Portishead, with high-traffic users installing their own private wires. The Suez crisis in 1956 brought high levels of telegraph traffic in both the to-ship and from-ship directions, leading to increased staffing levels towards the end of the decade.

The 1960s saw the station continue to expand, with increased traffic levels and the development of a telex over radio (TOR) system. A press transmission of news was transmitted by morse to enable ships to produce their own news-sheets. By 1965, 86 radio officers were handling over 11 million words of traffic per year, and communicating with over 1,000 ships each day. The introduction of the *Daily Telegraph* transmissions to the *QE2* in 1968 by radiotelex was another 'first' for the station.

April 1970 saw the transfer of the radiotelephone service from Baldock to Portishead. This necessitated the use of extra transmitters at Rugby and Portishead, and the temporary use of an additional control centre at Somerton (Somerset).

The area scheme previously mentioned was terminated in 1972, and with it the Naval presence at Portishead. However, traffic figures continued to rise, with the developing oil market and the deepwater fishing industry all providing work for the station. The leisure market continued to expand, with the early round-the-world yacht races providing valuable publicity for Portishead Radio and its services. By 1974, traffic levels had increased to over 20 million words per year, now handled by 154 radio officers.

Further expansion of the present operating area was impossible, so in 1976 work commenced on a purpose-built building to house the various services then available to ships. A new computer-based message handling system was installed, and the manual radiotelex service became more popular, resulting in the development of an automatic system.