The Post Office Tower, now the BT Tower (c.1970)
PROGRESS

The Post Office Satellite Communications Ground Station at Goonhilly Downs. Fitting the new stainless steel reflecting surface to the aerial in readiness to take part in the world’s first commercial satellite communications system.
Staff poster showing the Post Office’s satellite station at Goonhilly Downs (1960s)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 420/IRP (PR) 1’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
BUZZ, CLICK, RAT-A-TAT-TAT . . .

Buzzing, clicking, rat-a-tat-tat—tiny wheels turning, switches interlocking, impulses passed on—your robot telephone exchange at work—buzzing, clicking, rat-a-tat-tat . . . Ten thousand telephone numbers, ten million soldered joints—what do such figures mean? The incredible ingenuity of man in the service of man—automatic telephony, the dial system, almost human in its operation, uncannily efficient—buzzing, clicking, rat-a-tat-tat . . .

The Post Office invites you to see the automatic dial system at work. Ring up your local telephone exchange for an appointment.

TELEPHONE

An advertisement of the Post Office Telephone Service.
Automatic exchange advert (1930s)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 699/1/25’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
The Post Office Tower, now the BT Tower (c. 1966)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 346/T 648’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
UNSEEN BUT UNCEASING . . .
Wartime publicity poster (1943)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 319/PRD 310’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
HOW TO DIAL

Before commencing to dial lift receiver and wait for dialling tone (a purring sound)

1. Insert finger in hole showing first letter of name of exchange required

2. Turn dial to finger-stop

3. Lift finger. Dial will then return to normal position

Repeat for 2nd and 3rd letters of exchange name and for four figures

FREE EMERGENCY CALLS

Do not insert coins. Lift receiver, dial 999, and ask exchange for

FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE
‘How to dial’ notice, introducing the world’s first 999 service (1937)

To learn more search for ‘POST 33/5220’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
Publicity poster showing the London international telephone exchange (c.1938)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 319/PRD 219’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
Continental exchange in Faraday Building, London (1930s)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 539/AB 49’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
Telephonists at switchboard (c.1900)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 417/E 73373’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
Control positions in Faraday Building, London (1930s)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 475/YK/YK29’ in our archives at bt.com/archives
TELL the glad news by TELEGRAPH!
Advertising poster (1936)

To learn more search for ‘TCB 319/PRD 125’ in our archives at bt.com/archives