

GRANT PHOTO PRODUCTS' ASSOCIATION WITH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY

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Grant Photo Products, Inc.

The association of Grant Photo Products with aerial photography goes back to the days of the predecessor company, The Positype Corporation of America.

Some time prior to World War I, Positype had been making an orthochromatic direct positive paper called Direx, which was designed as a substitute for tintype in the amusement photographic field. It had a speed and color sensitivity about equal to that of the par speed film of those days.

Shortly after our entrance into World War I, Signal Corp photographers, who had had while-you-wait photographic experience, tried Direx in the old Mark I gun camera, to speed up airplane pilot gunnery training. They found it could be completely processed in $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, so, Direx became standard for this purpose for the balance of the war in both the U. S. and British air forces.

Throughout the 1920's, Positype supplied high speed, quick finish, water-proof paper to various arsenals for photographic recording of oscillograph or oscilloscope traces. This was mainly in studies of explosives, primers, propelling charges, projectiles, etc. Throughout World War II, this paper was used to test ammunition before shipping abroad.

Until the early 1930's, water proof photographic paper was looked upon by the majority in the industry, as a minor necessary evil, an unattractive offspring of questionable ancestry. About this time, Positype was asked by some of the more prominent photogrammetrists, if enlarging bromide and contact chloride emulsions could be coated on double weight water proof paper. The aim was to see if this photographic base would hold scale well enough through processing and later humidity changes, to permit planimetric plotting directly from the print.

After some agony on the part of Positype and help from these enthusiasts, the so-called Positype (Air Map Special) papers came into occasional use in photogrammetry through 1934-1936.

In 1937, the use of these water proof photographic papers was considerably expanded through the AAA mapping program. This, up to then, was the most ambitious single project for mapping by aerial photography ever effected in the United States. Water proof paper prints were used, in part, throughout this program, from 1937 to 1941.

For some time prior to World War II, Col. George W. Goddard, at Wright Field, had been interested in quick photographic methods for aerial reconnaissance. By early 1941, the pressure was on to solve this problem.

In working with various materials, Col. Goddard was impressed with the savings in time, labor and materials, when water proof paper was used. His recommendation to use it in the field, as well as for much of the fixed laboratory purposes, was aided by the successful design of automatic processing equipment. This tremendously augmented the speed of finishing, as well as the number of prints produced per man hour. The Navy substantially adopted the lead of the Army shortly thereafter.

The resulting rapid and voluminous supply of reconnaissance prints to Army and Navy Intelligence was invaluable.

When the Army and Navy decided, almost over night, to convert to water proof paper, their orders created a deal of high blood pressure amid the sen-

sitizers. More than 50 times our entire annual production was ordered in July 1942 for the ensuing 12 months. The response by the manufacturers was immediate, and the job was distributed, so that each could function to the best advantage.

As a comparatively small tail on the photographic dog, Positype was assigned the task of supplying those agencies, whose water proof paper needs included good dimensional stability. We also coated water proof stock for others to sensitize.

The Grant Photo Corp., the largest operator of quick finish photographic studios in the world, merged with The Positype Corporation of America in 1942, and the corporation name was changed to Grant Photo Products, Inc. This was the principal change, however, as Positype products were unaffected by the merger.

Grant Photo Products has specialized in water proof photographic materials for 40 years. These include orthochromatic and panchromatic direct positive papers; contact, enlarging and negative papers; sensitized quick finish cotton twill and unsensitized water proof paper bases for drafting or printing.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A leading university of this country requires the services of two teachers of surveying and mapping in the Department of Civil Engineering. It is particularly desired that one be qualified, through academic training and experience, to teach advanced photogrammetry. Further details available from the Secretary-Treasurer.