

FIFTY YEARS AGO ...

THE APPLICATION OF RAYDIST TO HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING

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The November 1949 issue of the I.H. Review included an article on a new positioning system called RAYDIST, developed and manufactured by the Hastings Instrument Company, Inc. After a description of the system, the article concluded that :

"The advantages of the Raydist system over other systems now in use for hydrographic operations lie in a combination of unique features which result in greater utility and dependability.

- a. Raydist is not limited to line-of-sight operations. The system is good for several hundred miles.
- b. The overall accuracy of this system for over-water work is one foot at one mile and twenty feet at a range of 25 miles.
- c. The system is fully automatic, to avoid operator fatigue and error.
- d. Position is indicated on an easily-read dial and may be simultaneously recorded as a permanent record.
- e. Indicators and recorders may be installed on a moving boat or on a shore station, or at both locations.
- f. The mobile portion of Raydist equipment may be made very light and the ground equipment can be made highly mobile and free from complex or bulky antenna structures.
- g. The system requires a minimum of frequency assignments and these frequencies need bear no fixed relation to each other.

Considerable interest has been demonstrated by organizations that have learned of the equipment from the military services. In view of the simplicity and flexibility of the Raydist system and its unique ability to obtain precision with facility it is believed that it will prove a major contribution to today surveying and position determining methods."

The IHB would like to recall this broadly used equipment, which was an essential tool for hydrographers during many years and which contributed in an outstanding manner to carry out hydrographic surveys with more accuracy.