

Combined Combat Ration.

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ABSTRACT

Samples of combined combat rations were supplied to ASRCT by the Preserved Food Organization for use as test specimens for the Exposure Testing Programme. They were put on shelves in shelters in a manner intended to simulate storage conditions employed by the Armed Forces, to determine the shelf life under prevailing conditions.

Visual examination of food containers, weighing, and microorganism tests were conducted before and after exposure. Microbiological tests made were total aerobic count, mold count, anaerobic tests, and coliform test. Results of total aerobic count and mold count were mostly positive but those of anaerobic and coliform tests were negative. There were slight increases in mold count and total aerobic count compared with the tests made on unexposed samples.

Physical examinations of the food containers showed that most, if not all, of them were bitten through by ants, and may be, by other insects or rodents. In most cases weight increases were observed, only a few specimens showed decrease in weight.