

Combat and Survival Rations.

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ABSTRACT

A number of different kinds of preserved foods was supplied to us for use as test specimens for the Exposure Testing Programme by the Preserved Food Organization. These preserved foods were put on shelves prepared to simulate actual storage, as supposed to be exercised by the Armed Forces, to determine the shelf life of each kind of food under the prevailing conditions.

Physical examinations of food containers, weighing, and microorganism test were conducted before exposure in the same way as they were carried out after exposure.

Microbiological test, included total aerobic count, mold count, coliform test, and anaerobic test. Total aerobic count and mold count were mostly positive but coliform test and anaerobic test were negative or non-detectable before exposure. Others were only slight increases in mold count, and total anaerobic test detected in the tests carried out after exposure.

Physical examinations showed that most preserved foods in bags are likely to be attacked by insects, especially ants, and rodents, such as mice. In most cases weight increases were observed, only a few specimens showed decrease in weight.