

1950

OPERATIONAL RATIONS
Used by the Armed Forces



OPERATIONAL RATIONS

RATION SUPPLEMENTS AND FOOD PACKETS

USED BY THE ARMED FORCES

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OPERATIONAL RATION
RATION SUPPLEMENTS AND FOOD PA

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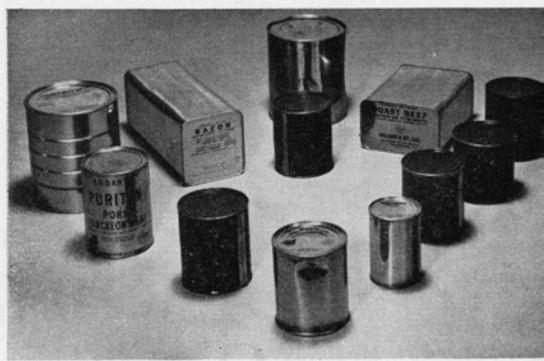
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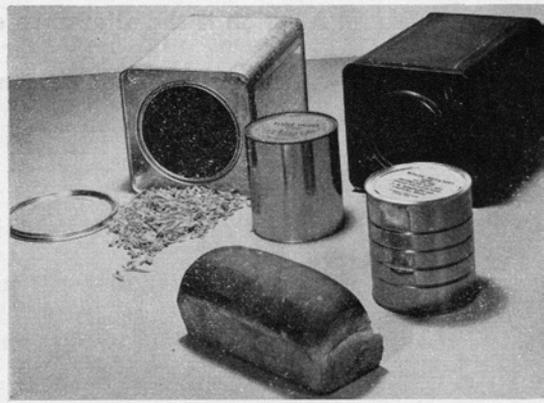
Introductory Note

The purpose of this booklet is to provide the essential facts pertaining to operational rations, ration supplements, and food packets used by the Armed Forces. In addition to such data as weight, components, caloric values, and use, the numbers of applicable specifications are also listed. For those who supply the Armed Forces as well as those who administer the use of rations in the field this booklet should prove useful as a quick and ready means of reference.





A Variety of Meat Items



Dehydrated Carrots, Sliced Onions, Dehydrated Potatoes, Bread, Canned Potatoes

Ration, Operational, B

Issued in Bulk

Average weight per ration 6 lbs

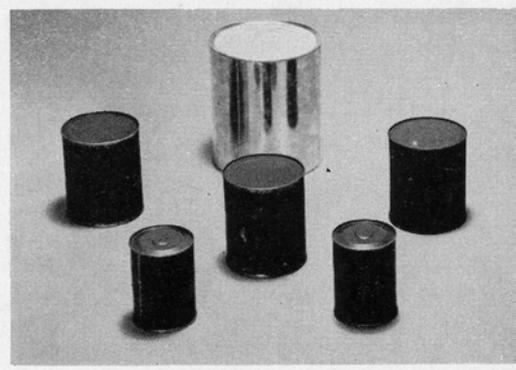
Average caloric value per ration

3600

Based on Expeditionary Force Menu

Basis of issue.

One ration per man per day



Canned Milk, Vegetables, Fruit

Ration, Operational, B

Composition and Use. The Ration, Operational, B, designed for large group feeding, is used in situations when it is impossible to provide perishable foods. It is used during periods when kitchen and cooking facilities are available but refrigeration equipment is lacking. When the tactical situation permits, field commanders are required to serve at least one hot meal daily, to all personnel, from the food components of Ration, Operational, B.

This ration is similar to the field ration A except that nonperishable food has been substituted for perishable foods. For example, where fresh carrots might be provided in the field ration A, canned carrots would be provided in the operational ration B. When obtainable, fresh foods are used to supplement this ration.

Representative components are: canned meats, canned milk products, cereal and cereal products, canned vegetables and legumes, canned fruits, and dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

TYPICAL MENUS (Expeditionary Force Menus)

BREAKFAST

Prunes
Milk
Wheat Cereal
Grilled Luncheon Meat
Hot Cakes w/Syrup
Bread
Butter
Coffee

DINNER

Beef and Gravy
Catsup
Mashed Potatoes
String Beans & Onions
Bread
Jam
Peaches
Coffee

SUPPER

Cream of Green Pea Soup
Crackers
Ham Chunks w/Pineapple
Sauce
Sweet Potatoes
Corn
Bread, Butter
Chocolate Pudding
Coffee

BREAKFAST

Tomato Juice
Hash Brown Potatoes
Bacon
Jam
Scrambled Eggs
Bread
Butter
Coffee

DINNER

Pork Sausage Links
w/applesauce
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Lima Beans
Cornbread
Bread
Butter
Pears
Hot Cocoa Beverage

SUPPER

Hamburgers w/fried Onions
Macaroni Au Gratin
Stewed Tomatoes
Bread
Jelly
Ice Cream
Coffee

BREAKFAST

Pineapple Juice
Corned Beef Hash
Catsup
Jam
Biscuits
Butter
Coffee

DINNER

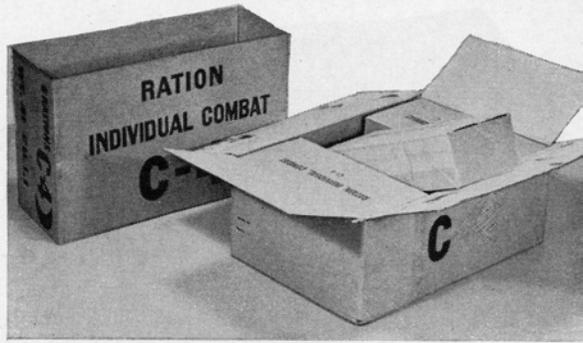
Chicken Noodle Soup
Crackers
Breaded Luncheon Meat
Hot Potato Salad
Baked Beans in Tomato
Sauce
Bread
Catsup
Peanut Butter
Apricots
Coffee

SUPPER

Chicken Pot Pie w/Biscuit
Topping
Cranberry Sauce
Steamed Rice
String Beans
Bread
Jelly
Pineapple
Coffee

Heating: Field cooking equipment is required for the preparation of this ration.

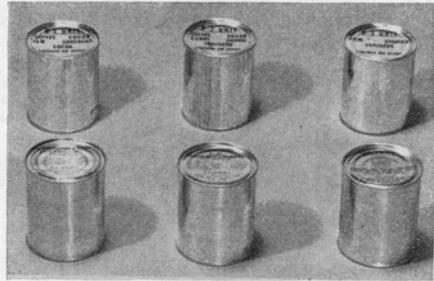
Applicable Specifications: Each of the various components of the B ration is covered by a specification which can be obtained from the Chicago Quartermaster Depot, QM Purchasing Division, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.



Open Container and Sleeve



A Complete Ration



Bread Units

Meat Items

Ration, Individual, Combat

Weight per ration including package

6½ lbs

Weight per case 40 lbs

Cubage per case 1.1 cu. ft.

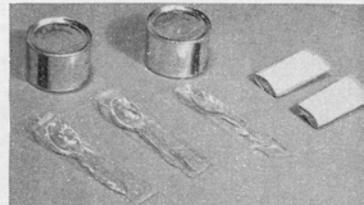
No. of rations per case 6

Calories per ration 3800

Basis of issue

1 ration per man per day

Fruit,
Plastic Spoons,
Toilet Paper



Cigarettes, Matches, Gum, Soluble Coffee,
Sugar, Salt, Can Opener and Water
Purification Tablets

Ration, Individual, Combat

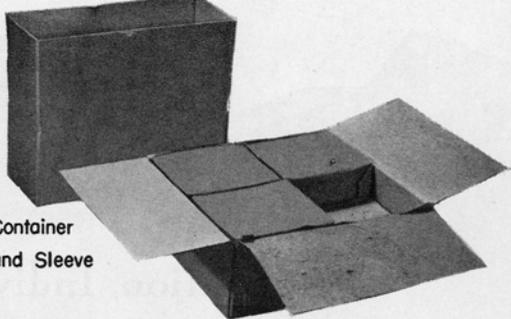
Composition and Use. This ration is designed for individual feeding of troops in the field or under combat conditions when unit kitchens cannot be utilized or are of limited usefulness. The recommended continuous use of this ration is for periods of a few days to an extreme of three weeks. The ration may be eaten hot or cold. The ration is contained in a carton composed of three cans of meat-type items, three cans of bread-type units consisting of a confection item, beverage, jam and crackers, cookies, a fruit unit, and accessory packets. The packets contain a package of 20 cigarettes and a folder of humidity-resistant matches, soluble coffee, chewing gum, toilet paper, can opener, plastic spoons, water purification tablets, and sugar.

Heating: If available, one-burner stoves or heating tablets may be used; or heating methods may be improvised.

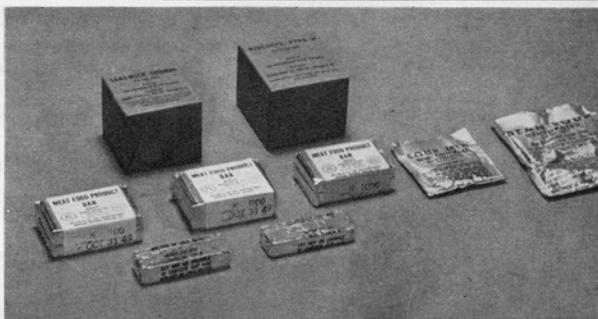
Applicable Specification: MIL-R-1504, Ration, Individual, Combat.



Container
and Sleeve



Below: A Complete Ration and Waterproof Covering



Cookies, Biscuits, Meat Bars, Soup Mixes, Cereal Blocks

Ration, Individual, Trail, Frigid

Weight of ration including package
3 lbs (approx.)

Weight per case 35 lbs (approx.)

* No. of rations per case 8

Cubage of case 1.3 cu. ft.

Calories per ration 4500 (minimum)

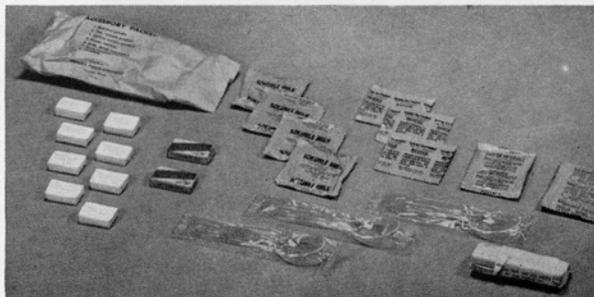
Basis of issue

1 package per man per day

Chocolate Caps,
Cocoa, Almonds,
Chocolate Bar,
Raisins,
Cigarettes and
Matches



Below: Container, Soluble Milk, Soluble Tea, Soluble Coffee,
Bouillon, Sugar, Gum, Plastic Spoons and Toilet Paper



Ration, Individual, Trail, Frigid

Composition and Use. The trail ration was designed for use in extremely cold climates by small patrols or trail teams under conditions where resupply is impossible for periods up to seven days and where sources of heat for cooking are limited or are not available. It can be eaten hot or cold, but is much more acceptable hot. Ration is packed in a corrugated box enclosed in a waterproof bag. Each package contains three meals. The beverage packet contains cocoa, soluble coffee, soluble tea, sugar, bouillon powder, and dried milk, as well as chewing gum and matches. Three plastic spoons are provided, as well as toilet paper.

The dehydrated meat food bars may be reconstituted by adding water and then used as a gruel, or by the addition of dehydrated onion and proper rehydration they can be fried. The ration consists of the following:

Meat Bars	Chocolate
Cereal Bars	Assorted Hard Candies
Raisins	Dehydrated Bean Soup
Almonds	Dehydrated Chicken Soup
Cookie Sandwich	Beverage Packet
Crackers	

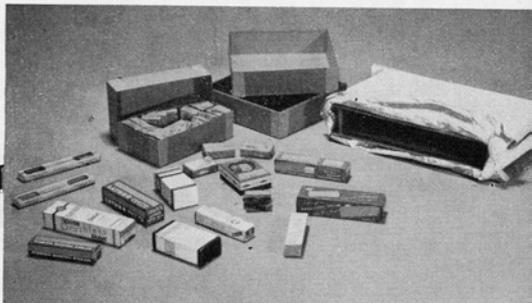
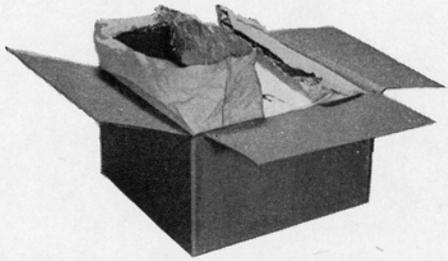
Heating: Yukon stove (oil, gasoline, or wood); one-burner stove (wood, in operations below tree line).

Applicable Specification: Ration, Individual, Trail, Frigid.

The operational rations just presented are standardized for procurement and are currently in use. These rations, however, as well as the ration supplements and food packets described on the following pages, are under the constant scrutiny of military analysts and food and container research and development workers. As new requirements in military feeding operations become evident or as advances are made in the food and container fields, experimental work leading to new or improved items is undertaken by the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute for the Armed Forces, a section of the Research and Development Branch of the Office of The Quartermaster General. After comprehensive testing, the results of this work are incorporated, where applicable, in operational rations, ration supplements, or food packets.

Ration Supplements

**Ration supplements consist of items used as supplements
to designated operational rations.**



Toilet Articles include: Tooth Paste, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream, Razor, Blades and Soap

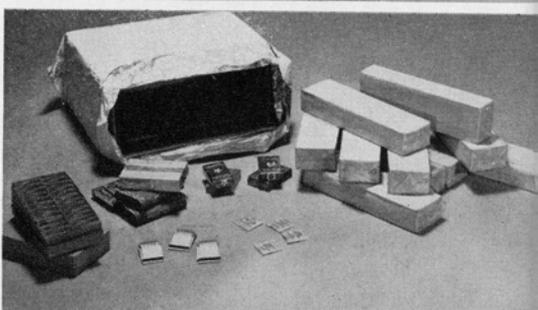
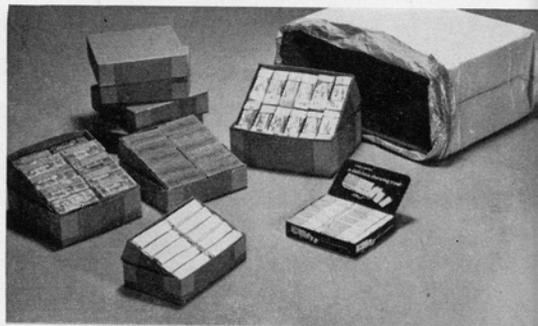
Below: A variety of Candy and Gum

Ration Supplement, Sundries Pack

Weight of pack including package
47 lbs

Cubage of pack 1.25 cu. ft.

Basis of issue
1 pack per 100 men per day



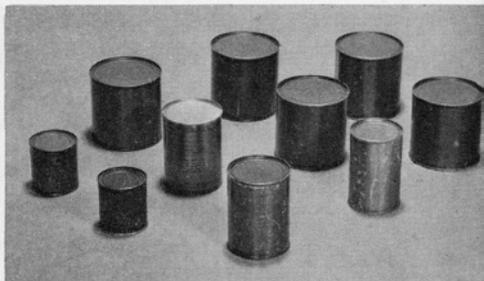
Ration Supplement, Sundries Pack

Composition and Use. The Ration Supplement, Sundries Pack, is designed as a supplement to the operational ration B, and will be made available for issue in the theaters of operation when Armed Forces Exchange Service or Navy Exchange & Ship Store Service are not available. It is composed of items necessary to the health and comfort of troops; for example, essential toilet articles, tobacco, and confections.

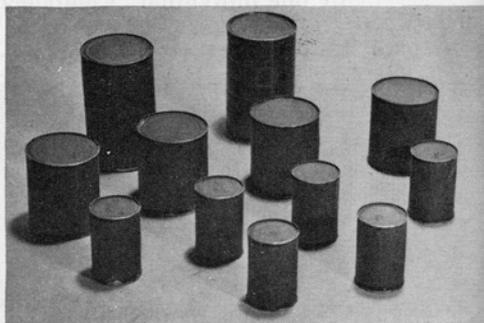
This pack is *NOT* normally issued concurrently with the individual combat ration, small detachment 5-in-1 ration, or the individual assault food packet because these rations contain an accessory packet as part of their basic components which is essentially the same as the sundries pack. The sundries pack provides for the needs of one hundred men for one day, thus facilitating breakdown and distribution in the field. The weight of the pack makes it suitable for handling by one individual. Components are:

Cigarettes.....	100 packs
Chewing Tobacco.....	4 plugs
Pipe Tobacco.....	4 packages
Safety Matches.....	100 folders
Lighter Flints.....	5 each
Shaving Cream.....	4 tubes
Safety Razor.....	1
Razor Blades.....	25
Tooth Paste.....	3 tubes
Tooth Powder.....	2 cans
Tooth Brushes.....	2
Soap, all-purpose.....	24 bars
Sweet Chocolate Bars.....	200 bars
Chocolate Coated Bars.....	48 bars
Starch Jelly Bars.....	30 bars
Hard Candy.....	20 packages
Chewing Gum Tablets.....	200

Applicable Specification: Ration Supplement, Sundries Pack.



Soluble Coffee Product, Bouillon, Soluble Tea Product, Malted Milk Tablets, Dry Whole Milk, Dry Modified Sweetened Milk



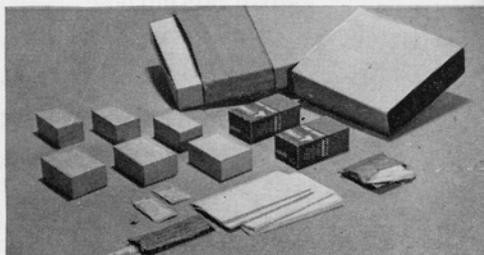
Fruit Juice, Fruit, Condensed Soup

Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Hospital

Weight per pack including package
50 lbs

Cubage of pack 1.4 cu. ft.

Basis of issue
1 pack per 25 hospital rations



Premixed Cereal, Cocoa Beverage Powder, Sugar, Can Openers, Sippers, Paper Towels Toilet Paper

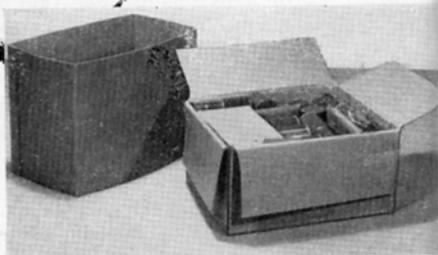
Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Hospital

Composition and use. The Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Hospital, is a specially designed supplement containing a variety of easy to digest foods and beverages intended for use only by patients of evacuation hospitals and mobile surgical units in theaters of operation. Normally it is used to supplement the field ration A or the operational ration B but in the event these rations are unavailable, it may be used to supplement other rations. The hospital pack is well adapted to the makeup of liquid, light, and soft type diets. Since most items are concentrates, the only preparation required is the addition of water in accordance with instructions on the container. Components are:

Tomato Juice.....	1	46 oz. can
Citrus Juice.....	1	46 oz. can
Soluble Coffee.....	8	oz.
Canned Fruit.....	4	cans
Bouillon.....	1	16 oz. can
Malted Milk Tablets.....	1	14 oz. can
Powdered Whole Milk.....	4	lbs
Modified, Dry, Sweetened Milk.....	1	8 oz. can
Cream of Pea Soup, condensed.....	2	10½ oz. cans
Cream of Tomato Soup, condensed.....	2	10½ oz. cans
Beef & Vegetable Soup, condensed.....	2	10½ oz. cans
Soluble Tea.....	1	5 oz. can
Cereals, premixed.....	3	10 oz. disks
Cocoa Beverage Powder.....	3	10 oz. pkgs.
Sugar, granulated.....	2	lbs
Toilet Paper.....	125	sheets
Paper Towels.....	25	sheets
Plastic Sippers.....	3	sippers
Can Opener.....	2	

Heating: Heating may be accomplished by the use of the usual field cooking equipment.

Applicable Specifications: MIL-R-1500, Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Hospital.



Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Aid Station

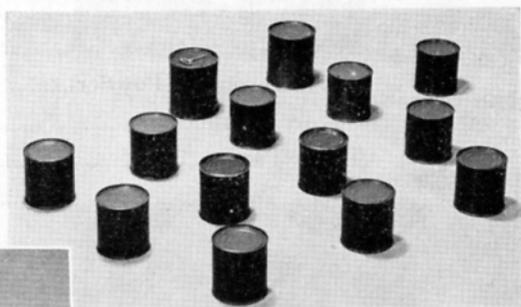
Weight of pack including package
40 lbs.

Cubage per pack 1.1 cu. ft.

Provides 290 twelve-ounce drinks



Canned Milk
and Cocoa



Soluble Coffee



Sugar, Can Opener, Sippers and Toilet Paper

Ration Supplement, Special Item Pack, Aid Station

Composition and Use. This ration supplement is designed to provide a variety of hot, stimulating beverages for combat zone casualties at aid and clearing stations. The beverages, either coffee, tea, or cocoa, are used in the treatment of shock and promote comfort and general well-being. It can be carried by one man, thus making it suitable for transport under most conditions of combat.

Components are:

Cocoa Beverage Powder.....	10	1 lb. cans
Soluble Coffee.....	12	4 oz. cans
Dry, modified, sweetened milk.....	9	8 oz. cans
Soluble Tea.....	1	5 oz. can
Granulated Sugar.....	3	2 lb. pkgs.
Plastic Sippers.....	3	sippers
Toilet Paper.....	125	sheets
Can Opener, folding.....	2	

Heating: Heating equipment found in aid stations is adequate.

Applicable Specification: MIL-R-1041A, Ration, Supplement, Special Item Pack, Aid Station.

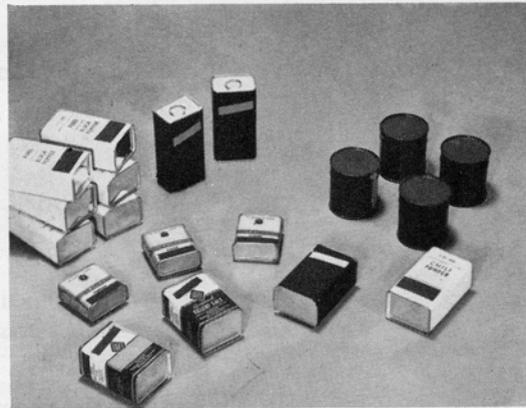


Ration Supplement, Spice Pack, Kitchen

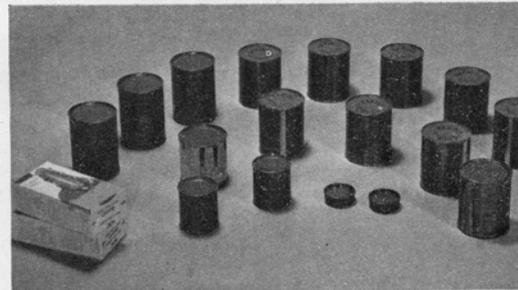
Weight per pack including package
35 lbs

Cubage per case 1.2 cu. ft.

Basis of issue 1 pack per 1000
rations, Operational, B.



Black Pepper, Cinnamon, Soup and Gravy Base,
Mustard Mix, Paprika, Sage, Ground Cloves,
Garlic Salt, Celery Salt, Nutmeg and Chili Powder



Corn Starch, Bouillon Cubes, Baking Powder,
Lemon Powder, Baking Soda, Active Dry Yeast,
Vanilla Tablet and Maple Tablet

Ration Supplement, Spice Pack, Kitchen

Composition and Use. The Ration Supplement, Spice Pack, Kitchen, provides spice, leavening agents, and condiments for issue with the field ration A or operational ration B, to facilitate breakdown and issue in the field. It is designed to provide in a single pack a variety of spices, condiments, flavorings, and leavening agents, desirable for general cooking purposes and suitable for use in preparing the widest possible types of dishes from components of the field ration A and the operational ration B. The spice pack is intended for use primarily in overseas areas. Its components are:

Baking Powder	Lemon Powder
Baking Soda	Maple Tablets
Celery Salt	Mustard Mix
Chili Powder	Paprika
Cinnamon	Black Pepper
Cornstarch	Vanilla Tablets
Soup Stock and Gravy Base	Active Dry Yeast

Applicable Specification: MIL-R-1498A, Ration, Supplement, Spice Pack, Kitchen.

Meeting the ration requirements of the Armed Forces is accomplished by preparing rations suited for use in feeding men in large groups, in small detachments, and individually. The most varied of these three basic feeding situations is that where men must be fed for short periods, individually. To meet the individual's food needs under the various conditions imposed by modern land, sea, and air operations, specially designed food packets have been provided. Minimum weight and cubage, maximum nutrition and palatability, and high utility under operational conditions are the factors that must be brought into equilibrium in the design of these packets.

Food Packets

The Food Packets, Individual, consist of precooked or prepared foods which may be eaten hot or cold. Minimum bulk and weight are of utmost importance. These Food Packets do not constitute a ration, and are of low caloric content in order that minimum bulk and weight characteristics may be observed.



Open Container and Sleeve.



Crackers, Cookie and Meat Item.

Food Packet, Individual, Assault

Weight of packet including package
1½ lbs

Weight per case 39 lbs

No. of packets per case 24
(3 of each menu)

No. of menus 8

Cubage of case 1.1 cu. ft.

No. of calories per packet
900 (minimum)

Basis of issue By direction of the
Commanding Officer



Container, Chocolate Bars, Plastic Spoon, Waterproof Bag, Fuel Tablets, Soluble Coffee, Water Purification Tablets, Matches, Gum, Cigarettes, Sugar, Opener, Toilet Paper.

Food Packet, Individual, Assault

Composition and Use. This food packet is designed to provide food to the individual soldier engaged in an assault. This lightweight packet can be easily carried and is used in the early stages of an amphibious assault, airborne assault, patrol action, or outpost duty. This food packet should not be utilized for other than the phase of battle for which it was designed, usually not to exceed 24 to 30 hours. The following stipulations concerning the intended use of this food packet should be noted:

1. To be used when the soldier cannot receive complete rations because resupply has not been established but is anticipated.
2. Its duration of use will not exceed three days.
3. It is not to be used when a complete "combat" ration, or any other complete ration, can be carried by or accompany the men.
4. It is not to be considered as a meal or any fraction of a meal, nor do any number of units constitute a ration.

The assault food packet contains one can of meat, one can of B-Unit consisting of one oatmeal cookie and two round crackers, and one accessory packet.

MEAT ITEMS	ACCESSORY ITEMS
Canned Beef and Corn	Cigarettes, Matches
Pork and Applesauce	Toilet Paper
Beef and Pork Loaf	Sugar
Canned Ham and Eggs	Water Purification Tablets
Hamburgers	Plastic Spoon
Canned Chicken	Chocolate or Starch Jelly Bar
Pork Sausage Patties	Chewing Gum
Canned Cheese with Bacon	Soluble Coffee
	Can Opener

Heating: Fuel tablets, improvised means of heating, or one-burner stoves may be used; however, the items may be eaten cold.

Applicable Specification: MIL-F-1034, Food Packet, Individual, Assault.



Container
and Sleeve

A Complete Individual Food Packet

Food Packet, Individual, Combat, In-Flight

Weight per packet including package
1 lb 12 oz.

Weight per case 48 lbs

Cubage per case 1.5 cu. ft.

Packets per case 20

Calories per packet 1200 (minimum)

Basis of issue

1 packet per meal in flight



Canned components are: Bread Unit, Fruit,
Dessert Unit and Meat Item



Accessory Packet has: Paper Towels and
Napkin, Soluble Coffee, Salt, Pepper,
Plastic Spoon, Soluble Tea, Soluble Milk,
Gum, Sugar and Opener

Food Packet, Individual, Combat, In-Flight

Composition and Use. This food packet is designed for passengers and crews of bomber type aircraft and transports in flight for periods extending over one or more meals. Each food packet is one meal and consists of one can of meat, a can of fruit, a bread-type unit, a dessert unit, and an accessory packet consisting of a paper towel, a paper napkin, and a plastic spoon. All components are packaged in a telescoping carton which may be used as a tray, and later as a receptacle to dispose of waste.

Some of the components are :

MEAT ITEMS	FRUIT ITEMS	ACCESSORY ITEMS
Solid Pack Canned Chicken	(6-ounce can) Peaches	Can Opener Salt
Canned Hamburgers	Pears Fruit Cocktail	Pepper Sugar
Beef and Pork Loaf	Plums Apricots	Tea Coffee
Canned Beef Steak		Soluble Dry Milk
Ground Meat and Spaghetti		Towel
Beef and Corn		Napkin
Canned Ham and Eggs		Spoon

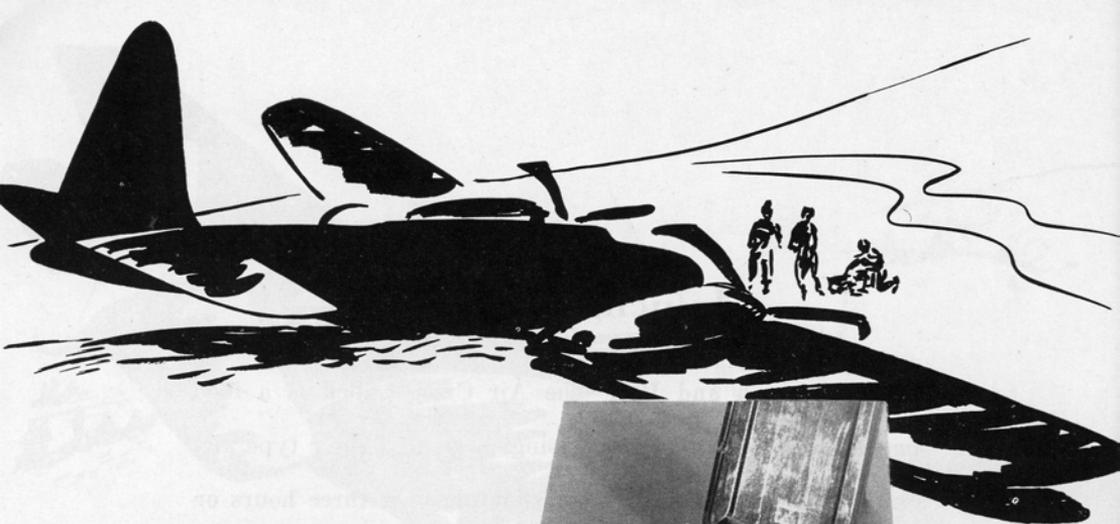
The bread-type unit consists of a can containing 5 round crackers.

The dessert unit consists of a can of cookies and candy.

To avoid monotony the above components may be changed from time to time as new procurements are made.

Heating: The ration may be eaten cold but it is much more acceptable hot. Special type heating ovens are normally available in larger type aircraft.

Applicable Specification: U. S. Army 22-276A, Food Packet, Individual Combat, In-Flight, IF-2.



Food Packet, Individual, Survival, SA

Weight per packet including package

1 1/4 lbs

Weight per case 36 lbs

Cubage per case .8 cu. ft.

Packets per case 24

Calories per packet 1700 (minimum)

Basis of issue

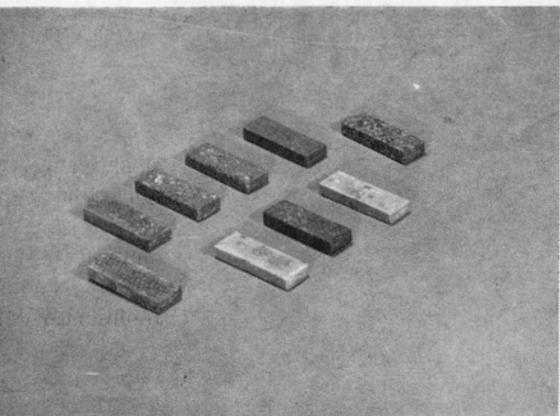
By direction of Commanding Officer



A Complete Individual Food Packet



**Outer Container
and Sleeve**



Concentrated Food Bars



**Waterproof Bag, Bouillon Powder, Soluble Coffee,
Cigarettes, Matches, Soluble Tea, Sugar, Gum and Candy.**

Food Packet, Individual, Survival, SA

Composition and Use. A food packet designed as the food component of survival kits carried aboard military aircraft operating over arctic regions. It is to be used for survival in case of an emergency when no other food is available. For storage aboard aircraft, three packets are placed in the parachute pack and formed into a seat in fighter type planes, or stored in the rubber life rafts or emergency kits (E 18 type) aboard larger type aircraft. The design of this packet is based upon minimum daily water requirements (approximately 1 quart). Nutritionally, it is designed to sustain life with a minimum recovery time, until rescue can be effected.

Components are:

- Compressed Cereal, Fruit, and Nut Bars (9)
- Jelly Bars (2)
- Cigarettes
- Bouillon Powder
- Halazone Tablets
- Soluble Tea
- Soluble Coffee
- Matches
- Polyethylene Bag (container for uneaten portions)
- Pamphlet of survival instructions for cold climates

Applicable Specification: Food Packet, Survival, SA.



Container
and Sleeve

A Complete
Food Packet



Food Packet, Survival, ST

Weight of packet including package
1.75 lbs

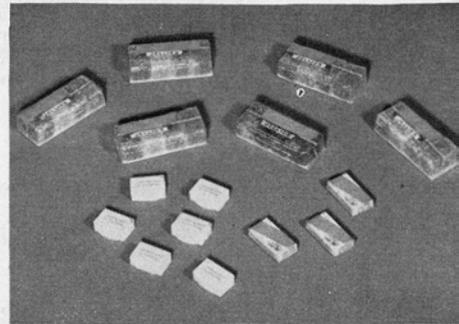
Weight of case 36 lbs

No. of packets in case 24

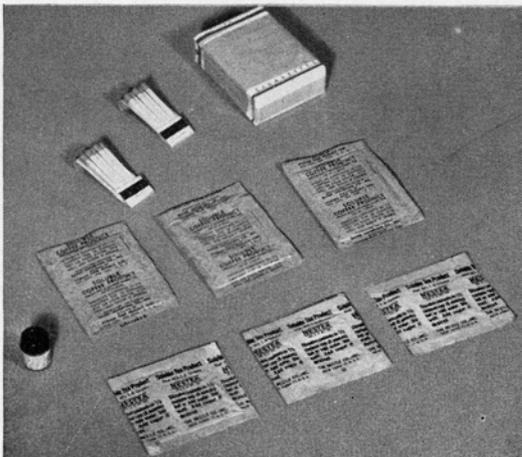
Cubage of Case .8 cu. ft.

Calories per packet 1529

Basis of issue
By direction of Commanding Officer



Candy, Sugar and Gum



Matches, Cigarettes,
Water Purification Tablets,
Soluble Coffee, and
Soluble Tea

Food Packet, Survival, ST

Composition and Use. The Food Packet, Survival, is designed for use by air crews participating in operations over tropical regions. It is used for survival in case of an emergency when all other sources of food are nonexistent. It is stored aboard aircraft in the same manner as the previously mentioned Food Packet, Individual, Survival, SA. It contains food for three men for one day or for one man for three days. It is designed nutritionally to sustain life, with a minimum recovery time, until rescue can be effected.

Components:

Starch Jelly Bars.....	7
Soluble Coffee.....	3 packages 15 grams
Soluble Tea.....	3 packages 4.8 grams
Chewing Gum Tablets.....	6
Sugar Cubes.....	4
Cigarettes.....	8 (2 pkgs. of 4 ea.)
Book Matches.....	2
Water Purification Tablets.....	12
Survival Instruction Pamphlet.....	1

Applicable Specification: Food Packet, Survival, ST.



Ration, Tablet, Life Raft
(Abandon Ship)

Weight of packet including package
 4.5 oz.

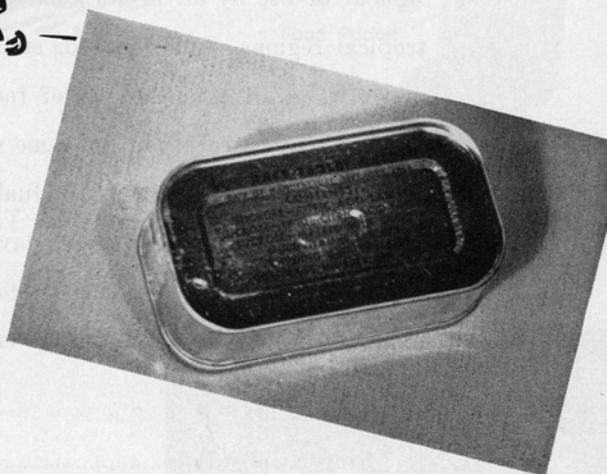
Weight per case

Not to exceed 40 lbs for export pack
 or 100 lbs for domestic pack

Cubage of case optional as long as
 weight limitations are observed

Calories per packet
 Approximately 350

Basis of issue
 Two packets per man per day



Sucrose-Lipid-Citric Acid Tablets,
 Sucrose-Citric Acid Tablet, Malted Milk Tablets,
 Vitamin Tablets, Gum, Paper Clips, Polyethylene Bag

Ration, Tablet, Life Raft

(Abandon Ship)

Composition and Use. The Ration, Tablet, Life Raft, is stored aboard all types of lifesaving craft carried aboard ship. In case of emergency, it is eaten by the survivors when no other food is available. It is stored aboard lifesaving craft in metal containers of approximately five-gallon capacity. In nutritional composition and calories, the tablets are calculated to maintain the physical and mental condition of the survivor at the highest level consistent with the limited space allotted for storage. The packet is designed for use under conditions where the supply of water may be critically limited. The usual basis of issue is two packets per man per day.

Components are:

- Sucrose-citric acid tablets.....ea 5 (20 grams)
- Sucrose-malted milk tablets.....ea 7 (19 grams)
- Sucrose-lipid-citric acid tablets.....ea 8 (30 grams)
- Multivitamin tablets.....ea 2
- Chewing gum tablets.....ea 2
- Waterproof bag 3½ inches x 6½ inches. 1
- Twine, one piece, 8 inches long
- Instruction sheet

The above components are packaged in an oblong, key opening, metal can, 3⁷/₈" x 2¹/₈" x 1¹/₈".

Applicable Specification: MIL-R-15381 (S&A) 5 July 1950.