

ENGINEERING

Food Coolers Tough

A 10,000-pound refrigerator which withstands a drop to a concrete platform, whose parts are unaffected by ocean dunking, protects fighters' food.

► A NEW MILITARY refrigerator crashes to a concrete platform with the full impact of its 10,000-pound hulk. Naval inspectors open the doors to reveal the insides of the unit still intact; the motor starts with a purr at the throw of a switch.

How this same test was successfully met a half dozen times by the same giant portable refrigerator in a day's testing at a naval base was described to the meeting of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers in Cleveland by Mark Mooney of the Carrier Corporation, Syracuse, N. Y.

Several companies are now building these portable units for use in carrying frozen foods and perishable medical supplies to the armed forces, Mr. Mooney announced.

After a shipload of perishable supplies reaches the battle arena, facilities must be available for cold storage. The Army, Navy and Marine Corps were all faced with this same problem.

The demountable walk-in cooler was the answer cooperatively devised by engineers of many manufacturers.

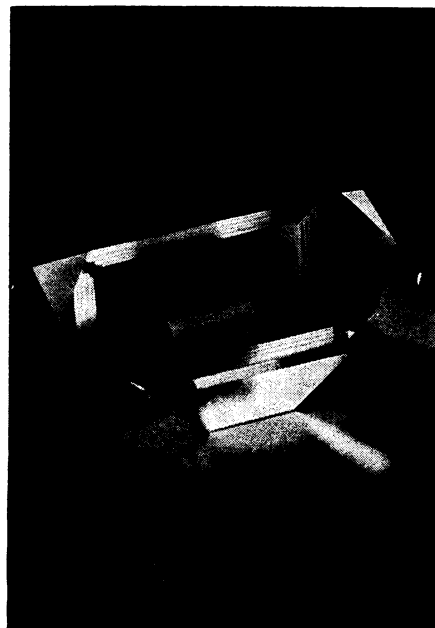
Designed for use under battle conditions, these coolers have interchangeable parts. If a strafing plane knocks out the condenser unit of the camp's cooler, replacement can be made from a spare part made by any of the companies and the vital boxful of arctic cold goes right on with the job of protecting food and drug supplies.

In the early days of the war, Mr. Mooney revealed, the importance of spare parts and tools to repair disabled refrigerators was overlooked, with resultant supply problems.

Now spare parts must be rustproofed and individually packed to withstand rust and corrosion for at least three years in any climate. Parts must be often dumped overboard into shallow water along with other cargo, to be fished out by the armed forces when it is convenient and safe to do so.

Praising the refrigerator industry for the job it had done, Mr. Mooney called for still more research to find better ways of protecting perishable supplies for soldiers in the field.

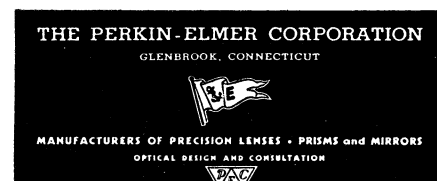
Science News Letter, June 12, 1943



**THE MOST "PRECISE"
ARTICLE MANUFACTURED
IN QUANTITY ANYWHERE**

Illustrated above is a roof prism, the most accurate of all optical parts, used in military instruments for our armed forces.

Roof prisms are being made by a number of manufacturers by methods first developed at The Perkin-Elmer Corporation, and gladly shared in the interest of winning the war.



MEDICINE

Color-Blind Aided

"Alleged cure" for inability to distinguish colors is said to teach, not cure those afflicted, but it did enable men to pass service tests.

► AN "ALLEGED CURE" for color blindness is actually succeeding in getting into the Navy and the Air Force men who had been previously rejected by these services, an investigation by the American Medical Association reveals.

Color blindness is a congenital defect for which no "cure" is known to medical authorities. The success of the method just investigated is a matter of teaching, not of treatment or "cure", it appears from the report of the investigation (*Journal, American Medical Association, June 5*).

The "alleged cure" is said to have been developed by J. H. Lepper, optometrist, of Mason City, Iowa. Following

criticism of the claims for the method in a previous issue of the medical journal, Mr. Lepper submitted complete details of his method and a list of men "now in the Navy and in the Air Force who had previously been rejected but were accepted after having followed his technic."

The information as to these men was verified by appropriate agencies in Washington to whom the American Medical Association referred the material.

Investigators for the medical association then visited certain optometrists in the eastern United States who follow the Lepper technic and studied their results. These investigators believe that the Lep-