



Top left: proposed bread alternatives, 1984. Top right: freeze-dried carrots, compressed, 1969. Bottom left: irradiated chicken, potato, 1978. Bottom right: food lab dehydrated disks, 1983

GALLERY  
*Selected by*  
**MATTHIEU NICOL**

**For his book *Better Food for our Fighting Men***, Matthieu Nicol chose images from the archives of the US Army’s Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center near Boston, mostly taken in the 1970s and 1980s. Part of the centre’s work is about improving soldiers’ diets, despite the considerable constraints of preserving, transporting and ensuring the safety of their rations.

“Solving this logistical puzzle is like trying to stuff a square peg into a round hole,” says Nicol, a Paris-

based communications consultant and former picture editor at the French newspaper *Le Monde*, with a particular interest in food photography from the 1950s-80s. Before it is served in canteens, much of the food is compressed, irradiated, dehydrated, rehydrated “and [must] still guarantee a minimum level of flavour”, Nicol explains. “The goal is to provide sustenance and boost morale.” **FT**

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*“Better Food for our Fighting Men” will be published by RVB Books in October 2022*