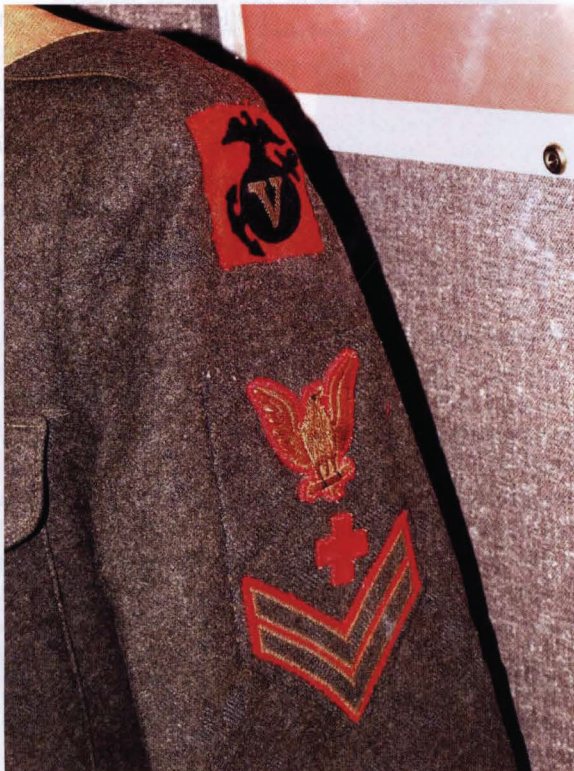
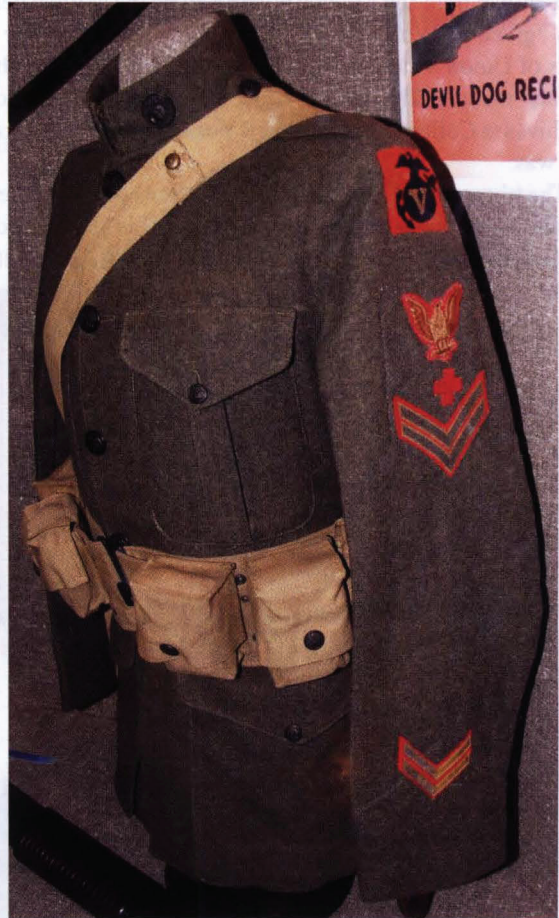


A World War I Corpsman's Uniform

John A. Stacey

THIS World War I enlisted Marine winter service uniform, currently on display at the Alabama State Archives, Montgomery, was worn by a member of HQ, 11th Regiment, 5th Brigade. The organization is identified by the gold "V" (indicating Regimental HQ) and the square shape identifying the 11th Regiment. The Navy rating badge is that of a pharmacist's mate, second class. Unfortunately, the rating badge is not of World War I vintage. Rating badges produced for Marine Corps-assigned pharmacist's mates were made with khaki backings for all uniforms. It was not until 1930 that the Marine Corps authorized rating badges on forestry green wool specifically for the winter uniform. This is verified by a memorandum dated 23 June 1930 from the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the Chief of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery conveying proposed forestry green rating badge samples. Review and comment was requested with the statement, "Heretofore, the rating badges and mark specified have been of a single type corresponding to Marine Corps summer service chevrons ... on a background of khaki suiting."

While the rating badge is a general match to the 1930 approved samples in the collections of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, it has an interesting variation. The em-



broided eagle of medium green thread has the entire edge embroidered in red, unlike the standard pattern.

On the positive side, the veteran may have learned that these rating badges were available and obtained one for his uniform for a reunion, parade, or other veteran's events.

Photographs courtesy of Alex deQuesada.

JOHN A. STACEY has collected and researched uniforms and insignia of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps for forty years. He has contributed over fifty articles on these subjects to various publications including MC&H. He has also published two books, U.S. Navy Rating Badges, Specialty Marks and Distinguishing Marks in 1982 which is still in print updated to current changes, and a new publication, U.S. Navy Marks (and Others) for Marine Uniforms. John Served eight years in the Marine Corps Reserve. He is a Fellow and member of the Company and a member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, American Society of Military Insignia Collectors, and Association of American Military Uniform Collectors.