Union Drummer Boy

Red: hoops of drum, scrollwork design on drum
Dark blue: frock coat, forage cap, drum body
Sky-blue: trousers, piping on coat
Yellow: hunting horn insignia on cap, buttons, belt plate buckle on drum sling, sword hilt, sword scabbard tip, sunburst design on drum
Brown: drum sticks, eagle design on drum
Gray: canteen
White: drum sling, drum head, canteen sling
Silver: drinking cup

During the Civil War the infantry used the drum as a means of communication in camp, on the march, and in battle. The drummer boy was an important member of every infantry unit. Most drummer boys were in their early teens, although a few were younger. This lad is beating "reveille" in a quiet Union camp. He is dressed in a frock coat with piping authorized for musicians, and the hunting horn insignia of the infantry is worn on his cap.