

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.