

BUGLES AND SCOUTING



BRUCE MCCREA

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2001 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA in jamboree logo	2-19
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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA with BSA logo	2-20
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CONN MADE BY C G CONN LTD on the top and on the side LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13
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LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE (no brand name shown) BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (If it says CONN MADE on the top of the bell, go to CONN MADE on page 1.)	2-10, 2-11
LITTLE SCOUT TRUMPET C G CONN LTD	2-23
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BUGLES AND SCOUTING

BRUCE MCCREA



Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION – Revised June 2, 2015

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of World Scouting, introduced the idea of Boy Scouting to the British public with the 1908 publication of his book SCOUTING FOR BOYS. On page 44 of that book, he included the music for "The Scout's Call" with the caption "For scout master to call together his troop by bugle." Bugles were a part of Scouting at its beginnings and have been a part of Scouting ever since. The illustration above from the cover of an early Boy Scouts of America MUSIC AND BUGLING merit badge pamphlet shows a Boy Scout bugler playing "The Scout's Call."

Just a few years after Scouting was founded, London Boy Scout buglers were called on to serve their country by riding on their bicycles and in vehicles sounding the all clear after World War I air raids. A 1929 article in the TIMES OF LONDON recalled the end of World War I being marked by "the shrill reverberation of a Scout's bugle sounding the 'All Clear,' which had become familiar to London after many an air raid and was now, by a very British turn of symbolism, announcing that the Armistice had been signed." This image of London Scout buglers serving their country was circulated around the world. Chapter 8 is LONDON'S ALL CLEAR BOY SCOUT BUGLERS OF WORLD WAR I with text and illustrations from newspaper and magazine articles and photos of a bugle in the author's collection that was specially engraved and presented to one of those buglers after the war.

Very soon after Scouting was founded in England, it spread to other countries around the world, and the use of bugles in Scouting spread with it. All around the world, the general public began to associate bugles with Scouting. Boy Scouts were such an important feature of everyday life that they began to appear on postage stamps, and bugles appeared with them. The first postage stamp to picture a Boy Scout was a 1925 Hungarian stamp issued as part of a sports series that showed a Scout bugler in the foreground and a camping scene in the background. It is the second stamp in the second row below. Since then, a number of countries have pictured Scout buglers on their stamps. Scout buglers have also appeared on cigarette cards, postcards, and magazine and sheet music covers, and as lead and plastic toy figures and game pieces. Chapter 7 is CIGARETTE CARDS, POSTCARDS, POSTAGE STAMPS, TOY FIGURES, MAGAZINE COVERS, AND SHEET MUSIC SHOWING SCOUT BUGLERS.



Nowhere has the connection between bugles and Scouting been more significant than in the United States. When the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, boys who joined Scout troops had heard first-hand about bugling in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, and the Spanish-American War. Bugles seemed the natural way to communicate over distances on a campout. An article in the January, 1913, *BOYS LIFE* stated: "It should be the ambition of every scout who loves music and is interested in bugling to become the bugler of his patrol. But in addition to the appointment of official bugler for the patrol or troop, every well organized troop ought to have a drum and bugle corps. This sounds rather ambitious, but it will be found a comparably simple matter to organize and develop a proficient bugle corps in any large troop." And bugling did catch on. As one example, a newspaper article describing a 1917 Boy Scout rally at Harvard Stadium stated "a bugle and drum band of 160 scouts provided one of the features of the afternoon as it paraded around the stadium, stopping before the reviewing stand, where the 'to the colors' was sounded."

On May 1, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that commended the Boy Scouts of America for “notable service to the Nation during the world war” and stated “The Boy Scouts have not only demonstrated their worth to the Nation but have also materially contributed to a deeper appreciation by the American people of the higher conception of patriotism and good citizenship.” He then urged Americans to support the BSA financially and by volunteering as leaders and stated:

The plan, therefore, for a Boy Scout week, during which a universal appeal will be made to supply the means to put the Boy Scouts of America in a position to carry forward effectively and continuously the splendid work they are doing for the youth of America, should have the unreserved support of the Nation.

Therefore, I Woodrow Wilson, do hereby recommend that the period beginning Sunday, June 8th, to Flag Day, June 14th, be observed as Boy Scout Week throughout the United States for the purpose of strengthening the work of the Boy Scouts of America.

The BSA issued a Boy Scout Week poster with President Wilson’s proclamation on the back and a front, shown below, that featured an illustration of a Boy Scout in uniform sitting on a porch playing a bugle. The distribution of this poster coincided with the publication of the May 15, 1919, issue of LIFE magazine with the same illustration on its cover that is on the poster. There was no information inside the magazine about the cover. People knew this was a Boy Scout playing a bugle. There are scans below of the poster and magazine cover from the author’s collection.



OFFICIAL SCOUT BUGLES

As Scouts in different countries began to play bugles, they would typically use the type of bugle that was used by the military in their country. For Scouts in Europe and the British Commonwealth, this was a true “bugle,” which has a conical shape throughout. For Scouts in the United States, this was what is technically called a “field trumpet,” which looks like a trumpet without valves, in which 2/3 or more of its length is a cylindrical tube. The photos below shows an English bugle presented to one of the All Clear buglers of World War I on the left and an American King Official BSA bugle on the right. The difference is very noticeable.



Bugles from the author's collection

The popularity of bugling among American Boy Scouts meant there was a demand for bugles, and BSA met that demand. Bugles first appeared in BSA catalogs in 1913, and by the late 1910s some bugles sold by the BSA had the engraved inscription OFFICIAL BUGLE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. While bugles with an engraved “Boy Scout” or “Scout” inscription were marketed to Scouts in several countries, I know of only two other national Scout associations that sold “official” Scout bugles to their members, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

During the early years of the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America, most American military bugles met the "Specifications for Trumpets and 'F' Crooks" issued in 1892 by the Quartermaster General's Office of the U.S. War Department. This design has come to be known as the Model 1892 or M1892 bugle. All official Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America bugles follow this design. The early years of Boy Scouting in the Philippines were during the period of American occupation that began after the Spanish-American War. During that time, the Boy Scouts there were run by the Philippine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. They used official BSA bugles. It was only natural when the Boy Scouts of the Philippines was organized to take over Boy Scouting in the Philippines that they would continue using the M1892 design for their official bugle.



Official Bugles of Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts of America, and Boy Scouts of America

Chapter 2 is OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL BUGLES AND ACCESSORIES MARKETED TO AMERICAN BOY SCOUTS and Chapter 3 is OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL BUGLES OF OTHER NATIONAL SCOUT ASSOCIATIONS.

BADGES EARNED BY DEMONSTRATING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN BUGLING



In the early years of Scouting, Scout associations in several countries offered a badge that a Scout could earn by demonstrating knowledge and skill in bugling. This type of badge is typically called a merit badge or proficiency badge. All but one of those badges have since been discontinued. The BSA is the only Scout association where Scouts can still earn a badge for bugling. Chapter 43 is BUGLER/BUGLING MERIT BADGES AND PROFICIENCY BADGES

BUGLER POSITION PATCHES AND BUGLING COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS



As far as I can tell, the BSA is the only Scout association that produced badges that show that a Scout served as bugler for their troop or patrol. They are also the only Scout association that produced awards for winners of bugling contests. Chapter 5 is ONLY IN THE BSA? - BUGLER POSITION PATCHES AND BUGLING COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS.

SCOUT DRUM AND BUGLES CORPS

In the early years of Scouting, there were many Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America drum and bugle corps and Scout drum and bugle corps in other countries. Most of these are gone. However, two BSA drum and bugle corps are still active and are participants in Drum Corps International (DCI). The Racine Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps was founded in November, 1927, as an activity of Boy Scout Troop 15 of Racine, Wisconsin, and is a DCI Open Class Corps. The Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps was founded in 1938 after a group of Madison, Wisconsin businessmen saw a performance by the Racine Scouts. They are currently a DCI World Class Corps and won DCI World Championships in 1975 and 1988. The oldest Scout drum and bugle corps appears to be the Kidsgrove Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps of Kidsgrove, England, founded in 1909/10, which is active in European Drum and Bugle Corps competitions. Chapter 6 is SCOUT DRUM AND BUGLES CORPS,

DECLINE IN THE USE OF BUGLES IN SCOUTING

Concern about the use of bugles in Scouting first appeared very early in Scouting's history. In the June 14, 1922 issue of THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION newsletter, in a column titled "The Chief Scout's Outlook," Baden-Powell was not very complimentary about bugles when he responded:

"DISGUSTED."

One who signs himself "Disgusted" wrote recently in a newspaper:—

"Is it necessary for Boy Scouts to bang drums and play trumpets like tribes of young Yahoos when out marching or drilling, or whatever they do? How can babies go to sleep when such a racket is going on outside?"

Fortunately, bands and bugles are dying out in the Movement as they are found to be out of place in camp and a nuisance in towns. So that I hope within a short time there will be few people who can sign themselves "disgusted" with the Scouts.

Baden-Powell's statement was definitely premature. At least in the United States, Boy Scout bugling was still growing in popularity. The May, 1925, Official BSA Catalog stated that "every Scout troop has at least one official bugler, and, with the popular emphasis being placed on the patrol system of troop administration, many troops have an official bugler for each patrol." That catalog announced: "The increasing importance of Scout buglers, as well as the desirability of providing for uniformity of the primary accessories of a Scout's equipment, has led to the adoption of a standard official bugle for the use of our membership. The official bugle is to be made available in two grades, regulation and professional, both instruments, however, possessing the principal essentials in common. Both have been selected and approved after careful expert examination and elimination tests, and are announced to the Scout field with the guarantee of the Boy Scouts of America and of their respective manufacturers." For several years, there were four different official Boy Scout bugles in BSA catalogs.

During the 1920s and early 1930s, a number of BSA councils held annual bugling competitions, state champion Boy Scout buglers were selected in several states, and each December Boy Scout buglers were stationed throughout Washington D.C. to announce the lighting of the National Christmas Tree with bugle calls.

Eventually, bugling began to play a smaller role in Scouting. Bugler proficiency badges were discontinued by the Boy Scout Association in 1935 and the Girl Scouts of America in 1938. After World War II, there was only one remaining manufacturer of official BSA bugles. However, as the cover of the June 10, 1951, issue of THE NEW YORKER shows, a Boy Scout bugler was still an important part of the public perception of the Boy Scouts.



The price of bugles went up and the popularity of bugling continued to go down. In 1989, 76 years after a bugle first appeared in a BSA catalog, the official BSA bugle was gone. Efforts to revive it have failed. BSA still has a bugler position patch and a Bugling merit badge but the number of Scouts serving as troop buglers and earning Bugling merit badge continues to decline. However, there are still a number of Scout troops and Scout camps where you can hear a bugle sounding Reveille, To the Colors, or Taps, and the general public still associates bugling with Scouting.

This is an attempt to trace the history of Bugles and Scouting. Please email your comments and additional information to mccreab@sbcglobal.net

**Chapter 2. OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL BUGLES AND ACCESSORIES
MARKETED TO AMERICAN BOY SCOUTS – Revised June 6, 2015**

As is stated in the introduction, during the early years of the Boy Scouts of America, most American military bugles met the “Specifications for Trumpets and “F” Crooks” issued in 1892 by the Quartermaster General’s Office of the U.S. War Department. This design has come to be known as the Model 1892 or M1892 bugle. All official BSA bugles follow this design.

The Model 1892 specifications state “Each trumpet is to be built in the key of “G,” the slide to draw to “F.” A wind instrument without valves or keys such as a bugle can only play a limited number of notes. The length of a bugle’s tubing determines the notes that can be played on the bugle and the bugle’s “pitch” or “key.” As a result of the M1892 specifications, when the slide of an American Boy Scout bugle is in, the bugle is in the key of G. The slide can be pulled out to change the key to F.

Section A. A LIKELY OFFICIAL BUGLE OF THE UNITED STATES BOY SCOUTS

In the 1910s, there was a rival group to the Boy Scouts of America that also called their members Boy Scouts. This rival association was founded in 1910, a few months after the BSA, as the “American Boy Scouts.” They encouraged bugling as can be seen by the Boy Scout playing a bugle on an ABS = American Boy Scouts mug from the Virtual Scout Museum at <http://www.virtualscoutmuseum.com/>.



In 1913, to avoid the frequent confusion of their organization with the Boy Scouts of America, the “American Boy Scouts” changed their name to the “United States Boy Scouts.” However, the confusion was still there. The Boy Scouts of America received a congressional charter in 1916, and, in 1917, they filed a lawsuit in 1917 requesting an injunction to prevent the United States Boy Scouts from using the term “Boy Scout” in their name. That injunction was granted in 1919, and the United States Boy Scouts were prohibited from using “Boy Scout,” “Scout,” “Scouting,” or any variation of those terms in their name. The organization eventually dissolved.

I believe that during the period this organization was the United States Boy Scouts it is very likely the bugle pictured below that has U.S. and BOY SCOUT in two lines engraved on the bell of the bugle was their bugle. That would date it between 1913 and 1919.



Photos of a U. S. Boy Scout bugle from the author's collection

Section B. HISTORY OF BUGLES SOLD BY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

In the early years of the Boy Scouts of America, bugles and bugle calls were an important part of almost every Boy Scout troop. The enthusiasm of American Scouts for bugles and bugling increased through the 1910s and peaked in the 1920s and 1930s. In the late 1920s, BSA catalogs contained official BSA bugles produced by three different companies, Conn, King, and Rexcraft. Since that time, the interest and enthusiasm for bugling has waned, and with it the popularity of BSA bugles.

The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, and published the first "American" Boy Scout Handbook in 1911. On page 361 of that handbook, in the APPENDIX - BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT, is an illustration of a bugle and the statement: "*Bugle*. It is recommended that the standard bugle used in an army or drum corps be used. Each Patrol should purchase these from a local music store." In the 1913 handbook, the statement, "Each Patrol should purchase these from a local music store." was replaced by the statement, "These may be purchased from a local music store or National Headquarters will quote prices." BSA National Headquarters had begun selling bugles.

There were two bugles listed in early BSA catalogs. These early catalogs used the technically correct term of trumpet, not bugle. Listed were No. 1064 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET and No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET, a "higher quality instrument" than No. 1064. The No. 1064 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET was gone from the BSA catalog by Dec., 1916, so 1917 and 1918 BSA catalogs contain only the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET. I have no information on who manufactured these bugles.

The manufacture of the No. 1065 bugle was apparently transferred to Rex International Products of Brooklyn, New York, in 1919. At that time Rex International was the largest producer of bugles in America, using the brand name "Rexcraft." (Rexcraft ads in BOYS LIFE from December, 1924, through May, 1925, offering a special sale price on their No. 1065 bugle show that Rex International produced the No. 1065 bugle. A statement in their ad in the June, 1925 BOYS LIFE that "For nearly six years, we have been supplying bugles to National Boy Scout Headquarters" confirms when they started doing that.) Also in 1919, the terminology in the BSA catalog listing changed from "trumpet" to "bugle" and a higher quality BOY SCOUT BUGLE, Catalog No. 1415, was added to the catalog, so that there were once again two bugles in the BSA catalog

1925 - OFFICIAL BSA BUGLES - In 1924, the BSA Supply Division apparently made the decision to hold a competition to select new "official" BSA bugles. The competition and its results were announced in the May, 1925, Official BSA Catalog: "Every Scout troop has at least one official bugler, and with the popular emphasis being placed on the patrol system of troop administration, many troops have an official bugler for each patrol. The increasing importance of Scout buglers, as well as the desirability of providing for uniformity of the primary accessories of a Scout's equipment, has led to the adoption of a standard official bugle for the use of our membership. The official bugle is to be made available in two grades, regulation and professional, both instruments, however, possessing the principal essentials in common. Both have been selected and approved after careful expert examination and elimination tests, and are announced to the Scout field with the guarantee of the Boy Scouts of America and of their respective manufacturers. Their purchase is recommended as a safeguard against bugles frequently offered from sources and under conditions which permit of no control over uniformity of quality, tone, and pitch, or possibility of repair or other necessary service. The arrangements made by the Boy Scouts of America permit the sale of these official bugles at prices very much lower than the same instruments, or others of equal grade, are sold through the customary retail channels."

This catalog featured two new Official BSA bugles, the professional grade No. 1537 King Licensed Official Bugle BSA and the regulation grade No. 1538 Rexcraft Licensed Official Bugle BSA and stated, "*Bugles No. 1065 and No. 1415 will be discontinued when present stock is exhausted. Meanwhile they represent excellent values.*" Both King and Rexcraft Official BSA bugles have engraved inscriptions that combine the brand name and the official BSA bugle information. The King bugle sold for \$6.00, the Rexcraft bugle sold for \$5.00, and the closeout bugles sold for \$3.50.

The King Official BSA Bugle was produced by the H. N. White Company, a major producer of band instruments located in Cleveland, Ohio. "King" was their premium brand. There is an excellent history

of H.N. White by Chris Charvat at <http://www.hnwhite.com/second%20page.htm> (Link at the H.N. White Story). The King Bugle page is at <http://www.hnwhite.com/Bugles.htm>. The H.N. White Company was sold by the White family in 1965 and is now part of Conn-Selmer, a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments. All the early H.N. White Company records are lost.

The Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle was produced by Rex International Products. As is stated earlier, had produced bugles for the BSA beginning in 1919. In several ads in BOYS LIFE in the 1920s, they claimed to be "American's largest manufacturer of bugles." At some point in the early 1930s, Rexcraft was bought out by Buglecrafft, another bugle manufacturer. Rexcraft's address in their ad in the April, 1930, printing of the BSA handbook is 57 Jay Street, Brooklyn and the address in their ad in the Nov., 1932, printing of the BSA handbook is 60 York Street, Brooklyn. Perhaps this address change occurred when the company was sold. Buglecrafft marketed bugles under three different brand names, Rexcraft, Buglecrafft, and U.S. Regulation Bugle. Their official BSA bugles all used the Rexcraft brand names except the 2001 National Jamboree bugle, which did not show a brand name. Buglecrafft/Rexcraft was sold in 2003. The new owner, Freeport Music Inc., markets their bugles under the brand name U.S. Regulation Bugle at <http://www.usregulationbugle.com/>. In an Oct. 2004 email message, their owner said, "We took over the Bugle Companies in January of 2003. The former manufacturers of both Rexcraft and Buglecrafft Bugles left NO RECORDS at all about their earlier productions." All their bugle production is now in China.

Apparently, Rexcraft had a large inventory of No. 1065 bugles when they became aware in 1924 of the bugle competition and the upcoming selection of the new BSA bugles. Prior to December, 1924, there were no manufacturers' ads for the No. 1065 or No. 1415 bugles in BOYS LIFE magazine. However, Rexcraft advertised their No. 1065 bugle extensively in BOYS LIFE over the six month period leading up to the introduction of the new BSA bugles, beginning with a one sixth page ad in the December, 1924, issue and ending with a half page ad in the May, 1925, issue. The price of the No. 1065 bugle in these ads was \$3.75 postpaid. There were no similar BOYS LIFE ads for the No. 1415 bugle. In the June, 1925, issue of BOYS LIFE, which probably coincided in timing with the May, 1925, BSA Catalog, there were no longer Rexcraft ads for the No. 1065 bugle, but there were half page ads for the new Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle and the new King Official BSA Bugle. Over the next two years, Rexcraft and King advertised their Official BSA bugles extensively in BOYS LIFE magazine and BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS.

By the October, 1927, BSA catalog, the discontinued No. 1415 bugle was gone. However, that catalog introduced a new official BSA bugle, Catalog No. 1277, manufactured by Conn. The Conn bugle was given the top spot in the catalog's bugle listing and more lines of description than the King or the Rexcraft. The October, 1927, bugle listing:

No. 1277 CONN LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE U.S.A. "An instrument that is smarter and more trim than the average bugle. It is perfect in tone and register and only the finest of materials are used in its manufacture. Its tone is brilliant, powerful and mellow. Each one is tested before shipment to insure every detail of workmanship and tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated mouthpiece; select brass" ... \$5.00

No. 1537 KING LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with professional band instruments and its pitch is identical therewith. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated seamless tubing mouthpiece attached with chain" ... \$6.00

No. 1538 REXCRAFT LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich mellow tone. Selected brass; heavy nicked silver mouthpiece, attached with chain, Key of G tuning slide to F." ... \$5.00

No. 1065 BUGLE "Good quality, easy to blow, mellow tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain." ... \$3.50

C. G. Conn Ltd was a major manufacturer of band instrument located in Elkhart, Indiana. The Conn Archives are at the National Music on the campus of the University of South Dakota. Their web page is <http://orgs.usd.edu/nmm/connarch.html> There is an excellent history of Conn by Margaret Downie Banks there which states that in April, 1969, the company "was sold to the Crowell-Collier MacMillan Company, known primarily as a book publishing company." Soon after that sale, "the corporate headquarters were moved out of Elkhart for the first time in its history" and "virtually all the company's historic records were deliberately destroyed." For that reason, it is difficult to find information about Conn production of BSA bugles. There is Conn bugle information along with photos on the Conn Bugle page of Christine Derksen's Conn Loyalist site at <http://www.xs4all.nl/~cderksen/ConnBugle.html>. Conn is now part of Conn-Selmer, a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments.

All three manufacturers that sold official BSA bugles during this period also sold identical bugles without the BSA inscription to other customers. As one example, the bugle page of the 1927 POCKET CATALOG OF KING BAND INSTRUMENTS below shows Model #1074 King Bugle and model #1074B "Licensed Official Boy Scout Bugle." The text on that page states "Scout model is exactly the same as regular model but has the Boy Scout insignia engraved on bell."

1074—“**KING**” Bugle. G and F
1074B—Licensed Official Boy Scout Bugle

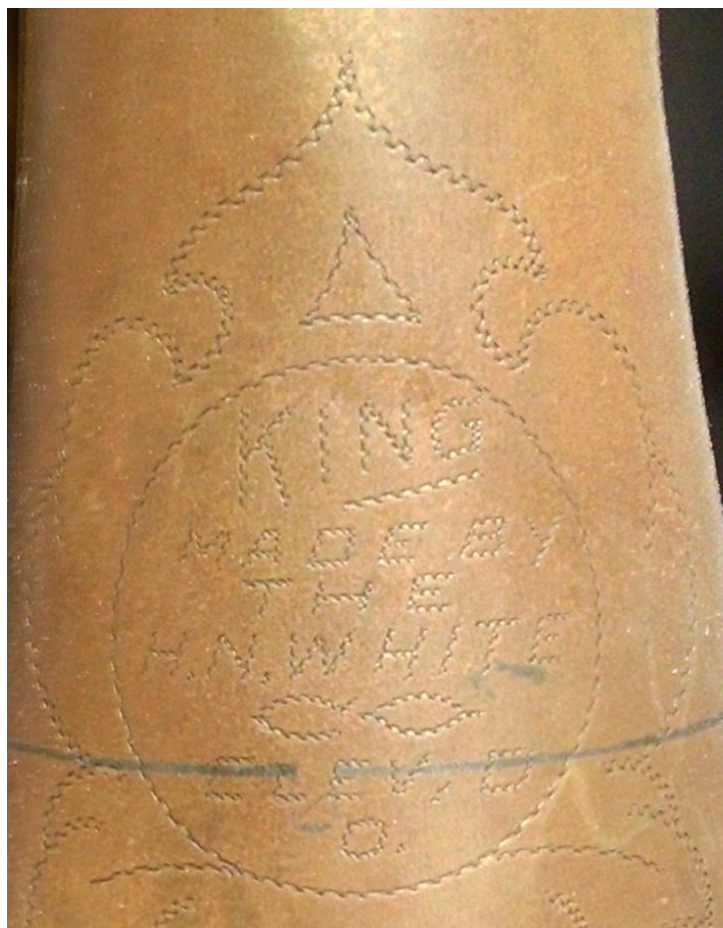
THE King Bugle is built to United States Army standards in key of G with slide change to F. Has the true international pitch, and its tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with regular band instruments. In tone, tune and pitch the King Bugle compares most favorably with our standard cornets and trumpets. The tone is brilliant. It carries well and with abundant volume. There are no stuffy, foggy or harsh spots. Tune is perfect. You get every note evenly and surely without favoring or effort. And it is easy to blow because of the fundamentally correct design. This bugle carries the official quality endorsement of the Boy Scouts of America. Sturdily built to last a lifetime. Comes packed in a secure two-piece carton with Instruction Book—"How to Play Bugle Calls." Scout model is exactly the same as regular model, but has the Boy Scout insignia engraved on bell.

PRICES	
Finish	
1.....	\$ 6.00
2.....	15.00
3.....	20.00
4.....	30.00
Artist Special.....	45.00

*For description of fit the
see page 1074*
**The A.M. White
COMPANY LLC**

The inscription on King official BSA bugles is on the bell, perpendicular to the bugle length, and states:

KING
MADE BY
THE H. N. WHITE CO.
CLEV'D. O.
LICENSED
OFFICIAL BUGLE
(First Class Badge)
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Inscriptions on the bells of a King Model #1074 Bugle and a King Model #1074B Licensed Official Boy Scout Bugle from the author's collection. While the inscriptions are different, the bugles are "exactly the same."

All bugles listed in BSA catalogs until 1956 were only available from BSA in a brass finish. However, a silver-plated or chrome-plated Official Boy Scout Bugle could sometimes be ordered from the manufacturer's catalog. In the 1927 King catalog listing on page 1-5, the basic brass Boy Scout Bugle cost \$6, the same price as in the BSA catalog, but the bugle was also available at prices of \$15 and \$20 for different silver-plated finishes and \$30 and \$45 for different gold-plated finishes. The basic 1927 price of \$6 is equivalent to \$81.59 in 2015 dollars, and the higher prices are equivalent respectively to \$204, \$272, \$408, and \$612 in 2015 dollars.

The photo below shows the King Model #1074B Licensed Official Boy Scout Bugle in the basic brass Finish #1 and silver plated Finish #2. There are close ups of the bells on the next page.



King Model #1074B brass and silver-plated bugles from the author's collection



The bells of a King Model #1074B brass and silver-plated bugle from the author's collection

REXCRAFT OFFICIAL BSA BUGLES

The Rexcraft ad in the June, 1925, BOYS LIFE magazine introducing their official BSA bugle states: It is with a great deal of pride that we announce to the Scouts of this country the "Rexcraft" Official Boy Scout Bugle.

For nearly six years, we have been supplying bugles to National Boy Scout Headquarters.

Realizing the vital importance played by good bugles in the joy and advancement of Scouting, and after most thorough tests, Headquarters decided to adopt our latest "Rexcraft" bugle as part of the official equipment of the Boy Scouts, if, by so doing, they could make it available to the Scout at a very much reduced price.

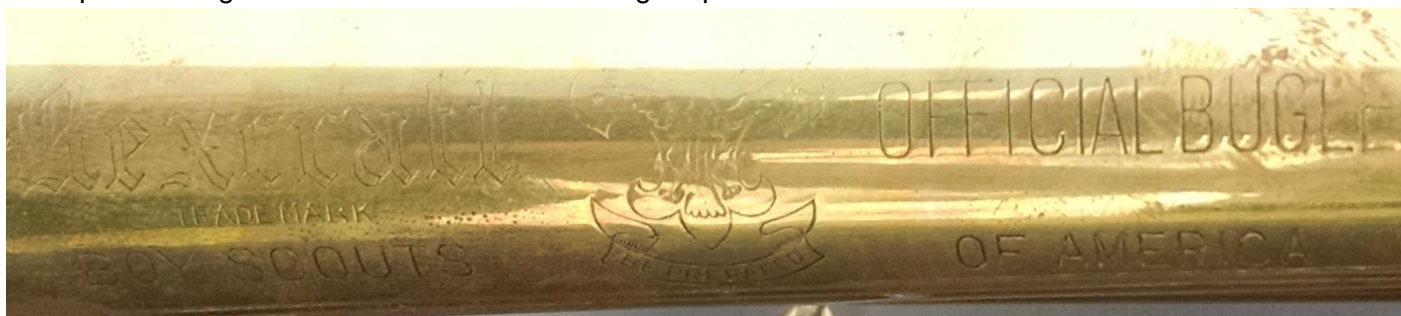
We have met this requirement and have been licensed to make the new "Rexcraft" \$7.50 bugle available to all Scouts as their official bugle for only \$4.25, plus postage.

It is a bugle that will meet the most exacting requirements of Scouting. In fact, it will be found worthy of the distinction its official designation has given it. Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich tone, highly polished brass, heavily nickel-plated mouthpiece attached with chain. Key of G with tuning slide to F. It conforms absolutely with the general specifications of the U.S. Army Regulation Bugle.

The inscription on a Rexcraft Official BSA bugle, which is located along the length of a bugle is:

REXCRAFT OFFICIAL BUGLE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

On the earliest Rexcraft Official BSA bugles, the two sides of the inscription are separated by the First Class badge and the inscription is on the side of the bugle. Eventually, the inscription was moved to the top of the bugle and then the Tenderfoot badge replaced the First Class



Early Rexcraft Official BSA bugle from the author's collection

CONN OFFICIAL BSA BUGLES

I have in my Boy Scout bugle collection two distinct varieties of the Conn Official BSA bugle. One is 15 inches long not including the mouthpiece. The other is 16 inches long not including the mouthpiece. The bells are both 4 ½ in diameter. The lead pipe (the part into which the mouthpiece is inserted.) is 2 ¼ inches long on the 15" bugle and 2 5/8 inches long on the 16" bugle. Both varieties have the same two engraved inscriptions.

On the side of the bugle along the tubing: is:

LICENSED
OFFICIAL --- BUGLE
BOY SCOUTS --- OF AMERICA

The three dashes show where the wording is separated by the First Class badge.

On the top of the bell at right angles to the bugle:

CONN
MADE BY
C G CONN LTD
ELKHART, IND
USA

I also have a third variety of Official BSA bugle that I am almost certain was manufactured by Conn. It is very similar to the 15 inch Conn Official BSA bugle and has an identical inscription on the side of the bugle identifying it as a licensed official BSA bugle. However, it does not have the inscription on the top identifying it as a Conn bugle. The many similarities and the fact that one without the Conn inscription sold a year or two ago in an ebay auction with its original Conn box, cause me to believe that the licensed official bugle, Boy Scouts of American without a brand name was manufactured by Conn.



The top photo shows the LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA inscription on a bugle that does not have the CONN inscription engraved on the left. The bottom photo shows the same LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA inscription on a bugle that does have the CONN inscription engraved on the left.

The photo below shows a side view of the no brand name official BSA bugle, the 15" Conn official BSA bugle and the 16" Conn official BSA bugle.



Compare those bugles to the sketch below showing the Conn Official BSA Bugle from an ad that appeared in the March, 1928, Boy Scout Handbook soon after the bugle was introduced. The length from the end of the bell to where the front end of the tubing starts and the distance the lead pip extends beyond the back end of the tubing look like the 16" version.



I have not discovered why Conn produced both a 15 inch and a 16 inch official BSA bugle.

Possible Explanation #1 - Conn manufactured the No. 1415 BSA bugle between 1919 and 1924 and supplied it to BSA with the BSA inscription engraved on the bugle but no brand name. In 1924, Conn either didn't enter the BSA official bugle competition or was not selected. There were apparently few enough No. 1415 bugles left in stock at that point that there was no need for Conn to do BOYS LIFE advertising in early 1925 like Rexcraft did. Once the closeout of the No. 1415 was completed in 1927, Conn introduced the No. 1277 Conn Official BSA Bugle, possibly enforcing a contract they had to supply bugles to BSA as a result of their production of the No. 1415 bugle. 15 inch Conn Official BSA Bugles could either be no-manufacturer's-name BSA bugles that were in the Conn factory and was mistakenly given the Conn inscription or part of a small run of Conn brand official BSA bugles produced using the old bugle design before the new 16 inch model was introduced.

Possible Explanation #2 - The May, 1925, BSA Catalog stated "The increasing importance of Scout buglers, as well as the desirability of providing for uniformity of the primary accessories of a Scout's equipment, has led to the adoption of a standard official bugle for the use of our membership." This means there was no "official licensed BSA bugle before 1925. The #1415 bugler, like other bugles sold by BSA before 1925 did not have a "Licensed Official Bugle" inscription. The first Official BSA bugle produced by Conn was the 16" variety in 1927. It could be ordered from Conn in a silver-plated version. In the early 1940s, as Conn was phasing out of official BSA bugle production, they ran out of the 16" model and applied the official BSA engraving to a 15" model they had been producing.

The 16 inch Conn Official BSA exists in a silver-plated version. I have never seen a silver-plated 15 inch Conn official BSA bugle.



Bells of the silver-plated and brass 16 inch Conn Official BSA bugles from the author's collection



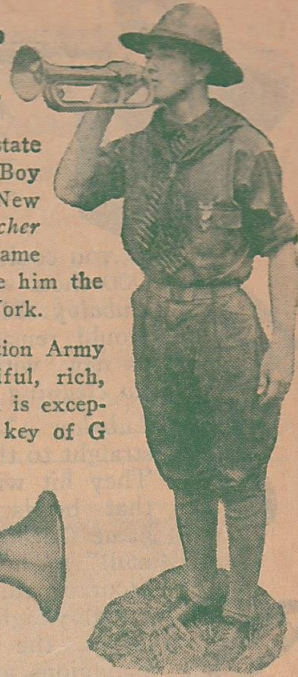
The silver-plated and brass 16 inch Conn Official BSA bugles from the author's collection

BUESCHER BUGLE ADS – While BSA sold different brands of official BSA bugles in the last half of the 1920s, they also accepted ads from other bugle manufacturers in *BOYS' LIFE* magazine and the Boy Scout Handbook. The Buescher Band Instrument Company of Elkhart, Indiana, had an ad for their "True Tone Regulation Army Bugle" in the March, 1927, and January, 1928, printings of the Boy Scout Handbook, followed by a full page Buescher bugle ad on page 634 of the January, 1929, 8th printing of the revised edition of the Boy Scout Handbook which is shown on the next page. It has a photo of a Scout playing a bugle, and states "Roland Jones, whose picture is shown in this advertisement, is a member of Troop No. 4, Oneida, New York. He has brought honor and distinction to his Troop by winning the state championship, which was open to all Boy Scout buglers throughout the state of New York. *In this contest Roland used a Buescher True Tone Regulation Army Bugle* – the same bugle he learned to play on – and it made him the most popular Boy Scout Bugler in New York. No Bugle can equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle for Scout work. It has a beautiful, rich, penetrating tone of unlimited volume, and is exceptionally easy to blow. It is built in key of G with slide to F. It costs only \$6. ..." There is a similar ad on page 412 of the March, 1929, issue of *BOYS LIFE*. It is interesting that the \$6 price was higher than the price of any official BSA bugle.

Wins State Championship With Buescher Bugle

ROLAND JONES, whose picture is shown in this advertisement, is a member of Troop No. 4, Oneida, New York. He has brought honor and distinction to his Troop by winning the state championship, which was open to all Boy Scout Buglers throughout the state of New York. In this contest Roland used a Buescher True-Tone Regulation Army Bugle—the same bugle he learned to play on—and it made him the most popular Boy Scout Bugler in New York.

No Bugle can equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle for Scout work. It has a beautiful, rich, penetrating tone of unlimited volume, and is exceptionally easy to blow. It is built in the key of G with slide to F.



It Costs Only \$6

*Roland Jones
Champion Scout
Bugler
New York State*

Get your Bugle now. You'll be surprised at the progress you can make in a few days. And, after you've mastered your bugle, it's only a step to the Trumpet and Cornet—and a place in the band. That's real achievement.

Write today for a copy of our illustrated folder. It shows the entire line of Buescher True-Tone Bugles and Drums, and gives the music for the Regulation Boy Scout Bugle calls. It's free!

BUESCHER BAND INSTRUMENT CO.

Everything in Band and Orchestra Instruments
2734 Buescher Block, Elkhart, Indiana

Buechner Bugle ad in the January, 1929, 8th printing of the revised edition of the Boy Scout Handbook

This might be the only example of a photo of an identified living Boy Scout in a BSA Boy Scout handbook. There are certainly not many.

KING OFFICIAL BSA BUGLE DISCONTINUED IN 1928 - Over the last half of 1927 and the first half of 1928, ads for Conn, King, and Rexcraft official BSA bugles, a number of them full page, appeared regularly in BOYS LIFE and BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS. Ads for the King Official BSA Bugle appear in March 1928 printings of the BSA handbook and the May and June 1928 issues of BOYS LIFE. However, the King bugle was not included in the Oct. 1928, BSA catalog. It had only lasted a little over 3 years. That means the King silver and gold plated Official BSA Bugles are almost certainly the rarest Official BSA Bugles. The No. 1065 bugle was also gone by then, so the BSA catalog was once again down to two bugles, this time the No. 1277 Conn and the No. 1538 Rexcraft.

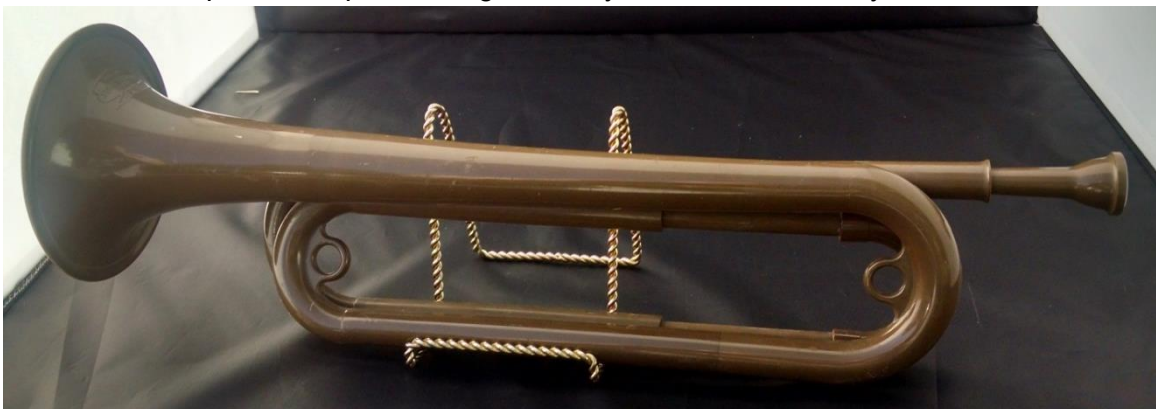
CONN OFFICIAL BSA BUGLE DISCONTINUED IN 1941/2 - The No. 1277 Conn and the No. 1538 Rexcraft continued to be part of BSA catalogs through the 1930s and into the early 1940s. The price of the Conn bugle remained at \$5 throughout the 1920s while the Rexcraft went from \$5 down to \$4, back up to \$4.50, and then down to \$3.95. The March, 1941, BSA catalog showed the No. 1277 Conn for \$5.50 and the No. 1538 Rexcraft for \$4.50. However, the 1942 BSA "Keep Strong for America" equipment brochure showed only one bugle, the No. 1538 Rexcraft. Rexcraft is also the only bugle in BSA National Supply ads in 1942 issues of BOYS LIFE, so the production of the Conn official BSA bugle probably ended in late 1941 or early 1942.

WORLD WAR II AND THE PLASTIC BUGLE - During WW II, a brass shortage caused the U.S. military to adopt a "plastic" bugle. The plastic used to make these bugles had the brand name Tenite and was manufactured by Tennessee Eastman Corporation, a Kodak subsidiary. That plastic bugle also replaced the brass official BSA bugle. The only bugle in the April 1944 BOYS LIFE and the Christmas 1945 BSA catalog is the No. 1531 Plastic Bugle. The description is "**Official Boy Scout Bugle** The same bugle now being used by the U.S. Army. Well made of plastic in an olive green finish with detachable plastic mouthpiece. Easy blowing and rich in tone. Built in Key of G with slide to F." I have never seen a plastic bugle with a BSA logo, so I believe the No. 1531 Plastic Bugle simply showed the manufacturer's name. I have an olive drab bugle with the inscription on the bell showing an eagle and the words:

AMAN
OFFICIAL BUGLE
MADE IN U.S.A.



I believe it is an example of the “plastic” bugle sold by the BSA but also by others.



Aman plastic bugle in the author's collection

Rexcrafft resumed production of official BSA bugles some time in 1946. The Jan. 1, 1947 BSA Price List, the Oct. 1947 BSA catalog, the 1948 BSA Christmas catalog and 1949 BSA summer catalog include both the No. 1538 Rexcrafft brass bugle and the No. 1531 plastic bugle. Soon after that, the plastic bugle was gone from the BSA catalog.

REXCRAFT IS ALONE 1950 TO 1988 - By the 1950s, Rexcrafft was the only manufacturer of official BSA bugles. In the first half of the 1950s, there was only one bugle in BSA catalogs, the No. 1538 Rexcrafft brass bugle. It was joined in the BSA catalog in 1956 by the No. 1537 Rexcrafft chrome-plated bugle. This was the same bugle except for the chrome plating. It was given the same catalog number the King Official BSA Bugle had 30 years earlier. This was the only chrome-plated bugle ever sold in the BSA catalog. Sometime after World War II, the inscription on Rexcrafft Official BSA bugles was moved from the side of the bugle to the top of the bugle and the BSA logo in the bugle was changed from the First Class badge with the scroll and BE PREPARED at the bottom to the Tenderfoot badge without the scroll and BE PREPARED at the bottom

The sequence of events appears to be:

1. The inscription was moved from the side of the bugle to the top of the bugle.
2. The chrome-plated bugle was added to the catalog.
3. The BSA logo in the bugle was changed from the First Class badge to the Tenderfoot badge.

I have never seen a chrome-plated Rexcrafft with the inscription on the side, so the change in the location of the inscription very likely occurred before the 1956 introduction of the chrome-plated bugle, I have chrome-plated Rexcraffts with both the First Class Badge and the Tenderfoot badge, so the BSA logo was changed sometime after the introduction of the chrome plated Rexcrafft bugle. The photo below shows brass and chrome-plated Rexcrafft official BSA bugles with the First Class badge on the left and the Tenderfoot badge on the right.



Chrome-plated Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle with First Class emblem



Chrome-plated Rexcraft Official BSA Bugles, First Class emblem on left, Tenderfoot emblem on right

In the 1970s, the prices of Rexcraft BSA bugles skyrocketed. Between the Winter 1971-72 catalog and the Fall 1981 catalog, the price of the No. 1538 brass bugle increased from \$13.75 to \$51.95 and the price of the No. 1538 chrome-plated bugle increased from \$18.50 to \$61.95. These much higher bugle prices, combined with the wide availability of used official BSA bugles, probably resulted in a major decline in sales of new official BSA bugles. As a result, official BSA bugles were eventually discontinued. The last appearance of the No. 1537 chrome-plated Rexcraft BSA bugle in a BSA catalog was in the Spring 1984 catalog. The Fall/Winter 1986-7 BSA catalog BSA and catalogs that followed stated that there was a "limited supply" of the No. 1538 brass Rexcraft BSA bugle. It last appeared in BSA catalogs in 1988. In 1989, there was no longer a bugle in BSA catalogs.



On the left, final versions of No. 1538 and No. 1537 Rexcrafts. On the right, final version of inscription on No. 1538 Rexcraft with the inscription on the top and the Tenderfoot emblem

ONE YEAR BUGLE APPEARANCES IN 2000, 2001, AND 2006 BSA CATALOGS

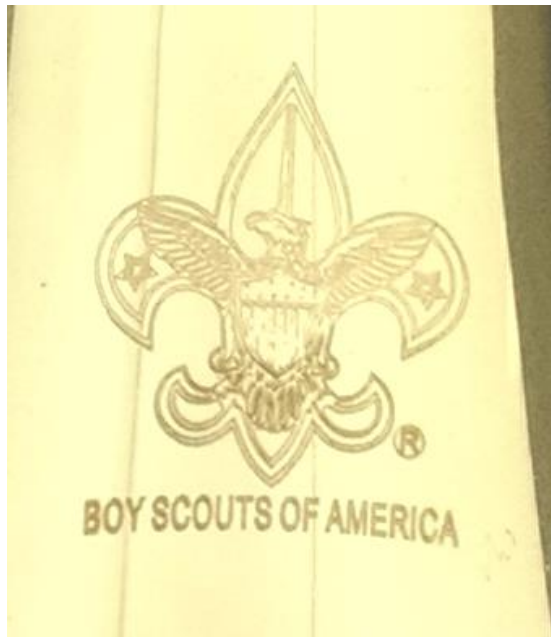
The Rexcraft official BSA bugle returned to the BSA catalog for one year in 2000. The 2000 BSA Catalog, has a section "Scout Classics Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting." On page SC 1 of that section there is the No. X11910 OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE, for \$98.75. As far as I can tell, this bugle is identical to the last version of the earlier No. 1538 Rexcraft Official BSA bugle except that there is not a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. Every official BSA bugle sold between 1925 and 1988 had a chain connecting the bugle and the mouthpiece. However, many Scouts who were both buglers and trumpet players preferred to use their trumpet mouthpiece when playing the bugle so they discarded the chain. That means the only way to be certain a Rexcraft brass Official BSA bugle with the Tenderfoot emblem bugle is No. X11910 and not the final version of No. 1538 is the label on the box. This No. X11910 bugle only appeared in the catalog that one year. The price was \$98.75, over an 800% price increase in the 32¼ years since the Sept 1967 catalog

In 2001, the BSA introduced the only official BSA bugle that commemorated a specific event. The No. Y26776 JAMBOREE OFFICIAL BUGLE commemorating the 2001 BSA National Jamboree. This bugle is on page J1 of the 2001 BSA Catalog in the section showing 2001 National Jamboree merchandise. "The official jamboree bugle is nickel-plated and in the key of G with a slide to F. Features an embossed jamboree logo behind the bell on top of the bugle." There is no chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. Neither the bugle nor the box show a manufacturer's name, but the characteristics of the bugle and box confirm that this bugle was made by Buglecrafter/Rexcraft just like the "classic" bugle sold the year before. The price was \$165.00.



2001 National Jamboree bugle from the author's collection

In 2006, the Boy Scouts of America reintroduced an Official BSA bugle to their catalog, No. 11705 for \$119.95. The bugle was supplied to BSA by Freeport Music Company, the seller of the "U.S. Regulation Bugle." The inscription was etched, not engraved. In response to a June, 2006, email message, the Freeport Music general manager stated, "The Official Boy Scout Bugle and the U.S. Regulation are identical except that the Boy Scout Logo is on one and U.S. Regulation logo is on the other. Both Bugles are made in China." The No. 11705 bugle only lasted one year as it was gone from the BSA catalog by the summer of 2007. The photos below show the No. 11705 Official Boy Scout Bugle.



BSA Catalog No. 11705 Official Boy Scout Bugle from the author's collection

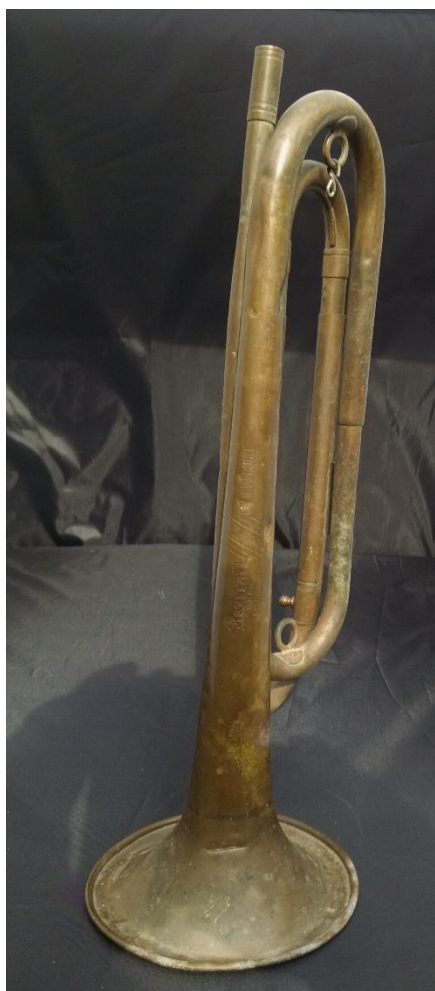
SPECIFICATIONS OF OFFICIAL BUGLES SOLD BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

I have in my collection examples of the no-manufacturer's-name Official BSA Bugle, the Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle, the King Official BSA Bugle, the shorter (rarer) and longer (more common) Conn Official BSA Bugles, the 2001 National Jamboree bugle, and the 2006 made-in -China official BSA bugle.. To compare some measurements of those bugles:

1. They all have bells with $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameters except what I consider the Rexcraft family which includes the Rexcrafts, the 2001 National Jamboree bugle which was made by Rexcraft, and the 2006 made-in -China official BSA bugle, which was made by a successor or Rexcraft. The bugles in the Rexcraft family all have a $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter bell. The difference in bell size between the bugles in the Rexcrafts family and the other official BSA bugles is very noticeable when bugles are held bell-to-bell.
2. They are all 15 inches long, excluding the mouthpiece, except the longer Conn, which is 16 inches long.
3. The "lead pipe" (the part into which the mouthpiece is inserted) is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long on the King and the bugles in the Rexcraft family, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and identical in appearance on the no-manufacturer's-name and the shorter Conn, and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches long on the longer Conn.

Section C – THE MYSTERY OF THE REXCRAFT “JAMBOREE” BUGLE

I have a Rexcraft bugle that I cannot place in time or determine whether it is connected to Boy Scouts.



Rexcraft JAMBOREE bugle from the author's collection

The top line of the inscription is exactly the same as on a Rexcraft official BSA bugle:

REXCRAFT	OFFICIAL BUGLE
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However, the second line, instead of saying

BOY SCOUTS	OF AMERICA
------------	------------

says

MADE IN	AMERICA
---------	---------

and in the space where the Boy Scout badge appears on all Rexcraft Official BSA bugles, this bugle has the word JAMBOREE at an angle with three lines above and three lines below. In addition, its bell of this bugle is 5 inches in diameter while all Rexcraft Official BSA bugles have 4¼ bells. Does the word JAMBOREE mean this bugle is connected to Scouting?

Section D – OTHER BUGLES SOLD IN THE U.S. ENGRAVED “BOY SCOUT” OR “SCOUT”

Boy Scouts in the United States were a major market for bugles and companies tried to capitalize on that market by selling BOY SCOUT model bugles. I have examples in my collection from four different companies. One is from Conn. Before their Official BSA bugles, Conn sold a piston bugle called the “Little Scout.” The Lyon & Healy “BOY SCOUT” Bugle was produced as a “Boy Scout” bugle by its manufacturer. I have examples in my collection of both brass and silver models. On the other hand Couesnon “BOY SCOUT REGULATION” bugles and Pitt brand “BOY SCOUT” bugles were almost certainly imported without the Boy Scout part of the inscription with the Boy Scout part of the inscription added later. The other “BOY SCOUT” bugles in my collection are:

CONN “LITTLE SCOUT” TRUMPET – This is a piston bugle. The piston could be used to change the key of the bugle. Piston bugles were used by early drum and bugles corps. They were not typically used by Scouts. However, the Conn “Little Scout” was among the first bugles marketed to American Boy Scouts. Page 51 of the August, 1919, issue of BOYS’ LIFE contains a Conn ad for “The Little Trumpet for Scouts with one valve.” According to the Conn Loyalist bugle page at <http://cderksen.home.xs4all.nl/ConnBugleModels.html> this model was sold from approximately 1919 to 1930 but was renamed the “One Valve Soprano Trumpet” in 1926. Perhaps the removal of the name “Scout” from this bugle was a condition for introducing the Conn Official Boy Scouts bugle in 1927.



Conn Little Scout Trumpet from the author’s collection

LYON & HEALY “BOY SCOUT” BUGLE – Lyon & Healy “Boy Scout” bugles have an ornate inscription. The words “Boy Scout” are engraved on the bell of the bugle. Under those words is a Boy Scout in uniform and below the Boy Scout are the words Lyon & Healy Chicago.



Lyon & Healy Boy Scout bugles from the author's collection



Engraving on Lyon & Healy Boy Scout bugles from the author's collection

The Lyon & Healy Company was another major musical instrument company of the early 1900s. Lyon & Healy is still in Chicago, but they now manufacture only harps, and they have no records of their early production. In the early 20th century, Lyon & Healy assembled some of the instruments they sold while purchasing others from companies like Holton and adding their brand name. According to an Oct. 2004 email message from Jari Villanueva, an expert on bugles and field trumpets, who has a great bugle web site at www.tapsbugler.com, "L&H made bugles in the 1920s including a model called the Scoutmaster but contracted out horns after 1930."

COUESNON “BOY SCOUT REGULATION” BUGLE - Couesnon was a major manufacturer of musical instruments located near Paris, France. The inscription on this bugle, in ornate lettering, is EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE PARIS, 1900, HORS CONCOURS, MEMBRE DU JURY, COUESNON & CIE, FOURNISSEURS DE L'ARMEE, 94. RUE D'ANGOULEME, PARIS, CHATEAU THEIRRY, 28, BOY SCOUT REGULATION. The words BOY SCOUT REGULATION are in a slightly different typeface than the rest of the inscription and were probably added after the bugle was imported. The lower photo shows that the number 28 is in the center of a “pineapple” or “grenade” symbol. According to Couesnon historians, that means 1928 is the year the bugle was manufactured. By 1928, BSA was actively protecting its rights to the term “Boy Scout” so there were probably very few of these bugles sold with the inscription BOY SCOUT REGULATION before BSA took some kind of action.



Couesnon BOY SCOUT REGULATION bugle from the author's collection

PITT BRAND "BOY SCOUT" Bugle - This bugle has PITT BRAND and BOY SCOUT in two lines on the bell and BOHEMIA on the shaft into which the mouthpiece is inserted. This means the bugle was imported from Bohemia, which makes up much of the present Czech Republic. In the early 1900s, Bohemia had many musical instrument manufacturers that exported instruments. After World War II, these companies were merged to form Amati, which remains a major producer of musical instruments. The bugle page at the Amati web site <http://www.amati.cz/en/amati-bugles> shows 10 different bugle models, almost certainly more than any other bugle manufacturer in the world. Model ABG 223 is their M1892 bugle.



Pit Brand Boy Scout bugle from the author's collection

Section E. OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLES IN PRIZE CATALOGS

The use of Boy Scout bugles as premiums has a long history. In the 1917 BSA catalogs, the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET was "Given for 9 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE." Two years later, in 1919, the No. 1065 BUGLE was "Given for four \$2.00 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE and 50¢." By the 1923 catalog, the BOY'S LIFE option for obtaining a bugle was gone.

Four later prize premium catalogs that include BSA bugles are:

Libby, McNeil, & Libby, Chicago - *How to Get BOY SCOUT UNIFORM and EQUIPMENT FREE with Libby Milk Labels* - "This catalog conforms in arrangement with the official scout catalog, with 1934 new low prices, subject to the regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. Each article listed in the official catalog is available under the Libby plan, except certain ones (badges and other insignia of scout membership or rank) which are prohibited." There are 28 pages. Page 21 includes fifes, drums, and bugles. The bugle listings are:

No. 1277 "Conn" Official Bugle	1000 large labels or 2000 small labels
No. 1277A Extra Nickel Silver Mouthpiece	120 large labels or 240 small labels
No. 1226 Bugle Cord and Bag - Cord	150 large labels or 300 small labels
No. 1235 Felt Bugle Bag	200 large labels or 400 small labels
No. 1538 "Rexcraft" Official Bugle	800 large labels or 1600 small labels
No. 1538A Extra Nickered Silver Mouthpiece	120 large labels or 240 small labels

Crowell Publishing Co. Springfield, Ohio - Book of Prizes No. 7 - Not dated, but appears to be from the 1930s. These prizes were in addition to sales commissions.

Page 10 is the "Official Boy Scout Equipment" page. Item No. 255 is a Rexcraft Bugle. It cost 100 Gold Certificates. A boy could obtain a Gold Certificate by selling 15 "Collier's" subscriptions, 5 "Woman's Home Companion" subscriptions, or 2 "The American Magazines" subscriptions.

Octagon Soap products, Silver Cow Evaporated Milk and other Borden premium milks, Kirkman Soap Products, Obelisk Flour, Luzianne Coffee and Tea, and Health Club Baking powder - circa 1939-40 - The certificate in the brochure worth 10 extra coupons expired Dec. 31, 1940. The No. S-1538 Bugle, which was the Rexcraft, cost 825 coupons. Most items contained one coupon, a few had two or three, and a 24 pound bag of flour had 12.

Free Scout Equipment from Post Cereals and Heinz Products - Catalog with red, white, and black cover expired Sept. 30, 1957, and catalog with yellow, black, and white cover expired Nov. 30, 1959. On page 8 of the earlier catalog, the No. 1538 Brass Bugle cost 2100 points. There is no illustration. On page 5 of the later catalog, the No. 1538 Brass Bugle is illustrated and cost 1990 points. A boy received 1 point for a Heinz label. A silverware coupon from a Post cereal box was worth 1 or 2 points depending on the size of the package.

Section F. BUGLE BAGS AND CORDS SOLD BY BSA

There were two BSA bugle-related items that did not automatically come with a bugle but could be ordered separately from the Boy Scout catalog for a period of over 60 years, a bugle bag and a bugle cord.

The May, 1917, catalog listing:

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Specify color \$1.25"

No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES "Nicely finished green felt bags of heavy material with handle for drum or bugle. 75¢"

In the Nov., 1919 catalog, the colors of the cord were listed:

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Colors: red, white, blue, yellow, and combination of red, white, and blue \$1.75"

In the Oct., 1932 catalog, The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD was "silk" instead of "mohair" and 75¢ instead of \$1.75.

At some point in the 20s or 30s, the white color option for the bugle cord was dropped and "yellow" was renamed "gold." White can't have been a popular color. I have never seen a white BSA bugle cord.

At some point between the Winter 1971-2 catalog and the Fall-Winter 1975-6 catalog, the single color bugle cords were dropped from the catalog and the only option was the red-white-blue combination.

The bugle bag and cord were still in the 1977 BSA catalog but were gone by 1981.

BSA Bugles on ebay sometimes have the green bag with them and less frequently have a cord with them. The single color cords were probably not as popular and are therefore rarer now. Besides two Red, White, and Blue cords, I have a Gold cord and a Red cord, but not Blue or White.

Section G. BUGLE INSTRUCTION BOOKS AND RECORDS SOLD BY BSA

BUGLES AND SCOUTING

BRUCE MCCREA

Chapter 3. OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL BUGLES OF OTHER NATIONAL SCOUT ASSOCIATIONS - Revised June 9, 2015

I have in my collection official bugles of the Girl Scouts of America (now the Girl Scouts of the USA) and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. I also have a very early bugle engraved THE BOY SCOUT with the name of a Toronto, Canada company, and a photo from an ebay auction listing several years ago of an unofficial H. N. White GIRL SCOUT bugle



From left to right, Canadian Scout bugle, Girl Scouts of America bugle and Boy Scouts of the Philippines bugle

The Canadian bugle has a conical bore while the Girl Scouts of America and Boy Scouts of the Philippines bugles have cylindrical bores until the bell.

A. OFFICIAL GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA BUGLE

There is a scan at <http://vintagegirlscout.com/musicdrum.html> from a listing in a 1924 Girl Scouts of America catalog for "Official bugle, trumpet model, with mouthpiece and chain. Good Tone. Every troop should have one for use at camp or on the hike. Low price for so fine an instrument.....\$5.00."

I have a 1938 catalog, GIRL SCOUT EQUIPMENT SPRING EDITION. On page 10 are:

The Bugle is of selected brass with mouthpiece of nickel silver. Key of G, tuning slide to F. Booklet included. **11-201** Wt. 1lb. 3 oz. ...**\$4.50**

The Bugle Booklet is on the care of the bugle with instructions for playing, contains notes for 17 bugle calls. **#11.202** **\$0.15**

This means the official Girl Scouts of America bugle was introduced by 1924 and discontinued after 1938. I would appreciate information on exactly when it was introduced and discontinued and what company manufactured it.



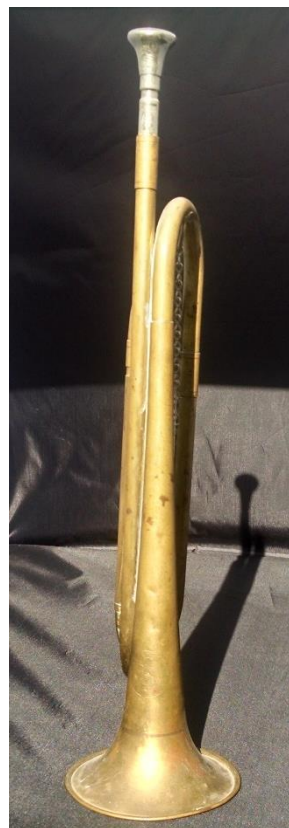
Photos of an official Girl Scouts of America bugle from the author's collection.

B. OFFICIAL BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES BUGLE

Under the 1898 treaty that ended the Spanish-American War, control of the Philippines was transferred from Spain to the United States. In 1923, during the period of American occupation, the Philippine Council of the Boy Scouts of America was established. While Boy Scouting in the Philippines was run by the Philippine Council, BSA, Boy Scouts in the Philippines were members of the Boy Scouts of America, so they earned BSA badges and used BSA equipment including official BSA bugles.

The Commonwealth of the Philippines Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Roosevelt in October, 1936. The Boy Scouts of the Philippines was founded the same month. Two years later, in 1938, all the assets and duties of the Philippine Council of the Boy Scouts of America were transferred to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines apparently continued the tradition of having an official Boy Scout bugle. The inscription is BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES - NATIONAL COUNCIL.



Photos of an official Boy Scouts of The Philippines bugle from the author's collection.

A June 8, 2015, reply to an inquiry to the Manilla Scout Museum stated about this bugle: "Based on this photo, it was used from the era of 1946-1976. That kind of BSP membership badge was used from 1946 - 1976. By 1977 they introduced a new membership badge with a traditional shield on it. That 1946-1976 BSP membership badge was reintroduced in 1992. With such a remarkable quality and almost perfected design and as well as the usage of the term National Council, I believe it is issued during those times (1946-1976). My Boy Scout Handbook 2nd edition published in 1953 mentioned selling of Bugle for 50 pesos (which was about \$35-40 in the 50s) at the back of the page where they advertised the National Supply Service's products."

C. UNOFFICIAL H. N. WHITE "GIRL SCOUT" BUGLE

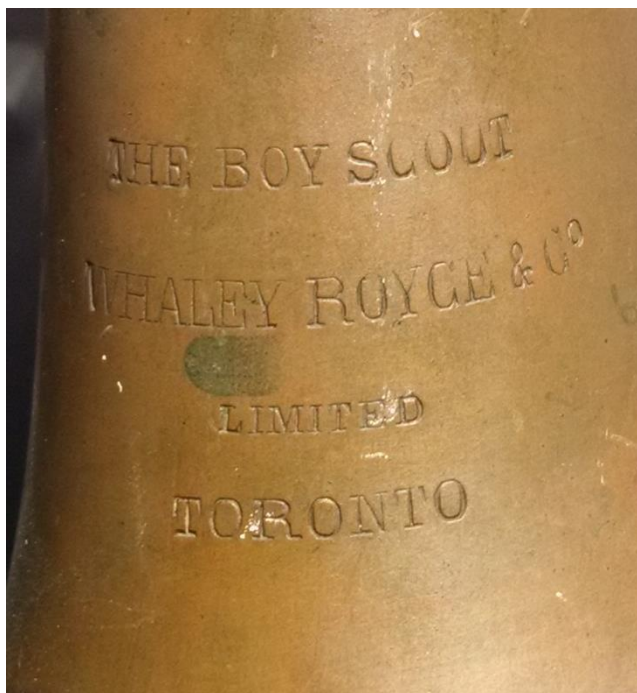
The photo below was copied from an ebay auction several years ago. "GIRL SCOUT" appears to have been added after the bugle was manufactured. I have never seen another bugle like it.



C. UNOFFICIAL CANADIAN “BOY SCOUT” BUGLE

I do not believe that there ever was an official Canadian Scout bugle. However, I have a bugle in my collection that was apparently marketed to Canadian Scouts. It has a conical bore and is engraved:

THE BOY SCOUT
WHALEY ROYCE & CO
LIMITED
TORONTO



Whaley Royce & Co bugle “THE BOY SCOUT” from the author’s collection

According to <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/whaley-royce-co-ltd-emc/>

“Whaley, Royce & Co. Ltd., Toronto instrument dealers and manufacturers, was founded in February 1888. From the beginning Whaley, Royce carried a stock of band instruments, pianos and organs, sheet music, and general musical merchandise; engaged in the manufacture of brass and percussion instruments; and published music. Whaley, Royce claimed to have built the first cornet in Canada in June 1888 and the first flute, piccolo, and clarinet in 1895. After 1920 only brass instruments and drums were made.”

I purchased this bugle on ebay about 15 years ago and have not seen another one there since.

Chapter 4. Merit Badges and Proficiency Badges - Revised May 31, 2015

4-A. THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'S BUGLING MERIT BADGE



BSA Bugling merit badges from the author's collection

Merit badges became part of the Boy Scouts of America program with the publication of the first fully American Boy Scout handbook in 1911, one year after the BSA was founded. Bugling was one of the original merit badges in the 1911 handbook and has been a merit badge ever since. Except for the addition of a green background color, the design of Bugling merit badge is the same now as it was in 1911. While the BSA issues separate "merit badge pamphlets" for most merit badges, Bugling merit badge has always been combined with Music merit badge in the MUSIC AND BUGLING merit badge pamphlet.

In 1911, there was one requirement to earn Bugling merit badge, "Be able to sound properly on the Bugle the customary United States Army calls."

At some point between early 1913 and the 14th printing of the handbook in June 30, 1916, that single requirement became, "Sound properly on the bugle the following calls: First Call, The Scout's Call, Reveille, Mess, To the Colors, Officers, Drill, Assembly, Recall, Fatigue, Church, Fire, Swimming, Retreat, Call to Quarters, Taps."

Of the bugle calls on that list, all but The Scout's Call and Swimming are U.S. Army bugle calls and can be found at <http://www.music.army.mil/music/buglecalls/default.asp> To listen to a bugle call and see the music, link at the name of the call on that web page. Swimming is a U.S. Navy bugle call. To listen to Swimming and see the music, go to <http://www.usscouts.org/mb/SwimmingCall.asp> Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of world Scouting, included the music for The Scout's Call on page 44 of the original January, 1908, edition of SCOUTING FOR BOYS. The caption below the music is "For scout master to call together his troop by bugle, or for scout to whistle to attract attention of another scout." On page 203, in the section WHISTLE AND FLAG SIGNALS, the book states, "When a scoutmaster wants to call his troop together he makes his bugler sound 'The Scout's Call'." When Baden-Powell wrote SCOUTING FOR BOYS, he had been a British cavalry officer for over 30 years. The music for "The Scout's Call" is identical to the British cavalry bugle call "March at Ease" that was in use during the

time Baden-Powell was a cavalry officer. To listen to the Scout's Call, go to http://www.farmersboys.com/MAIN/Bugles_Calls.htm, scroll down to the section **Field Calls for Mounted Corps** and link about halfway down that section at [March at Ease or Sit at Ease](#)

With the publication of the 38th printing of the handbook in September, 1945, The Scout's Call was deleted from the list of bugle calls required for Bugling merit badge. The rest of the bugle calls in the 1913 requirement are still required for Bugling merit badge.

Bugling merit badge still had that same single requirement until the publication of the 1989-91 BSA requirements book, when five new requirements were added, numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 below.

1. Give a brief history of the bugle.
2. Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.
3. Explain how to care for, clean, and maintain a bugle.
4. Sound the following bugle calls: First Call, Reveille, Mess, To the Colors, Officers, Drill, Assembly, Recall, Fatigue, Church, Fire, Swimming, Retreat, Call to Quarters, Taps.
5. Explain when each of the calls in requirement 4 is used.
6. Serve as bugler in your troop for three months.

In 2004, the requirements were changed again. Part b was added to requirement 2 and requirements 3, 4, and 5 were rearranged. The Bugling merit badge requirements became:

1. Give a brief history of the bugle.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.
 - b. Compose a bugle call for your troop or patrol to signal a common group activity, such as assembling for mealtime or striking a campsite.
3. Sound the following bugle calls: First Call, Reveille, Mess, To the Colors, Officers, Drill, Assembly, Recall, Fatigue, Church, Fire, Swimming, Retreat, Call to Quarters, Taps.
4. Explain when each of the calls in requirement 3 is used.
5. Explain how to care for, clean, and maintain a bugle.
6. Serve as bugler in your troop for three months.

On June 2, 2010, BSA announced they would discontinue Bugling merit badge as of December 31, 2010, and that there would be revised requirements for Music merit badge with bugling requirements offered as options beginning January 1, 2011. A new Music merit badge pamphlet was published which contained the new Music merit badge requirements and did not contain Bugling merit badge. However, they received so many complaints about this decision that they changed their mind and announced on August 4, 2010, that the decision to discontinue Bugling merit badge had been rescinded. A new Music and Bugling merit badge pamphlet was issued in 2011 containing the same requirements for the two merit badges as before. Because the decision was rescinded before it was to be put into effect, Bugling merit badge retained its status as being continually offered since 1911.

In 2012, there was a minor change to the requirements. The sentence "Play the call that you have composed before your unit or patrol." was added to requirement 2 (b). The current Bugling merit badge requirements are:

1. Give a brief history of the bugle.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.
 - b. Compose a bugle call for your troop or patrol to signal a common group activity, such as assembling for mealtime or striking a campsite. Play the call that you have composed before your unit or patrol
3. Sound the following bugle calls: First Call, Reveille, Mess, To the Colors, Officers, Drill, Assembly, Recall, Fatigue, Church, Fire, Swimming, Retreat, Call to Quarters, Taps.
4. Explain when each of the calls in requirement 3 is used.
5. Explain how to care for, clean, and maintain a bugle.
6. Serve as bugler in your troop for three months.

According to the BSA web site, there were 606 Bugling merit badges earned in 2014, up from 515 in 2013 but still fewer than any other merit badge. There were a total of 170,092 Bugling merit badges earned between 1911 and 2014, so there must have been several times 606 Bugling merit badges earned per year at the height of bugling's popularity.



Bugler playing THE SCOUT'S CALL on the cover of the 1920
MUSIC AND BUGLING merit badge pamphlet

3-B. THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA BUGLER PROFICIENCY BADGE



Girl Scouts of America Bugler proficiency badges - Images used by permission

Only 2 GSA proficiency badges ever had an oval shape, Bugler and Drummer

A round Bugler badge was created not long before the badge was discontinued. I have never seen one.

While the Boy Scouts of America never had more than two music-related merit badges, Bugling and Music, in the 1920s and 1930s, the Girl Scouts of America (now Girl Scouts of the USA) had four music-related proficiency badges, Bugler, Drummer, Minstrel, and Musician. The Bugler proficiency badge was introduced in the 1920 edition of SCOUTING FOR GIRLS. In the 1925 6th reprint, the single requirement, on page 501, is:

BUGLER

Play correctly as to notes and time the following calls and marches, and play at sight any calls selected:

1, First Call; 2, Reveille; 3, Assembly; 4, Mess; 5, Recall; 6, Fire; 7, Drill; 8, Officers; 9, Retreat; 10, To Colors; 11, To quarters; 12, Taps.

Reference: Cadet Manual, E. L. Steever, Lippincott.

These twelve bugle calls were also required for the Boy Scouts of America's Bugling merit badge. During the 20s and 30s, the BSA Bugling merit badge also required four additional bugle calls, The Scout's Call, Fatigue, Church, and Swimming

By 1934, GSA proficiency badge requirements had been moved to a separate GIRL SCOUT PROFICIENCY BADGE REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL AWARDS booklet. The Bugler requirement is on page 9 of that booklet:

BUGLER - Play correctly as to notes, time, and tone the following calls and marches, and play at sight any calls selected by the examiner: first call, reveille, assembly, mess, recall, fire, drill, officers, retreat, to colors, to quarters, taps.

REFERENCE - *Bugle Signals, Calls & Marches* by Daniel J. Canty (Ditson, 50 cents)

While the wording had changed slightly, the requirement was essentially the same.

Four years later, in 1938, the Girl Scouts of America's Bugler proficiency badge was discontinued.

3-C. THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION BUGLER PROFICIENCY BADGE



Boy Scouts Association Bugler proficiency badge from the author's collection.

In the first few decades after Boy Scouting was founded in the UK in 1907, Boy Scout organizations in member countries of the British Commonwealth were organized as branches of the UK Boy Scouts Association. As one example, Canadian Scouting was "The Canadian General Council of The Boy Scouts Association." During this period, Scouts in the UK and all these other countries including Australia, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand, earned the same proficiency badges. The Bugler proficiency badge was introduced by the Boy Scouts Association in 1909 and discontinued in 1935.

Required: A scout must be able to sound properly on the bugle the Scout's Rally and the following army calls: Alarm, Charge, Orderlies, Orders, Warning for Parade, Quarter Bugle, Fall in, Dismiss, Rations, 1st and 2nd Dinner calls (men's), Reveille, Last Post, Lights Out

I assume "The Scout's Rally" is the same as "The Scout's Call." You can listen to the British Army calls at http://www.farmersboys.com/MAIN/Bugles_Calls.htm

Proficiency badges were produced with both blue and khaki backgrounds. Scouts could wear either one. In 1927, the green circle was broken at the top and the bottom by the word BOY at the top and SCOUTS at the bottom. There should be a Bugler proficiency badge like that but I have not seen one.

3-D. THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION BANDSMAN PROFICIENCY BADGE

As far as I can tell, the UK Boy Scouts Association is the only national Scout association that ever offered a merit badge or proficiency badge for demonstrating the skills necessary to be a member of a drum and bugle corps. There were two badges, Bandsman for those under 15 and Leading Bandsman for those over 15. While the names of the badges use the word "Bandsman," the requirements were very specific to members of drum and bugle corps and the badge pictures a bugle and a set of drumsticks. The Bandsman badge was produced with both a blue and khaki background. Scouts could wear either one.



Bandsman proficiency badge with a blue background from an ebay auction

According to Peter Ford at the Scout Association Archives: "The badges were introduced in 1964 and withdrawn in 19568 with the introduction of the recommendations of the Chief Scouts Advance Party. The Musicians badge had requirements that would encompass the area of bands."

Bandsman



448A. (Corresponding badge for over 15 — Leading Bandsman).

- (1) Be a member of a band, either at school, in his Scout Group or other organisation, e.g., Salvation Army.
- (2) Demonstrate his proficiency in one of the following band instruments :—

SIDE DRUM

- (a) Perform routine maintenance of his instrument.
- (b) March well (not playing) with drum slung and sticks in the right hand.
- (c) Beat in 2/4 and 6/8 time.
- (d) Play "off" beats in 2/4, 6/8 and 3/4 time.
- (e) Play a good class roll in the following form :—
 - (i) 3 pace roll.
 - (ii) 5 pace roll.
 - (iii) 7 pace roll.
- (f) Take part satisfactorily in six different marches as solo Side Drummer.

TENOR DRUM

- (a) Perform routine maintenance of his instrument.
- (b) March well (not playing) with drum slung and sticks in the right hand.
- (c) Beat in 2/4 and 6/8 time.
- (d) Play "off" beats in 2/4, 6/8 and 3/4 time.
- (e) Play a good class roll in the following form :—
 - (i) 3 pace roll.
 - (ii) 5 pace roll.
 - (iii) 7 pace roll.
- (f) Show good stick drill when beating at the halt and on the march.
- (g) March over a distance, not less than 50 yards, beating a strict 116 paces to the minute.
- (h) March over a distance, not less than 50 yards, beating in *SLOW TIME*—65 paces to the minute.

BASS DRUM

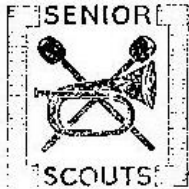
- (a) Perform routine maintenance of his instrument.
- (b) March well (not playing) with drum slung and sticks in the right hand.
- (c) Show good stick drill when beating at the halt and on the march.
- (d) March over a distance, not less than 50 yards, beating a strict 116 paces to the minute.
- (e) March over a distance, not less than 50 yards, beating in *SLOW TIME*—65 paces to the minute.

BUGLE OR TRUMPET

- (a) Perform routine maintenance of his instrument.
- (b) March well (not playing) carrying Bugle or Trumpet in the right hand with the bell on front hip, swinging left arm.
- (c) Play "Fall in", "Cookhouse", "Lights out", "Reveille" and "General salute".
- (d) Take part, satisfactorily, in six different bugle or trumpet marches.

Note.—Members of Scout Bands who have gained either the Piper or Music Maker badge, using an instrument not listed above, may wear as an alternative the Bandsman Badge.

Leading Bandsman



522A. (Corresponding badge for under 15 — Bandsman).

- (1) Be a member of a band, either at school, in his Scout Group or other organisation, e.g., Salvation Army.
- (2) Demonstrate his proficiency in one of the following band instruments :—

SIDE DRUM

- (a) Pass or repass the tests for this instrument as required for the Bandsman badge.
- (b) Play a good 15 pace roll.
- (c) Demonstrate :—
 - (i) The Flam.
 - (ii) The Drag.
 - (iii) The Paradiddle.

TENOR DRUM

- (a) Pass or repass the tests for this instrument as required for the Bandsman badge.
- (b) Play a good 15 pace roll.
- (c) Demonstrate good stick drill, i.e. maintaining a good rhythmic beat in quick and slow time, whilst at the same time introducing spectacular "stick twirling".

BASS DRUM

- (a) Pass or repass the tests for this instrument as
- (b) Demonstrate good stick drill, i.e. maintaining a good rhythmic beat in quick and slow time, whilst at the same time introducing spectacular "stick twirling".

BUGLE OR TRUMPET

- (a) Pass or repass the tests for this instrument as required for the Bandsman badge.
- (b) Play: Last Post, Retreat and Tattoo (First Post).
- (c) Play any four of the following calls :—
 - (i) Double
 - (ii) Band
 - (iii) Warning for Parade
 - (iv) Fire Alarm
 - (v) Second Dinner
 - (vi) Fall-in
 - (vii) Sick Call

Note.—Members of Scout Bands who have gained either the *Leading Piper or Musician Badges*, using an instrument not listed above, may wear as an alternative the *Leading Bandsman Badge*.

BUGLES AND SCOUTING

BRUCE MCCREA

Chapter 8. London's All Clear Boy Scout Buglers of World War I - Revised July 2, 2015

Possibly the highlight of more than 100 years of bugles and Scouting was the way London Boy Scout buglers served their country by sounding the "All Clear" after World War I air raids. This chapter is a discussion of those "All Clear" buglers. The parts of newspaper and magazine articles and books below that relate to Boy Scout buglers are highlighted in bold.



Photo of a London Boy Scout All Clear Bugler from the web.

The article "THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS - BEATING SWORDS INTO WOODEN STAVES," from a collection The Times of London published of their coverage of the 1929 World Jamboree, begins with a paragraph describing the role English Boy Scouts played in World War I.

FOR some of us the memory of the War begins and ends with Boy Scouts. There recurs the vision of a hot dusty after noon of early August, 1914. Walking under a railway bridge that crosses a suburban common, we have come suddenly on a tent inhabited by half a dozen small Englishmen, grave, aloof, responsible, but not overweighed by their new importance. Like so many thousand others, they had been preparing for a holiday camp when they were diverted to the direct service of the country; and now they are guarding the bridge, as they will continue to guard it for months and years. **Then an echo rings in one's head; it is the shrill reverberation of a Scout's bugle sounding the "All Clear." which had become familiar to London after many an air raid and was now by a very British turn of symbolism announcing that the Armistice had been signed.**¹

From David Bilton's THE HOME FRONT IN THE GREAT WAR:

Probably the most prominent work of the Boy Scouts was that undertaken under the control of the police. At the start of an air raid 'the all-clear boys' would assemble at the police station with their bugles and cycles and wait for the raid to end. When it did, they would cycle off into the dark, whatever the time or weather, to blow the all-clear. However, this was not their only role during air raids. Many were employed as orderlies and messengers, others dealt with the wounded and helped rescue people from wrecked houses and assisted in controlling gas pipe leaks, with many being presented with medals for their work during the raids.²



Photo of Boy Scouts with bugles and bicycles at a Police Station from the web

In the Great War Archive at the University of Oxford, is a contribution by Clive Temple of "Memories of an 'All Clear Boy' of G Division Metropolitan Police." Mr. Temple states, "This transcription relates to notes left to me by my grandfather, Stanley George Bird (1904-1998). These were written in the 1990s. I have the photograph which he refers to in the story."

When the First World War started, during the initial air raid that we experienced, we took cover in the church hall. My sister played the piano. Up to day tunes to cheer people up but the minister wanted her to play hymns. The next raid we took shelter in the G Division Police Station, Kings Cross Road W-C-1.

In 1915 I was in the Scouts that was why I became an "All Clear" bugler. When the air raids started, the raids' warning was given by the police on bikes blowing their whistles, carrying placards on their chests and backs which said "take cover".

Later on my family took cover in the coal cellar which was under the pavement but I kept on at the police station as an all clear bugler. The scouts became active after the raids. We went in an ambulance with a policeman and kept blowing two notes on the bugle

I remember when a bomb dropped in Kings Cross, the amazing thing was that out of the blue the Salvation Army came from nowhere, giving out tea from their vans. Throughout the war we scouts collected newspapers for the war effort. Also we went on Kings Cross railway and in our small way we helped the forces as much as we could. We received a couple of awards.

In 1915 I think it was Lt. Robinson who shot a Zeppelin down and how we all cheered.

At the end of the War, I and three others blew the last "All Clear" on the steps of the police station and then my family took our piano into the street for a knees up. Afterwards we enjoyed ourselves in Trafalgar Square until past midnight.

In 1919 the buglers went to Shepherds Walk, City Road, London, and had a photo taken with the Inspector of Police and a notice board saying,

"All Clear. Boy Scouts who rendered valued services to the public during the air raids over London from 31st May 1915 to 11 November 1918."

Then we made our way to Buckingham Palace.³

The first date on the notice board, May 31, 1915, was the evening the first Zeppelin air raid reached London. A section of an article "The First Air Raid on London" by Bill McCann on the web site "The Story of London" describes this attack:

The atmosphere in London during the early months of World War I was tense and rumours abounded. The metropolis remained out of range of the German airships which had been in civilian use before the war and had many well-known defects. But in the early hours of the morning of June 1st. 1915 the Zeppelin arrived... This was a completely new and terrifying concept and one for which the Capital was not at all prepared. There were no effective air defences. Searchlights could be used to pinpoint the airships and aeroplanes attempted to get high enough to bring them down. The warning system at this time was also primitive. The alert was sounded by policemen who wore placards and blew whistles in the streets. **The all clear was sounded by Boy Scouts who cycled around the City blowing bugles.**"⁴

From the online group history of the 8th Wimbledon Scout Group:

During the War years of 1914 to 1918, the Troop, in common with other Scouts throughout the Country, did their bit of War Service. Our Scouts were on duty at the Council Depot and the Fire Station day and night under the guidance of Scoutmaster Arnold from the 6th Wimbledon Troop. One of their jobs was to call up men of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance when Air Raids were pending and afterwards when all was over to go out on bicycles sounding the all clear on their bugles.⁵

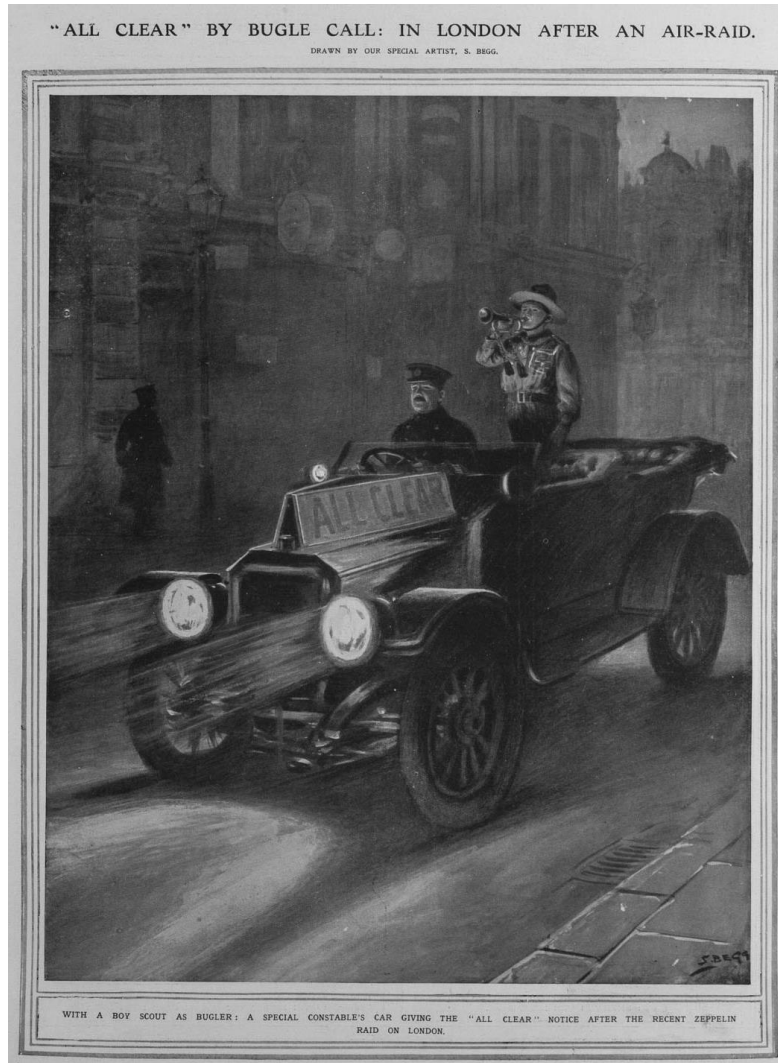
By 1917, German planes were also participating in the London Air Raids. The Nov. 2, 1917, New York Times, has an article cabled from London on Nov. 1 titled "British Air Barrage Checked 30 Raiders" which includes the section:

After the experience of former raids, the public now takes to cover as soon as the warning of an enemy approach is given, with the result that before the guns set up their curtain of shrapnel the streets were deserted except for a few policemen.

A feature of the raid was the appearance afterward of 300 or 400 Boy Scouts as buglers, sounding the "All Clear" signal through the streets. After experimenting with motor horns and whistles, neither of which proved satisfactory, the authorities decided that the French system of bugles was the most effective. The question of where to get buglers was answered by Boy Scouts volunteering in numbers.⁶

Some "all clear buglers" were driven around in vehicles, but many of them rode their bicycles. It is interesting to envision all clear buglers holding their handlebar with one hand and their bugle with the other hand and playing the all clear while riding their bicycles. However, they almost certainly stopped each time before they played the all clear. While the majority of the "all clear buglers" were Boy Scouts, members of other youth groups such as the Boys Brigade, also served in this position.

Page 493 of the Oct. 27, 1917 issue of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS has an article "ALL CLEAR BY BUGLE CALL: IN LONDON AFTER AN AIR-RAID" Most of the page is the illustration on the next page captioned "WITH A BOY SCOUT AS BUGLER: A SPECIAL CONSTABLE'S CAR GIVING THE ALL CLEAR NOTICE AFTER THE RECENT ZEPPELIN RAID ON LONDON."



From the October 27, 1917, issue of THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

The article at the bottom of the page is:

On October 18 it was announced that the authorities had decided to give the "All Clear" signal in London after air-raids by means of bugle calls. It was not long before the new system came into operation, in connection with the raid of October 19-20, when took place the Zeppelin attack on London which ended so disastrously for the raiders during their return voyage over France. After the enemy had left, the first "All Clear," blown by men, or in some cases by Boy Scouts, in motor-cars, was given in the London area soon after the official notification had been issued. Our drawing shows one of the cars, driven by a Special Constable, with a Boy Scout blowing a bugle in the back. A notice bearing the words "All Clear," on both sides, is also attached to the bonnet of the car."⁷

It is strange that this article dates the first appearance of the All Clear buglers two and a half years later than all the other sources.

An illustration titled "BOY SCOUT BUGLER GIVING WARNING OF AN AIR RAID ON LONDON" appeared on the cover of the June 8, 1918 issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

The Scout is shown standing on the right running board of a moving car with one foot in front of the other. He is playing his bugle while holding it with his right hand. His left hand is not visible, but he is apparently using it to hold on to the car. Even with that, his position looks very precarious, especially considering 1918 vehicles and roads. He is wearing a helmet and appears to be in his Boy Scout uniform. On both sides of the hood are signs with the TAKE COVER side facing out ready to be switched later to ALL CLEAR.



Cover of the June 8, 1918 issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

The article accompanying the illustration is:

The Air-Raid Alarm

AN organization of automobile owners in London has rendered valuable service to the public in connection with the raids of the German air pirates - a service depicted on our cover this week. When warning of an air raid is received in the city explosive sky rockets are fired from various points. The automobiles then drive through the city streets, honking their horns to attract attention. On each side of the car, above the motor hood, a large sign is carried, on which is printed the warning, "Take Cover."

When the danger is passed the reverse, side of the sign is shown, which reads, "All Clear." A Boy Scout bugler who rides in the car also assists to inform the citizens that the Huns have departed.

The drivers of the cars wear a uniform which include a metal helmet similar to that worn by the soldiers in the trenches. This latter is worn for protection against shrapnel from the British anti-aircraft guns, which usually provide the raiders with more or less special entertainment.⁸

This illustration is probably not historically accurate. The "Take Cover" sign is facing out. I have found no evidence that the all clear buglers played a bugle call for "take cover." The accompanying article only states that they played the "all clear." Playing "take cover" would have required them to wait at police stations for possible air raids. There is no indication that they did that. While there were other ways to signal "take cover," a bugle call was important for "all clear" because people were underground during air raids and couldn't hear those other signals. It is also unlikely that the Boy Scouts stood on the running board as the illustration shows. The article states that the bugler "rides in the car." However, the illustration and article do show that by 1918 news of the "all clear" Boy Scout buglers had spread around the world.

All the photos and illustrations of all clear buglers I have seen show them wearing their Scout uniforms. That was apparently a requirement of the position. The all clear buglers must have had their Scout uniforms ready to put on at very short notice.

I have found no source that states the notes the "all clear buglers" played. There is no British Army or Navy bugle call for "All Clear." Stanley Bird's memoirs state that the Boy Scout buglers "kept blowing two notes on the bugle." The Royal Navy has a two note bugle call for "Carry On" shown below.⁹ Because this is a two note bugle call that was already being used to mean "carry on as before," I believe "Carry On" is very likely the bugle call that was used for "All Clear."

Carry On



As Stanley Bird stated in his memoirs, these “all clear buglers” were honored after the war. Below are photos of a bugle that was presented to one of those London Boy Scout buglers with the engraved inscription:

PRESENTED
TO
R.CHURCHMAN
FOR AIR RAID SERVICES
IN
THE GREAT WAR



Bugle presented to R. Churchman for Air Raid Services in the Great War from the author's collection

In 2008, I received a reply from the archivist at Gilwell Park in England to an inquiry about this bugle stating, "I have looked at the bugle on ebay and it looks genuine to me. We have one that is similar."

Even with the honors the All Clear buglers received after the war was over, there must also have been a letdown as illustrated in the cartoon below that was in an issue of Punch two weeks after the armistice provided by Michael Loomes, the founder of the Story of Scouting Museum in the UK <http://www.storyofscouting.org.uk/>



"What's the matter with your 'Erbert?"
"E's not been 'imself lately – not taking any interest in life now there's no chance of air raids. You see, 'e used to blow the 'All clear."



Footnotes

1. From The Times The World Jamboree of the Boy Scouts 1929 reproduced at <http://www.pinetreeweb.com/1929-times02.htm>
2. Bilton, David, THE HOME FRONT IN THE GREAT WAR, Leo Cooper, London, 2003, page 190
3. From University of Oxford Archives at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/item/5698>
4. <http://www.storyoflondon.com> is apparently no longer there.
5. From <http://www.8thwimbledon.org/Group-history> where the 8th Wimbledon cites as their source "an article written in 1959 by the then Rover Scoutmaster, Mr. C. Meier. His account of the Group's history was written as a three-part serialization to be published within the Group Magazine, Woodsmoke, on the occasion of the Group's Golden Jubilee - 50 years."
6. New York Times, Nov. 2, 1917, from http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?_r=2&res=9D01EEDC113AE433A25751C0A9679D946696D6CF
7. Illustrated London News, New York, Nov. 10, 1917, page 493
8. Scientific American, June 8, 1918, cover and page 521.
9. From Bugle calls as used in the Royal Marines and Royal Navy at http://www.royalmarinesbands.co.uk/reference/Bugle_Calls/Index1.html