Organization of Civil War Armies

Key to Symbols

= 100 men, or a Company

= 1,000 men, or a Regiment. Each regiment is led by a colonel.

= 5,000 men, or a Brigade. Each brigade is led by a brigadier general.

= 15,000 men, or a Division. Each division is led by a major general.
= 45,000 men, or a Corps. Each corps is led by a major general (Union side), or a lieutenant general (Confederacy).

**10 Companies (1,000 men) Make Up a Regiment.**

Led by a colonel and known by number and state. At the beginning of the War, Grant was the colonel of the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry (Governor Yates's Hellions).

**5 Regiments (5,000 men) Make Up a Brigade.**

Led by a Brigadier General. Grant was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers in August of 1861.
3 Brigades (15,000 men) Make Up a Division.

Grant was promoted to major general of volunteers in February of 1862 followed by a promotion to major general in the regular army after his victory at Vicksburg in July of 1863.

3 Divisions (45,000 men) Make Up a Corps.

A Corps is led by a major general.

Two or three corps formed an Army. Grant, in 1864, was placed in charge of all the Union armies and promoted to lieutenant general by President Lincoln. Union armies were usually named after rivers. Grant refused to command all the Union armies from a desk in Washington and took up his headquarters with the Army of
the Potomac. His most trusted general, William Tecumseh Sherman, was in charge of the Army of the Tennessee.