

*December 15, 1863 - U. S. C. T. recruiting difficulties in Middle Tennessee*



COLUMBIA, December 15, 1863.

Maj. Gen. G. H. THOMAS, Cmdg. Army of the Cumberland:

Permit me to make the following report: I started out last Friday, 11th instant, from Calliak's with 100 mounted men of the Eighteenth Missouri, Col. Miller's regiment, under order of Gen. Dodge, commanding Left Wing of Sixteenth Army Corps, to press able-bodied negroes, horses, and mules, leaving one team to each family, the horses and mules to be turned over to Col. Miller, the negroes to be put in my regiment now forming at this place, and upon arriving here to-day after a five days' hard scout, Col. Mizner, commanding the post, without, any knowledge or consent of me, released 13 negroes and sent them back to their owners.



I ask, for information, what is to be done in this case?

THOS. J. DOWNEY, Col. Fifteenth U. S. Colored Troops.



*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 31, pt. III, pp. 414-415.