

the new camp was a battalion of the Fourth Illinois, the balance of the regiment following a few days afterward. The Sixth Missouri was the last to leave Camp Cuba Libre, a battalion of that regiment remaining here until December 9, to guard property. The final closing of Camp Cuba Libre was on January 11, 1899, when the last soldier departed; by a strange relation of names he was Capt. R. E. Lee, of the Sixth Missouri.

St. Johns River Fortifications

The survey of the river made by General Wilson in March, 1898, resulted in a decision to erect emplacements for 8-inch breech-loading rifles at St. Johns Bluff, and the construction of these works was begun early in April. On April 15, the United States flag was hoisted there, to speak defiance to the Spanish, who from this same elevation made the charge upon the French fort, Caroline, 333 years before. St. Johns Bluff had now witnessed the flags of five nations flying over nearby fortifications, in turn French, Spanish, English, Spanish, Confederate, and United States—a historic spot indeed.

Great difficulty was experienced in getting the big guns to the top of the bluff. A "tram road" was laid up the slope and they were pulled up by power. The works were completed about the time Cervera's fleet was destroyed, the event which made it plain that no heliograph or wig-wag message would ever be sent from the signal station on Mt. Cornelia, Fort George Island, to the battery on St. Johns Bluff that a Spanish fleet was off the bar.

*The battery at St. Johns Bluff was dismantled in October, 1899, and the guns sent to Pensacola; but the concrete works and ammunition bomb-proofs still remain in almost perfect condition. The position is accessible for automobiles and is well worth a visit, not only for the historic interest, but also for the magnificent view obtained of the St. Johns River; for today, as Laudonniere said in his time, "A man may behold the meadows divided asunder into isles and islets, interlacing one another, a place so pleasant that those who are melancholic would be enforced to change their humour".

In July, 1898, the channel between St. Johns Bluff and the mouth of the river was mined with dynamite mines, and navigation practically closed for a while. The test station