

brass buttons down the front, high caps with pompons, pants of blue cloth and white pants for warm weather. In May, 1860, the ladies of the town presented the company with a silk flag, made by themselves, and a street parade was held in celebration of the event.^b

Upon the withdrawal of Florida from the Union, the Jacksonville Light Infantry offered its services to the Governor and was the first company officially accepted by the State. Detachments were sent to the mouth of the St. Johns River to erect fortifications at that point. Four cannon from Fort Marion at St. Augustine were put on log carts and hauled to the beach below Mayport, to a high sand dune west of the "Run". Here a fort of palmetto logs was built by the company under the direction of Captain John L'Engle, a retired U. S. Army officer. This post was named Fort Steele, in honor of Captain Steele;^b above it floated another flag, made and presented by the ladies of Jacksonville—the company's battle flag, inscribed "Let us alone".^c The company was ordered to Fort Steele in detachments, until April, when all were ordered there.^b About this time, a company known as the Duval County Cow Boys was formed and occupied St. Johns Bluff.

The long roll was sounded but once at Fort Steele. One night the sentinel observed an object coming in that he thought was a launch from a Federal gunboat. He gave the alarm and the company was hastily drawn up on the beach to repel the invader, but it proved to be a pile of brush floating in with the tide.^b

The Jacksonville Light Infantry was mustered into the Confederate service as Company A, Third Florida Infantry, August 10, 1861. It was stationed at Fort Steele until early in March, 1862, when on the approach of the Federal squadron, the guns were spiked and the company returned to Jacksonville under orders. Most of the companies comprising the Third Florida Regiment then went to Cedar Key, and in May, 1862, the entire regiment for the first time was brought together at Midway, Gadsden County, where it was reorganized and sent to Mobile for several months. Early in August, 1862, it went to Chattanooga. It went through the Kentucky campaign and was engaged in the battle of Perryville, October 8, 1862, where it lost heavily in officers and men. The First Florida was also engaged and the losses were so heavy