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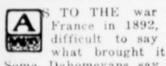
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ILLUSTRATED FEATURE SECTION August 24, 1929

Sensational Story of France's Greatest Colonial Fighter And the Negro King Who Sat on a Throne of Beaten Gold

By J. A. ROGERS, Paris, France.

(Continued from last week.)



spheres of influence by the formance. European powers, that Dahomey had been given to Other sources say it was the was, war began when Behantrate into the interior for the treaty he had made with commerce, on the one hand, France null and void. This keep them out.

Behanzin, Hard-Headed.

due to the fear and jealousy the port. of King Toffa who had a difhigh rank in his army. Then in Dahomey. Behanzin's hard-headedness the French government, it is

and certainty of victory. In TO THE war with 1890 he had scored a victory over a French expedition and France in 1892, it is had made France pay him difficult to say just tribute for the use of the what brought it on, port of Cotenou. He was Some Dahomeyans say that stronger now and perhaps he Some Dahomeyans say that stronger now and perhaps he Africa had been divided into felt he could repeat the per-

It perhaps may have been France, and that France due to a combination of all sought a pretext for conquest, these causes, but whatever it desire of the French to pene- zin is said to have declared and the determination of treaty, ceding Cotenou to Behanzin on the other, to France, had been made in 1868 by his father, Gli-Gli and ratified in 1890, France agreeing to pay 20,000 francs Again it may have been gold annually for the use of

Behanzin, it is said, set all ficult role to play between intervention aside. Diplomthe British and the French, acy failed. When the French Perhaps, also, it may have envoys arrived at his palace been due to fear of the of Dioxene with presents French colonies near-by at from M. Etienne, secretary of seeing Behanzin getting so Colonies, it is said that Be-powerful. Germany had been hanzin set them aside brusquesupplying him with modern ly, and said scornfully, rifles and five Germans held "We have cases full of that



The Dahomeyans, from the tops of palm trees, would shoot down the French or crawl also it may have been due to When told of the system of through the bushes to throw themselves courageously on the foe.

said that he took his pipe original.

come and drive them out with coast I will cut down all the ing heaps of dead. my army.

Dodds Chosen.

and in the first few engagements Behanzin was victor. English, Portuguese can come stiff fighting took place at ious. France realized that into my kingdom. But the Dogba. Here General Dodds, she had a difficult enemy to French I will drive them who always fought beside his deal with. To march into away. I am the friend of the men, had one of them killed Dahomey with its absence of whites; ready to receive at his side. roads, its thick forests, them when they wish to swamps, burning sun and come to see me, but prompt There was but one man cap- wish. able of the task, the veteran General Dodds.

company of artillery and a of Cotenou. talions of Senegalese sharp- the morning of September 19, foe. shooters and got five hundred a part of the Dahomeyan At Atchoupa, during a warriors and thousands of army hurled itself with ter- fierce storm, a force estibearers from King Toffa.

for Behanzin.

Behanzin Defies Dodds.

This done, he wrote a let-

palm trees. I will poison It was evident that it was them. If they have not what going to be a stubborn fight War began shortly after, to eat let them go elsewhere, to get to Abomey, Behanzin's Every other nation, German, capital. A few days later,

"Koia! Koia! Dahomey!"

Blacks and Whites Together.

But General Dodds well him to surrender. But the the African warrior to attack "The Dahomeyans showed a tenacity and bravery unheard of. But their latter replied defiantly: / early in the morning. He was

"France wishes war! Let ready. The black and the from his mouth and laughed her know that I am stronger white men in his force reloud and long, saying that he and more determined than ceived the enemy with shot much preferred his own my father. I have never done and bayonet. The Dahomeywhich was quicker and more anything to France that she ans, beaten back, returned should make war on me, I with incredible eagerness to "Dahomey," he asserted, have never gone to France the charge, but the French, "has never ceded Cotenou to either to take the wives or bringing their artillery and France, and if the French do daughters of the French. If machine guns into action, not get out at once I will they wish to take the sea- forced them to retreat, leav-

Dahomeyans Deadly.

So far the French had been lack of water was not easy, to make war whenever they meeting only detachments of Behanzin's army. The main On this, Gneral Dodds or- portion with the king himself eneral Dodds. dered a bombardment of the was at Allada. Marching On May 5, 1892, he left Dahomeyan coast, and land-thither, General Dodds lost Bordeaux with several com- ing a few days later, cap- many of his men. The Dapanies of white marines, a tured and burned the town homeyans, from the tops of palm trees, would shoot down battalion of black sharp. Starting into the interior, the French or crawl through shooters. Stopping at Sene- he captured the towns of the bushes to throw themgal, he picked up other bat. Zobo and Takou. Early in selves courageously on the

Arriving off the Dahomey Opening the attack with a 2,000 amazons hurled itself coast, he blockaded it with volley from their repeating at the French. The women his warships and prevented rifles, they rushed in with fought with supreme courage, the landing of a ship filled their swords and knives letting themselves be killed with arms and ammunition shouting their battle cry of rather than retreat. Clinging to the legs of the French troops they brought them to earth and poignared them.

> Says an eye-witness or that fights (Continued on page two)

PRINCE CLAIMS THRONE



Prince Kojo Tovalon, claimant to the throne of Dahomey, taken in the Argonne Forest, 1915. He is a doctor and a ter to Behanzin calling on knew that it was the habit of lawyer, as well as being graduated from the University of