

The Story of France's Greatest Colonial Fighter and the Negro King Who Sat on Throne of Beaten Gold.

(Continued from page one)

dash was broken by the discipline and the unerring marksmanship of the Senegalese sharpshooters. The entrance to the fort bore witness of the rage with which the Dahomeans fought. It was heaped with the corpses of men and women warriors.

At Puguessa, General Dodds came up with the main portion of the Dahomeyan army, commanded by the king in person. It numbered some 10,000 warriors and had ten field pieces. But here again, after three hours of terrific combat the Dahomeyans were forced to retreat under the artillery fire and the machine guns. Nevertheless, some of the amazons succeeded in reaching to within ten yards of the French squares.

Germans Captured

Four of the five German captains in the Dahomeyan army were taken prisoners, and were at once ordered shot by General Dodds.

At Diebe and Kana, the amazons again fought to the last moment, some of them falling dead almost at the very feet of the French. But again it was the old story of primitive men going down before civilized ones, in spite of the former's valor and persistence. A few days later, General Dodds captured Dioxene, Behanzin's largest palace.

Behanzin Desires Peace

By this time Behanzin desired peace. Not only had he been fighting the French but two of his neighbors as well, the Egbans and the Gasus. He sent three envoys to General Dodds offering to pay an indemnity of \$5,000,000 and to yield all the customs duties of the port of Cotonou. He also sent presents of cattle, gold and two silver hands of superb Dahomeyan work, bidding General Dodds take one of the hands and cross it with his own in sign of friendship.

In return General Dodds sent biscuits and preserves and said he was willing to make peace on condition that Behanzin permit him to hoist the French flag in his capital at Abomey.

Behanzin promptly refused and the fight went on. After a stiff battle, the French captured Abomey, but they found only ruins; for on retreating, Behanzin had set fire to the town, destroying his palace with its wonderful art treasures.

Gold Thro' Unharm

His throne of beaten gold was undamaged, however. Later this was given to King Toffa, in recognition of his loyalty.

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With Behanzin now in flight, General Dodds named his brother, Agoli Agbo, king in his place and told the Dahomeyans that henceforth they were under the protection of France.

With order restored, he sailed for France. But hardly had he got there when news came that Behanzin, gathering more men, had started the war again.

Behanzin Again Routed

Returning, he again defeated Behanzin and on January 24, 1894, with the last remnants of his army gone, Behanzin, tracked like a wild beast, walked coolly one morning into the French camp, his long pipe in his mouth and gave himself up to Captain Prive.

The latter gave him a glass of rum which "he drank as an ordinary mortal." He was instantly sent to the coast from where he was shipped to France. He was later sent into exile in Martinique, French West Indies.

For many years he sought permission to return to his native land. This was promised but never granted. He was at last permitted to live in Algeria where he died at Bieda in 1906, at the age of 63.

In 1928, his son, Prince Ouanilo Behanzin, removed his body to Dahomey, he, himself, dying on the return trip to France.

Prince Claims Throne

A nephew of Behanzin by marriage, Prince Kojo Tovalou Houenou, claims the Dahomeyan throne. Prince Kogo showed this writer certified documents establishing his descent from the dynasty deposed by Behanzin's ancestors three centuries ago. Prince Kojo visited America some years ago.

For his exploits General Dodds was given the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, while the press and the nation sang his praise.

Soon after he was made Inspector-General of the Marines, and after

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a tour of France, was given command of the 20th Army Corps. Later he was made Inspector-General of all the troops in the Colonies, and appointed a member of the Superior War Council.

General Dodds Honored

War threatening in Indo-China, he was sent there, being appointed Commander-in-Chief of the forces there.

Some time later, he was retired. But with the coming of the World War and its great heroes, this man who had done more than any other for the conquering and securing of France's vast colonial empire, was aged 80, and was buried with great ceremony, Marshals Foch, Joffre, Pétain and others being at his funeral.

Aux Ecoles, French journal, commenting on his death, said: "For many persons, General Dodds had been dead a long time. Few men

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