

## **FRENCH TAKE TAFRAN ON RIFFIAN FLANK**

***Make Tactical Advance and Fight  
Off Raids of Moors at  
Amfez and Ainleuh.***

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 18.—To-night's reports from Morocco indicate that the Riffian menace is greater in the Eastern sector once more, where Abd-el-Krim's forces have been holding on grimly to the terrain reached at the culmination of their surprise descent into French territory three weeks ago.

Colonel Cambays, who is commanding this sector, is facing the enemy's preparations for an offensive on two lines, first in the Branes sector, which lies Northwest of Taza, the second in the Msoun sector, northeast of Taza. The Riffians are occupying the northern bank of the Oued Msoun stream, which is a confluent of the Moulouya, one of Morocco's most famous rivers. If the offensive develops as the observers from airplanes report it will be a double threat to the railroad between Tsea and Fex toward the West and the railroad between Taza and the Mediterranean, toward the East.

This sector is far from the Riffian bases, but due to the inviolability of the Spanish zone the French cannot bomb the long lines of communications through the foothills of the Riff Mountains. This gives the Moors plenty of leisure for bringing up supplies unhindered.

In the West the French are strongly entrenched at the Bibane massif and on the plateau on the opposite shore.

This is enabling General Colombat to send forces forward along the southern banks of the Ouergha River, and today they passed through Fez-el-Bali and occupied Tafran, directly threatening the Riffian flank if they attack the Ouezzan sector.

In the centre Colonel Freydenberg is occupying the hilly region in the upper Ouergha Valley and reports that the enemy is fortifying the Senhadja Mountains which is in the Spanish zone and through which the enemy is receiving supplies for his eastern sector. The Riffian attacks on this sector have been fruitless although violent. French positions here are excellent for defensive purposes and constitute a wedge between the two kings of the enemy—on the Ouergha and Msoun fronts.

Abd-el-Krim's forces have been reconnoitering toward Taounat and Bab Ouender today and launched an unsuccessful attack against Amfez and Ainleuh, indicating their appreciation of the full value of this sector.

Reports from Morocco recount many acts of bravery by the French troops and their leaders. General Cambay has been constantly at the head of his troops throughout the operations.

General Colombat's cap was shot off his head by enemy bullets. Colonel Freydenberg's horse was shot from under him, causing his fall. As the enemy rushed to capture him, he killed several with his revolver and drove the remainder away.

A platoon of engineers throwing a pontoon bridge across the Ouergha River died fighting and refused to surrender.

Daily airplane reconnoitering patrols report that all of the surrounded French outposts are still holding out despite terrible hardships and constant attacks of the enemy for two or three weeks.