

RIFFIAN DRIVE IS CHECKED.

Attempt to Renew Offensive Against Fez Discovered in Time.

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PARIS, June 26.—By quick and adroit tactics the French command succeeded in checking what appeared the beginning of a new and decisive Riff offensive against Fez. The enemy's move against the Moroccan capital was discovered on Wednesday evening, when French outposts reported the appearance of Riff contingents in the vicinity of the route to Fez at Ain Aicha and Touanat. These contingents were moving south of the outpost of Ain Maatouf and pushing into the high valley of Loban.

After burning several villages, the Rifflans attacked some automobile camions, their intention evidently being to extend operations toward Soukel, which is about forty-five kilometers from Fez and the most important French fort north of that town, and thus cut the road between Fez and Taza.

It was also evident the Arabs hoped the garrison would not be sufficiently strong to meet the attack.

Yesterday morning the Riff advance guard boldly made its appearance at Ain Maatouf. The French command, grasping the significance of the Riff movement, at once dispatched a sufficient number of men with camions and artillery to the point of danger.

The French made such an effective demonstration that the enemy advance guard withdrew to cover and the Riff advance ceased.