

THE TIMES, Wednesday, July 28, 1886

THE NEW HEBRIDES

PARIS, July 27.

According to letters from New Caledonia, the first French detachment started for the New Hebrides on the 30th of May and a second two days later. The force consisted of 200 infantrymen and 60 artillerymen. The preparations were made with great secrecy, and were not divulged till a few days after the departure of the mail for Australia. A vessel which had started for the Loyalty Isles was overtaken and stopped, on suspicion of its having secret orders to go to the New Hebrides with instructions from the British Consul to the two British men-of-war cruising there. The New Caledonians were enthusiastic at the departure of the French expedition, their belief being that it was destined to take possession of the New Hebrides.

Among the charges against the natives are those of shooting at a French colonist and wounding him in the hand and of the poisoning of another colonist. Incidents of this kind are constantly obliging the ships to interfere, and a German vessel, the Albatross, recently fired on a party of natives on the beach and killed 15 of them, burnt two villages, and then went on its way..

PARIS, July 27.

Negotiations are proceeding between the British and French Governments in regard to the withdrawal of the French troops from the New Hebrides.

(end of my scan of the article....maybe a Melbourne article follows)