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## Document 1643B

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### Letter from Fr. Bobadilla to the Fr. General, dated Manila 6 August 1643

*Sources: ARSI Phil. 11, fol. 235-239v; RAH 9/3693 (formerly Jesuit tome 120, n° 20, 6 leaves); cited in B&R 53: 296 as: "Carta del P. Diego de Bobadilla, de la compañía de Jesus, al P. General de la misma, en que le hace una detallada relación del viage que hizo desde Mejico a las islas Filipinas con 44 PP. mas cuyos nombres consigna... sucesos del viaje, y buen recibimiento que les hicieron en las islas."*

*Notes: Another copy of this letter used to be in the same tome at RAH, as part of doc. n° 27, but it too is no longer there. The General of the Jesuits was then Muzio Vitelleschi (1615-1646). The narrative of Fr. Bobadilla's voyage from Cadiz to Veracruz in 1642 is given in one of his letters, dated Mexico 1 February 1643; it is reproduced in the Colección de documentos inéditos, vol. 2, fol. 384 et seq.*

### Detailed narrative of the voyage he made from Acapulco to the Philippines in 1643

#### Original text in Spanish.

*Iter P. Didaci Bobadillæ in Philippinas.*

*N.P. General.*

*Pax Christi &c<sup>a</sup>*

*En esta proseguire, dando quenta a V.P. de nuestro viaje, y navegacion como lo hice en la passada de 1º de febrero, que escrevi desde Mexico de donde todos los que estavamos destinados para Filipinas, salimos repartidos en quatro tropas de a doce cada una; y començo la primera a caminar a 2 de Março y la ultima en que yo iba salio de la dicha Ciudad de Mexico a 7 de Março. En todo el camino por tierra, que es casi de noventa leguas, guardamos todo el buen orden Religioso, que fue possible y aunque era Quaresma, y las possadas estavan muy desproveidas de lo necessario, uvo tan buena prevencion, que pudimos siempre guardar los ayunos de la Iglesia.*

*A 19 del mesmo mes de Março llegue yo con mi tropa a Acapulco, a donde ya estavan todos Juntos, y a donde el P. Simon Cotta con otros dos padres que con tiempo avian ydo a este puerto a prevenir nos lo necessario en el, avian caydo malos, y assi el Padre Simon Cotta, pues se avia de quedar por Procurador desta Provincia en la nueva España, parecio conveniente, que se retirasse a mejor temple, y assi se fue a Mexico. De*

*los demas recién llegados à este puerto algunos cayeron enfermos y decuidado en special uno que fue el Padre Juan del Campo, al qual apreto de suerte un recio tabadillo que casi nos quito las esperanças de su vida, y yo trate de dexar le en tierra, en que avia mas que medianas dificultades, porque en Acapulco por el mal temple, y desamparo, parece moralmente fuera cierta, su muerte, si nosotros nos embarcamos, dexandole a el en tierra: pues llevarle a mejor temple quarenta leguas de alli, era mas difficil; porque ni avia, quien lo executasse, y en el camino fuera mas sin duda el morir. A esto se añadia el notable desconsuelo, que el Padre tenia en que le dexassemos en tierra, y assi me resolví de embarcarle como se hiço llevandole los nuestros en braços hasta la playa, y con la alegría de verse embarcado en pocos días estuvo bueno, como tambien lo tuvieron los demas que se embarcaron emfermos.*

*Aunque la nao Capitana era mucho maior que la Almiranta, con todo esso jamas me incline a embarcarme en la primera, sino en la segunda, y vióse ser inspiracion de Dios por las muchas comodidades que tuvimos en la Almiranta de que carecieramos en la Capitana. Escribo el Señor Virrey de Mexico a los offisios [sic] Reales de Acapulco, apretadamente, que nos diessen toda buena commodidad para nuestro pasage, y ellos lo hizieron muy bien, por que fuera de darnos una muy capaz despensa para los caxones de libros, y todo el matalotaje, nos dieron todo el alcaçar de babor y estribor. [fol. 235v] Una choza particular para mi, con que hicieron todo que les fue possible. Pero el Almirante llamado Martin de Arreguia, a quien por derecho toca la camara y corredor de popa, nos dio liberalmente la mitad de lo uno, y de lo otro dividiendolo con tablas y esta mitad era tanto como una camara y corredor de otras naos, por ser la nuestra muy grande y capaz. Con esto nos acomodamos muy religiosamente, porque en el alcazar de la vanda de babor hizimos enfermeria para los muchos, que fueron cayendo enfermos, como luego dire. En la popa pusimos asientos al rededor, con que se vino à acomodar el refef[c]torio muy bien, y el corredor servia de cocina y repartidor. Y en todo lo que nos tocava de noche se acomodavan bien los nuestros para descansar y entre día tenian desahogo en la popa y corredor.*

*Dispuestas pues todas las cosas en la forma dicha, nos embarcamos a 31 de março Martes Santo y a 2 de Abril que fue el Jueves Sancto cantamos Missa en la mar y conforme el uso de la Iglesia comulgaron todos nuestros sacerdotes con sus estolas, y despues comulgaron nuestros Hermanos, y casi toda la gente de la nao, que eran hasta quatrocientas personas de varias naciones. Acabada la comunión levaron anclas y dieron a la vela y el día siguiente, que fue viernes Santo, pusimos un Christo en puesto y yo predique algo de la pasion, para consuelo de los navegantes.*

*El orden y concierto que en toda la navegacion guardamos fue cassi el mesmo que en la passada del mar del Norte; y el que V.P. nos encomendo en la Instruccion que nos dio. A la mañana al reir del alva se tocava con campanilla a levantar. Luego se tocava a oracion, y esta acabada se dezia una Missa los días de trabaxo y dos los días de fiesta, para que ninguno de la nao la dexase de oyr. Esta missa se yba repartiendo por todos los sacerdotes por su orden, y todos comulgavamos, los días que no la deziamos, y los Hermanos dos o tres vezes cada semana con grande edificacion de toda la nao. Luego*

*se tocava à almorçar conforme el uso de los navegantes, que las dos comidas son para ellos almuerzo y comida a las tres de la tarde. Mas antes de almorçar deziarnos de comunidad el Itinerario. A la mesa se leya un libro Spiritual a primera, y a segunda. Antes de anochecer deziarnos con todos los de la nao las Letanias de la Virgen y luego cantavamos la Salve y acabada se tocava a las Ave Marias. Despues todas las noches juntava un Padre hazia la proa la gente en special los muchachos y les enseñava la do[c]trina y misterios de la fee, y contava un exemplo de que gustavan mucho y los Sabados avia sermon para toda la nao. Aviendo ya anochecido bien, por no olvidarnos del exemplo de nuestro P. S. Francisco Xavier, tomava yo una Campanilla y en voz alta echava las animas pidiendo a todos, las encomendasen a N. Señor, para que las sacase de penas de Purgatorio, y que tambien encomendasen a Dios los que estaban en peccado mortal, y el buen sucesso de nuestro viaje: En comenzando a tocar esta Campanilla, avia grande silencio en la nao, poniendose todos a rezar. Hize esto unos quinze dias, mas luego los Padres con su mucho fervor se opusieron a quererlo hazer y assi por consolar a uno, le dexe este officio que le hiço con mucha pun- [fol. 236] -tualidad hasta el fin de la navegacion. En fin se tocava al examen antes de comer, y despues antes de acostar, y de este modo hicimos toda nuestra navegacion.*

*Mas antes de passar adelante, quiero poner una lista de todos los que nos embarcamos, que fuimos quarenta y siete, y de las Provincias de donde vinieron por aver avido alguna mudanza de los de la primera navegacion del mar del Norte.*

### *De la Provincia Romana*

*P. Domingo Balverde, sive Vuaibel*

*P. Julio Antonio Job.*

### *De la de Milan*

*P. Francisco Casella*

***P. Bartolome Besco***

*P. Carlos de Lemos, sive Lemuggi.*

### *De la de Napoles*

*P. Francisco Paliola*

*P. Carlos de Valendia, sive Receputo.*

### *De la de Sicilia*

*P. Luis Spinelli*

*P. Vicente Damian*

*P. Francisco Messina.*

### *De la de Toledo*

*P. Gregorio Balero*

*P. Xavier Riquelme*

*P. Tomas de Andrade*

*H. Francisco Fernandez.*

*De la de Castilla*

*P. Luis Pimentel*  
*P. Bernardino Alissin*  
*P. Pedro Tellez*  
*P. Francisco Deça*  
*P. Juan del Campo*  
*P. Francisco de Virotia.*

*De la de Andalucia*

*P. Juan Davila*  
*P. Pedro de Fontiveroz*  
*P. Matias de Montemayor*  
*H. Alfonso Perez*  
*H. Ignacio Francisco.*

*De la de Aragon*

*P. Pedro Cope*  
[fol. 236v]  
*P. Gonçalo de Cisneros*  
*P. Luis Fuster*  
*P. Francisco Combes*  
*H. Francisco Ferrer.*

*De la de Cerdeña*

*P. Juan Domingo Aresu*  
*P. Juan Bautista Zurreddo*  
*P. Diego Siluano*  
*P. Francisco Lado*  
*H. Garino Solinas.*

*De la Germania Superior*

*P. Jorge de Angulo, sive Ec Kart [i.e. Eckhart]*  
*P. Ignacio de Monte, sive Gualtero Sonnemberg.*

*De la de Austria*

*P. Adolfo de Pedrosa, sive Stainhauser [sic]*  
*P. Josef Sanchez, sive Zanzini.*

*De la de Gallo belgica*

*P. Nicolas Denia, sive Degne*  
*P. Francisco de Burgos, sive Boursim.*

*De la de Mexico*

*P. Pedro Carlos*  
*P. Lorenço de Horta*



*H. Juan de Landa*

*H. Ambrosio de la Cruz*

*H. Juan Ortiz.*

*Eramos segun esto por todos quarenta y siete, y de trece Provincias diferentes y con ser assi, no podre significar bien la grande Union y Caridad que en todos huvo, sin aver ni el mas minimo disgusto entre nosotros, sino un alma y un corazon en todos, cosa en que repararon mucho los de la nao, y se edificaron no poco y aun tomaron exemplo dello, pues en toda la nao con aver tanta gente, y de diversas naciones, y aver tantos soldados[,] marineros, grumetes, y passageros era tal la conformidad en todos que no vi pendencia, ni riña ninguna, sino mucha conformidad, ni oyi juramentos ni maldiciones, ni avia Juegos, ni otras cosas que son tan ordinarias en otras semejantes naos, y galeones; que pareze milagro. Las cavezas y mandadores de la nao se adelantavan en esto, teniendo entre sí grande Union y amistad y dando buen exemplo en todo y avien-dose con nosotros como se fueran Hermanos de la Compañia haziendonos mill caridades en quanto se ofreçia, y parece, que andavan [fol. 237] buscando ocasiones de hazer nos las con lo qual todos ybamos contentos y alegres[.] La frequencia de los sacramentos en los de la nao fue mucha, pues en todas las fiestas era gran numero. El que avia de comuniones y las fiestas principales celebravamos con mas solemnidad de missa cantada &ª.—A 3 de Maio dia de la Invencion de la Cruz adornamos en publico una hermosa cruz con un Relicario en que avia lignum crucis y a la tarde, cantando los Hymnos desta festividad la dimos a adorar a todos los de la nao, que lo hicieron con grande devocion.—*

*A 4 de Junio fue dia del Corpus Christi y celebramos la fiesta solemnemente; ade-reçoçe la nao con pavesadas, colgose de buenas colgaduras[.] La plaça de armas, dipu-sose la artilleria y arcabuceria; cantamos missa y luego llevamos en procession el Sanctissimo Sacramento con muchas hachos y cirios encendidos, cantando el Pange lingua, y haziendo salva la artilleria y arcabuzeria, y gran parte de la nao comulgo este dia y fue de grande alegria para todos.*

*El dia del B. Luis Gonzaga 21 de Junio hizimos tambien grande fiesta, pero acaba-da començo una recia tempestad con un furioso huracan que andubo todos los rum-bos de la aguja, sino es dos; duro tres dias y nos dio cuydado, por cogernos cerca de tierra. La Capitana se vio obligada a cortar los arboles, y estuvo a peligro de perderse por la mucha agua, que hacia. Nuestra nao Almiranta resistio mejor y la Vigilancia de los oficiales de la nao, y en especial del Almirante y Pilotos fue notable, con que sali-mos felizmente deste peligro. Mientras duro nosotros nos ocupavamos en acudir a nue-stro Señor, y hazer algunas plegarias, con que tubo buen fin aunque nos apartamos este dia de la Capitana y no la vimos mas, hasta el dia ybamos a tomar Puerto.—*

*A pocos dias de navegacion reconvicimos el viento, que aunque era favorable para navegar, era pestilencia para la salud y assi fueron cayendo enfermos los de la nao, que casi ninguno se escapo. Tambien los nuestros fueron enfermado y en tanto numero, que casi toda la navegacion fueron los enfermos doze o catorze y muchos recayeron tres y quatro vezes, y pocos fueron los que se escaparon de caer; fueron cinquenta y*

*tantos los enfermos nuestros, contando recaydas y con ser tantos, y en la mar, se les acudio con tanto regalo, y caridad como se podia hazer en un collegio muy opulento, y lleno de oficiales[.] señale tres Padres enfermeros que con un moço acudian a nuestros enfermos y de quando en quando los mudava, porque no peligrasen todos. Acudian con tanta caridad y trabajavan con tanto fervor que fue de grande edificacion a todos. Yo tambien cay enfermo y de peligro de suerte que me timieron y yo quede muy obligado a los nuestros por ver el gran sentimiento que hacian de que les faltasse.*

*Para los enfermos de la nao avia señalado otros tres Padres que acudieron con notable fervor, y caridad a lo espiritual y temporal administrandoles los santos sacramentos de la penitencia, eucaristia y entremauncion, acudiendoles con [fol. 237v] El regalo possible de comida y bebida assi de nuestro matalotaje como de lo que para esto dava el Almirante cuya liberalidad en esta parte es muy digna de alabanza. Por esta buena disposeeion fueron menos los muertos de lo que se tenia[.] **murieron en nuestra nao treinta y tres personas; y los cinco fueron sacerdotes de nuestra Compañia** todos de tan aventajada virtud, y Religion y tan amados de los nuestros y de los seglares, que ubo general sentimiento en todos. Y yo le tube tan grande, que no lo sabre encarecer ni hallava consuelo, sino en que era voluntad de nuestro Señor, y juicios que no alcanzavamos, que tan buenos sujetos y de quien tanto necesitavan estas Islas, nos faltasen quando avian de entrar trabajando, y ayudando a los demas. Dire aora lo general, que son todos cinco se hizo reservando hablar en particular dellos, para el fin desta carta en muriendo uno de los nuestros, revestido de sacerdote, le poniamos sobre un bufete en la plaça de armas con candelas encendidas, y cantando haciamos el oficio de la sepultura, para echarle a la mar, que es el entierro de los navegantes. Acompañavan los nuestros y los de fuera el cuerpo con cirios y candelas encendidas y al echarle se disparava una pieça de artilleria que es la honrra, que en la mar se haze, quando muere una persona de quenta, y el Almirante no quiso dexar de hazer esta a los nuestros. este dia se ponian dos altares y se decia un buen numero de missas.*

*En la Capitana lo pararon peor; tubieron grandes trabajos y necessidades y falta de todo, fuera del peligro en que se dieron de anegarse. Murieron se[te]nta personas, y dellos seis Padres de Santo Domingo de solos veinte y dos, que se embarcaron, fuera de otros dos que murieron en Mexico, y tres que se quedaron enfermos en el camino. Por lo qual y por otras cosas, dixe que fue especial providencia de nuestro Señor que nos embarcasemos en la Almiranta y no en la Capitana.*

*En començando a navegar, se abrio un orden secreto que del Governador de Filipinas avia, y en el se nos mandava, que no fuessemos por el camino ordinario ni embocaremos por el embocadero destas Islas, como se suele, por aver tres años arreo el holandes aguardado destas naos, y se rezelava lo hiciesse este tambien, aunque no lo groo [no lo logró] y aunque nuestras naos eran muy grandes y fuertes y yban bien artilladas, y guarnecidas de gente, que podian resistir al enemigo, parecia mas prudente consejo huir el encontrarle llevando tanto tesoro de Plata, como llevavan. Ordenavamos que fuesemos a la baya y puerto de Casiguran (que es en esta Isla de Manila) adonde entraron nuestras naos, y echando el Almirante un correo en tierra con los plie-*

*gos de su Magestad, me parecio saltar en tierra con otros dos Padres a disponer cassas, y todo lo necessario en el pueblo de Casiguran, como lo dispuissimos y despachamos embarcaciones para que los nuestros viniesen a tierra en especial uno que venia enfermo y de peligro. Mientras esto se disponia llego nuevo orden a las naos para que passasen a otro puerto mas acomodado treinta leguas deste que de nuevo se avia descubierto que se llama Lampon[.] fueron a el las naos y dieron fondo a 7 de Jullio despues [fol. 238] de noventa y siete dias de navegacion que es de las mas largas que a avido en estos mare[s.] yo estava guardando las embarcaciones que avia embiado para que viniessen los nuestros a tierra[.] bolvieron de bacio diciendo lo que passava de aver se ydo las naos a otro puerto por lo qual me embarque luego en una buena embarcacion de Casiguran y fui al dicho puerto de Lampon adonde halle a los nuestros en tierra[.] dimos aviso a Manila para que nos embiassen el avio necessario como nos le embiaron.*

...  
*Nuestro Señor guarde a V.P. como la Compañía ha menester y yo suplico a la divina Magestad en mis sacrificios y oraciones en los de V.P.[.] mucho me encomiendo.*  
*Manila y Agosto 6 de 1643 años.*  
*Diego de Bobadilla*

### Translation.

[Endorsement in Latin:] **Voyage of Fr. Diego Bobadilla to the Philippines.**

[To] Our Fr. General.

Peace of Christ, etc.

In this letter I will continue to inform Y[our] P[aternity] about our voyage and navigation, as I did in my last letter dated 1 February, which I wrote from Mexico, where all of us who were destined for the Philippines, went out in four bands of up to twelve each. The first band started out on 2 March and the last one, of which I was a member, left Mexico City on 7 March. During the whole voyage overland, which is almost 90 leagues, we maintained as much a good religious order as was possible, and although it was Lent, and the inns were very destitute of necessities, there was enough good planning that we were able to observe the fasts of the Church.

On the 19th of the same month of March, I arrived with my band at Acapulco, where everyone was already to be found, and where Fr. Simon Cotta and two Fathers, who had gone ahead of us to this port to arrange for necessities for us, had fallen sick. So, it seemed proper for Father Simon Cotta, who was to remain behind as Procurator for this Province in New Spain, to go back to a better climate, and so, he left for Mexico. Among those who had just arrived at this port, a few fell sick. One who was specially affected was Father Juan del Campo, who was hit by a stiff *tabadillo* [fever?] that made us almost despair for his life. I tried to leave him on land, but there were more than average difficulties, because on account of the bad climate in Acapulco, and abandonment, it seemed as if his death would be certain, if the rest of us would sail away, leaving him ashore; besides, to take him to a better climate 40 leagues from there was more difficult, because there was no-one who would carry it out, and along the way his death

was even more certain. Furthermore, the Father felt a noteworthy disconsolateness in the possibility of our leaving him ashore, and so I decided to embark him, as was done, our people carrying him in their arms as far as the beach. With the happiness at seeing himself aboard, within a few days he was well. The same thing happened to those who were sick when they went on board.

Although the flagship was much bigger than the almiranta, still I was never inclined to board the former, but the latter, and this turned out to have been divine inspiration, for the many advantages that we received in the almiranta, which we would have missed in the flagship. His Excellency the Viceroy of Mexico wrote a timely letter to the royal officials of Acapulco, for them to give us all the comforts possible for our passage, and they did so very well indeed, because, besides the very spacious store-room for our crates of books and all our supplies, they gave us the whole quarterdeck, port side and starboard side; there was even a special cabin for me, so that they did all that was possible. However, the Admiral, named Martin de Arreguia, for whom the poop cabin and gallery is reserved, willingly gave us half of both, dividing it with boards. This half was as large as the poop cabin and gallery of other galleons, as ours was very big and spacious. With this, we settled in very religiously, because we converted the quarterdeck on the port side into an infirmary for the many who were falling sick, as I will say later. We placed some benches around the poop [cabin] and that became good for a refectory; the gallery served as a galley and service area, and for everything we needed at night in order to rest, whereas both the cabin and gallery provided ample room for daytime use.

Everything having thus been arranged, we embarked on Tuesday, 31 March, and on 2 April, which was Holy Thursday, we sang mass at sea and, in accordance with the custom of the Church, all our priests took communion wearing their stoles, and afterwards our Brothers took communion, and most of the people of the galleon, who were as many as 400 persons of various nationalities. When communion was over, they weighed the anchors and raised the sail [sic] and the next day, which was Good Friday, we put a crucifix in place and I preached something about the passion, for the consolation of the travellers.

The routine that we kept during the whole voyage was almost the same as the one we kept during the crossing of the Northern Sea, that is, the one that Y.P. recommended us to follow in the Instruction you gave us. In the morning at the crack of dawn the small bell was rung for *réveillé*. Then, it was rung again for prayer, and once it was finished, one mass was said on workdays, and two masses on holidays, so that no-one on board would miss it. This mass was said by all the priests in turn, and all took communion, on days that we did not say mass ourselves, and the Brothers two or three times a week with great edification of everyone aboard the galleon. Then it was time to have breakfast, in accordance with the custom at sea, that is, to have two meals [a day], breakfast, and dinner at 3 p.m. However, before [eating] breakfast, we recited the Itinerary in common. Some spiritual book was read at the first serving, and another at the second. Before sunset, we recited the Litanies of the Virgin with all those of the galleon, and then we sang the Salve [Regina] and after that it was time for the Rosary. After-

wards, every evening, one Father would gather the men before the mast, specially the boys, and would teach them the doctrine and mysteries of the faith. He would narrate to them a story by way of an example, something they enjoyed. On Saturdays, there was a sermon for everyone aboard the galleon. Now, when the evening was far advanced, in order for us not to forget the example of our Fr. St. Francis Xavier, I was taking the small bell and rousing everyone with a high voice, urging them to pray for the souls in purgatory, to commend them to the Lord, so that He would relieve them of their punishments, and also to commend to God those who were not in the state of grace, and to pray for the success of our voyage. As soon as the small bell was rung, there was silence aboard the galleon, as everyone started to pray. I did this for about 15 days, but later on the Fathers in their great fervor objected, saying they too wanted to do it. So, to console one of them, I let him take over this task, and he did it in a timely manner for the rest of the voyage. Finally, we took time for an examination of conscience before eating, and afterwards before going to bed. That was the routine we followed during the whole voyage.

Before I go on with the narrative, I would like first to reproduce the list of the 47 of us who came aboard, along with the Provinces from which they came, as there have been some changes since the first voyage across the Northern Sea.

### From the Roman Province

\*Fr. Domingo Valverde, alias Vuaibel<sup>1</sup>

Fr. Julio Antonio Job.

### From that of Milan

\*Fr. Francisco Casella

**Fr. Bartolomé Besco**

Fr. Carlos de Lemos, alias Lemuggi.

### From that of Naples

Fr. Francisco Paliola

Fr. Carlos de Valendia, alias Receputo.

### From that of Sicily

Fr. Luis Spinelli

Fr. Vicente Damian

Fr. Francisco Messina.<sup>2</sup>

### From that of Toledo<sup>3</sup>

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1 Ed. note: Those marked with an asterisk died during the crossing of the Pacific.

2 Ed. note: Future Provincial, 1681-83.

3 Ed. note: The Province of Toledo was not centered on Toledo, but on Alcalá; it corresponded roughly to the boundaries of New Castile.



Fr. Gregorio Valero  
Fr. Xavier Riquelme<sup>1</sup>  
Fr. Tomás de Andrade<sup>2</sup>  
Br. Francisco Fernandez.

### From that of [old] Castile

Fr. Luis Pimentel<sup>3</sup>  
Fr. Bernardino Alissin  
Fr. Pedro Tellez  
Fr. Francisco Deza  
Fr. Juan del Campo  
Fr. Francisco de Virotia.

### From that of Andalusia

Fr. Juan Davila  
Fr. Pedro de Fontiveroz  
Fr. Matías de Montemayor  
Br. Alfonso Perez<sup>4</sup>  
Br. Ignacio Francisco.

### From that of Aragon

Fr. Pedro Cope  
\*Fr. Gonzalo de Cisneros  
Fr. Luis Fuster  
Fr. Francisco Combes  
Br. Francisco Ferrer.

### From that of Sardinia

Fr. Juan Domingo Aresu  
Fr. Juan Bautista Zurreddo  
Fr. Diego Siluano  
Fr. Francisco Lado  
Br. Garino Solinas.

### From that of Upper Germany

\*Fr. Jorge de Angulo, alias [Georg] Ec Kart [sic = Eckhart]<sup>5</sup>  
Fr. Ignacio de Monte, alias Walter Sonnemberg.

### From that of Austria

Fr. Adolfo de Pedrosa, alias Stainhauser [sic]

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1 Ed. note: Future Provincial, 1675-78.

2 Ed. note: Future Provincial, 1681 (only for 6 months).

3 Ed. note: Future Provincial, 1670 (int.), 1675 (int.), 1687-90.

4 Ed. note: See his own account of the voyage in Doc. 1643D.

5 Ed. note: Since Eck in German means Angle, that is the shortened name they gave this German.



Fr. Josef Sanchez, alias Zanzini.

### From the Gallo-French Province

Fr. Nicolas Denia, alias Degne [sic]

\*Fr. Francisco de Burgos, alias Boursim.

### From the Province of Mexico

Fr. Pedro Carlos

Fr. Lorenzo de Horta

Br. Juan de Landa

Br. Ambrosio de la Cruz

Br. Juan Ortiz.

According to this list, we were a total of 47, from 13 different provinces, and it being so, I cannot but emphasize the great harmony and charity that moved everyone, without the least amount of disagreement among ourselves. Rather, everyone was of one soul and one heart, something that was not only noticed by those aboard the galleon, but which they took as an example. Indeed, although there were so many people, of so many nationalities, be they soldiers, sailors, ship's boys, and passengers, the good relations among them were such that I did not see any dispute, not a single fight; instead, there was only agreement. I did not hear any swearing, not even curses. There was no gambling, nor any other things that are so common aboard similar ships and galleons; it was like a miracle. The officers and their mates outdid themselves, keeping great harmony and friendship among themselves, and giving a good example to everyone else, as they behaved toward us as if they were Brothers in the Society, being constantly on the lookout to do us a thousand small services. Therefore, we were all happy and contented. The attendance at the sacraments among the people of the galleon was great, since there was a large number at all the holidays. As far as communions were concerned, the main feast-days that we celebrated with the greater solemnity of a high mass, etc. were:

—3 May, the Finding of the Cross, we decorated in public a pretty cross with the reliquary containing some *lignum crucis* [slivers of wood from the true cross], and in the afternoon, while singing the Hymns of this feast, we presented it to all those of the galleon for adoration, which they did with great devotion.

—4 June, Corpus Christi, we celebrated the feast solemnly. The galleon was made ready with waist-clothes, good pendants were put up. The gunners and musketeers took over the quarterdeck. Mass was sung and then we took the Blessed Sacrament in a procession with many torches and tall candles lit, singing the *Pange lingua*, and the gunners and musketeers firing their guns. Most of the galleon took communion on this day and it was a merry event for all.

—21 June, the feast-day of Blessed Luis Gonzaga, we also had a great feast, but, once it was over, there began a stiff storm with a furious hurricane that came from all points of the compass, except two. It lasted for three days and gave us some concern, as it caught us near land. The flagship saw herself forced to cut her masts, and was on

the verge of foundering, on account of the high seas. Our own almiranta resisted better and the vigilance of the officers of the galleon, specially our Admiral and the pilots, was admirable, so that we luckily survived this danger. While it lasted, we ourselves took care to appeal to the Lord, and to make some vows, so that it ended well, although on this day we separated from the flagship, and we never saw her again until the day we arrived in port.

A few days later, we recognized that the wind, which nevertheless was favorable to navigation, was harmful to health. So, the people of the galleon began to fall sick, and almost no-one escaped. Our own people fell sick as well, in such great numbers that during most of the voyage the number of sick was from 12 to 14, some falling sick three and four times. Very few did not fall sick at least once. We had a total of 50 cases or more among our people, counting the relapses. There were so many, and at sea, but they were treated with as much good food and charity as would have been possible in a very rich college, full of officials. I appointed three Fathers as orderlies and gave them one young man to take care of the sick; from time to time, I rotated them, so as not to endanger them all.<sup>1</sup> They were applying so much charity and labored with such fervor that it was greatly edifying to all. I too fell sick and seriously, so that I made them fear for my life; as for me, I was left very obligated to our people, seeing how they felt that I would be sorely missed.

As far as the other sick people of the galleon, I had assigned three other Fathers to take care of them, with notable fervor and charity, administering to them physical care and the holy sacraments of penance, eucharist, and extreme unction. They were given as much good food and drink as possible, out of our own provisions as well as those given for the purpose by the Admiral, whose generosity is very praiseworthy. For this good disposition there were fewer dead than otherwise. **Thirty three persons died aboard our galleon, and five of them were priests of our Society.** All were so qualified in virtue, and religion, and so loved by our people and the civilians that there was a general sorrow in everyone. I myself had such a great sorrow that I cannot overrate it, nor could I find comfort, except in the thought that it was the Lord's will, and decisions which we cannot fathom. They were such good individuals and these Islands needed them so much; they went missing at the moment when they were about to begin their work, and assistance to the others. I will now say something general about the five of them (keeping a particular notice of them for the end of this letter). When one of our people died, he was dressed in his priest's vestments, placed upon a desk on the quarterdeck with lit candles, and we sang the office of the dead, before throwing him overboard, which is the burial at sea. Our people and the outsiders accompanied the body with lit candles, tall ones and ordinary ones, and upon throwing him overboard a gun was fired, as this is the honor that is done at sea when a person of rank dies, and the Admiral did not want to miss the opportunity to make this honor to our people. On this day two altars were arranged and a goodly number of masses were said.

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1 Ed. note: Little did he know that he was spreading the infection this way.

Aboard the flagship, they had it worse. They went through some bad times and lack of everything, in addition to the danger they met of foundering. Seventy persons died there, and among them six Dominican Fathers from a band of only 22 who had boarded, besides two others who died in Mexico, and three sick ones who remained behind along the way. That is why I said that it was by special providence of our Lord that we boarded the almiranta and not the flagship.

At the beginning of the voyage, a secret order from the Governor of the Philippines was opened. In it he was ordering us not to go the ordinary route through the Embocadero of these Islands, as usual, because for three years in a row the Dutch had lied in wait to capture these galleons, and it was feared that they might do it again this year, although they they had been unsuccessful and our galleons were very big and strong, and went so well armed and manned that they could resist the enemy, it seemed more prudent to avoid an encounter, as they were carrying such a treasure in silver. We were ordered to go to the bay and port of Casiguran (which is in this Island of Manila) where our galleons went in. As the Admiral was sending a messenger ashore there with the royal mail, it seemed to me that I should also go ashore with two other Fathers to arrange for houses, and all things necessary in the town of Casiguran. That is what we did, and we despatched some boats to take our people ashore, specially one who was sick and at risk. While this was going on, another order was delivered to the galleons to go on to another port, a more comfortable one 30 leagues from this one, that had been recently discovered, and is called Lampon. The galleons went there and anchored on 7 July, after 97 days at sea, which is one of the longest crossing in those seas. I was waiting for the boats that I had sent to come back bringing our people ashore. They returned empty, saying what was happening, that the galleons had gone to another port. So, I boarded a good boat from Casiguran and went to the said port of Lampon where I found our people ashore. We advised Manila, asking them to send us the necessary food supplies, and they did.

[Synopsis: Upon leaving Lampon for Manila, the Jesuit train included 8 hammocks carrying the sick and the weak among the missionaries. Travelling was on foot, through mountains and valleys, wading across rivers with water up to the waist, etc. until they reached Laguna de Bay, where they boarded boats for the Jesuit house of San Pedro de Makati, a suburb of Manila. They went on from there to Manila itself. Those who had died during the voyage were: on 2 April, Fr. Francisco Cassella, originally from Naples; on 1 May, Fr. Francisco Boursim, alias de Burgos, originally from Arras, 33 years old; on 8 June, Fr. George Eckhart, alias de Angulo, originally from Newburg, 28 years old; on 29 June, Fr. Gonzalo Cisneros, originally from Villanueva in Aragon, also 28 years old; and on 1 July, Fr. Domingo Vuaibel, alias Balverde, originally from Costance in Germany, 28 years old.]

May our Lord keep Your Paternity as the Society requires and I beg the divine Majesty in my sacrifices and prayers, also wishing to be remembered in yours.

Manila, 6 August 1643.

Diego de Bobadilla