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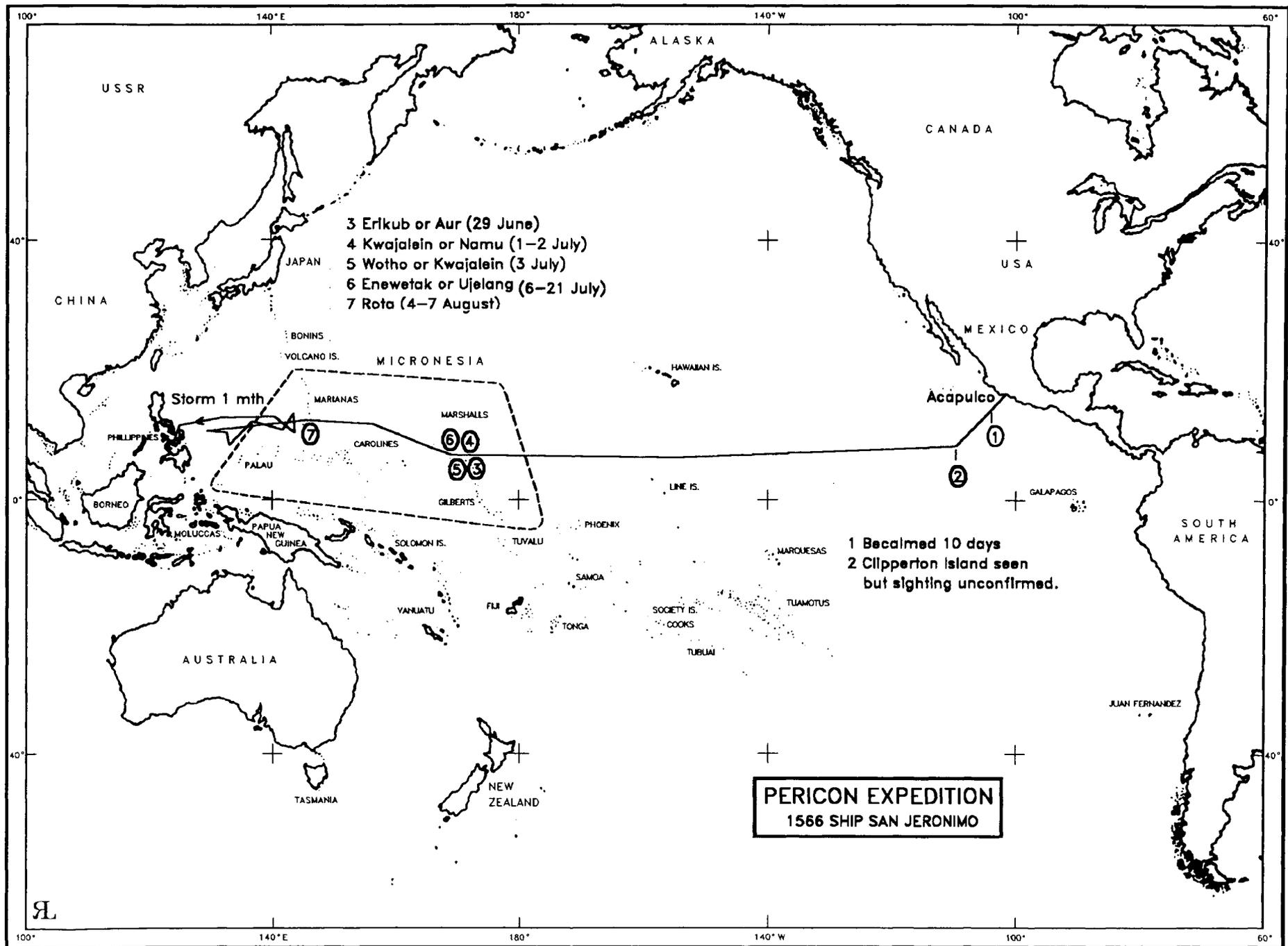
# Pericón relief expedition—Summary of the bloody mutiny aboard the San Jerónimo

*Sources: Fr. Juan de la Concepción's Historia General de Philipinas in 14 volumes, as condensed by Fr. Joaquín Martínez de Zúñiga, O.S.A. in Historia de las Islas Philipinas, Manila, 1803; translated by John Maver as "An Historical View of the Philippine Islands", London, 1814; reprinted as FBG 10, Manila, 1966.*

## Chapter 5—The complete conquest of the island of Zebu and some towns in other islands

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The Royal Audiencia of Mexico had despatched the ship **San Jerónimo** from Acapulco to relieve those at Zebu, and to advertise them of the arrival of the Capitana [i.e. flagship San Pedro] at that port. They sent as captain of the ship Pedro Sánchez Pericón; as second in command, Juan Ortiz de Mosquera; and as pilot the mulatto Lópe Martín, who was sent for the express purpose of being punished by Legazpi for having separated intentionally from the squadron in the patache **San Lucas**. Pericón and Mosquera had been, before the commencement of the voyage, inimical to each other and in its progress their mutual antipathy was augmented. The pilot, Martín, dreading the idea of being confronted with Legazpi, entered into a plot with Mosquera, and they gained over to their party most of the crew, among whom was Philip de Ocampo [sic], a brave man, but of the worst character. Thinking their strength sufficient, they commenced their operations by being insolent to the commander, and one night they killed a **horse** which he had brought in the galleon. The friends of Pericón conjured him to be on his guard, as they concluded that those who had begun by killing the horse would end in murdering him if he was not sufficiently vigilant. But Pericón's confidence was too great, and he slighted the advice of his friends. The conspirators by this forbearance increasing every day in boldness at last resolved to put in practice their diabolical design of murdering the commander and getting possession of the vessel; accordingly,



one night, after having placed guards on those of the crew whom they could not confide in, Mosquera entered the captain's bedroom accompanied by two seamen, one of the name of Bartolomé de Lara and the other [Hernando de] Morales, and ordered them to stab Captain Pericón and his son, a young man about 25 years of age, who had a sub-command in the ship. They effected their purpose and threw the bodies overboard; and placing some chests on the deck for the accommodation of the people, Mosquera thus harangued them: "Gentlemen, let us recommend to Heaven the souls of Captain Pericón and his son; they came to their death for reasons which, when we arrive at Zebu, shall be given to General Legazpi; everything shall remain unaltered, and I, as a good subject of His Majesty, will conduct the ship to that island."

Many days had not elapsed before Mosquera and the pilot quarreled; it was a difficult task for the latter to reconcile himself to his situation and put on the mask of friendship to the former. He whispered to Mosquera in confidence that the people were very much irritated at the murders which had been committed, and among other things he proposed to tranquilize them by putting in irons some person who had been concerned in the affair, and afterwards to discharge him, under the authority of a notarial process drawn up for that purpose declaring his innocence. This appearing a plausible measure enough, Mosquera, with this view, foolishly convened the ship's company, and the pilot seized upon him and put him in confinement. The day following he ordered breakfast, of which Mosquera partook in his irons, and when finished, he requested the pilot would set him at liberty, as there had been time sufficient allowed for the ceremony. The views of the mulatto, however, were very different; he ordered him to be hung at the yard-arm, without giving him time to confess, observing that Divine Providence had ordered he should die without partaking the sacrament, as had been the case with the two whom he had murdered. The mulatto now remaining captain of the ship, Philip de Ocampo, who was his favorite, made a speech to his companions, telling them "that Captain Lópe Martín did not intend going to Zebu; that those who were of a different opinion should be set on shore on an island in the immediate neighborhood of Zebu, from whence they might easily reach Legazpi." All were silent, and nothing was done until they arrived at the islands of **Barbudos** [i.e. the Marshalls in this case]; when Lópe Martín landing on one which was desolate gave out that it was necessary to careen the ship there, but his real intention was to leave most of his companions on this island exposed to famine.

He was not, however, able sufficiently to conceal his intentions. The Friar Capellan, a venerable priest, suspected him, and consulted with Juan de Vivero on some means of averting this blow.<sup>1</sup> Rodrigo del Angle<sup>2</sup>, the mate of the ship, a man of approved courage, determined to appeal to His Majesty, if it cost him his life, broke the matter to others, and eventually drew to his party Bartolomé de Lara by promising to make him captain of the ship, although he had no such intentions. Rodrigo finding he had

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1 Ed. note: The chaplain was not a friar. He was the same man whose name was Juan de Vivero.

2 Ed. note: This man's original family name may have been French, Delangle.

gained most of the crew on board to his side, weighed anchor and halloed to those on shore that all the true and faithful vassals of His Majesty might embark immediately, and that the ship belonged to the King. By this means all were received on board but Lópe Martín and Philip de Ocampo, and about 25 others, among whom were some loyalists, who were unable to reach the ship in time.

Bartolomé de Lara, disappointed in his expectations of being made captain of the ship, began to form a party and was joined more from necessity than otherwise by Hernando de Morales, his accomplice in the murder of Pericón and his son; but the new captain [i.e. Langle] contrived means to try and hang them, after which the crew remained free from further molestation, and they arrived at Zebu.

The General Legazpi, to deter others, hanged the notary Juan de Zaldivar for being accessory to the aforesaid murder. He rewarded Rodrigo del Angle, Garnica, and Juan Enriquez with all the loyalists and granted a pardon in the name of the King to all those who had acted any subordinate part in this transaction.