
Documents 1600E

Van Noort at Manila and other events of 1600

Sources: 1) Fr. Chirino's Relation of 1604; B&R 13:116-118. 2) Annual Jesuit letter for 1600, by Fr. Francisco Vaez (1543-1619), which was published as an Italian translation (edited by Fr. Diego de Torres) at Milan in 1603, and in the Latin original (edited by Fr. John Hay) at Antwerp in 1605; B&R 11:191-195. Note: Thus it can be seen that Fr. Chirino followed the text of the annual letter very closely, and his version can be considered the Spanish translation of the letter.

E1. The loss of some vessels, and in them of two of the fathers of the Society. Chapter LXIV

Among other calamities and troubles which our Lord has been pleased to send upon these islands in the form of loss of life, property, and ships, one was the destruction of two large ships (a flagship and an *almiranta*) which, in the previous year, 1600, set out for New Spain with cargoes of very rich merchandise. These vessels, after having sailed the seas for 8 months, with violent storms, and encountered great dangers, and after having lost many men through hunger, pest, accidents, and the billows of the sea (which washed them from the vessel itself), were driven back and stranded—or rather dashed to pieces—on the shores of the Ladrones and the Catanduanes, where they were destroyed.¹ But few persons were able to escape, who only served, like the servants of Job, to carry the news of the disaster—which, following upon many other losses and misfortunes of war, was keenly felt and bitterly lamented.

In one of these vessels, named **San Jerónimo**, went Father Pedro López de la Parra, a professed member of our Society, who after this long voyage and another, even longer, of 37 years in the religious life, finally came to port, as we believe, in the Fortunate Land, toward which he was making his main voyage with good works. In New Spain, he had taught the arts and theology, and was one of the first founders [of missions] who went thither from the Society; and both there and here he exercised our ministries with good results. Although we know no details concerning his death, it is believed, from his

1 Ed. note: The Santa Margarita, and the San Jerónimo, respectively.

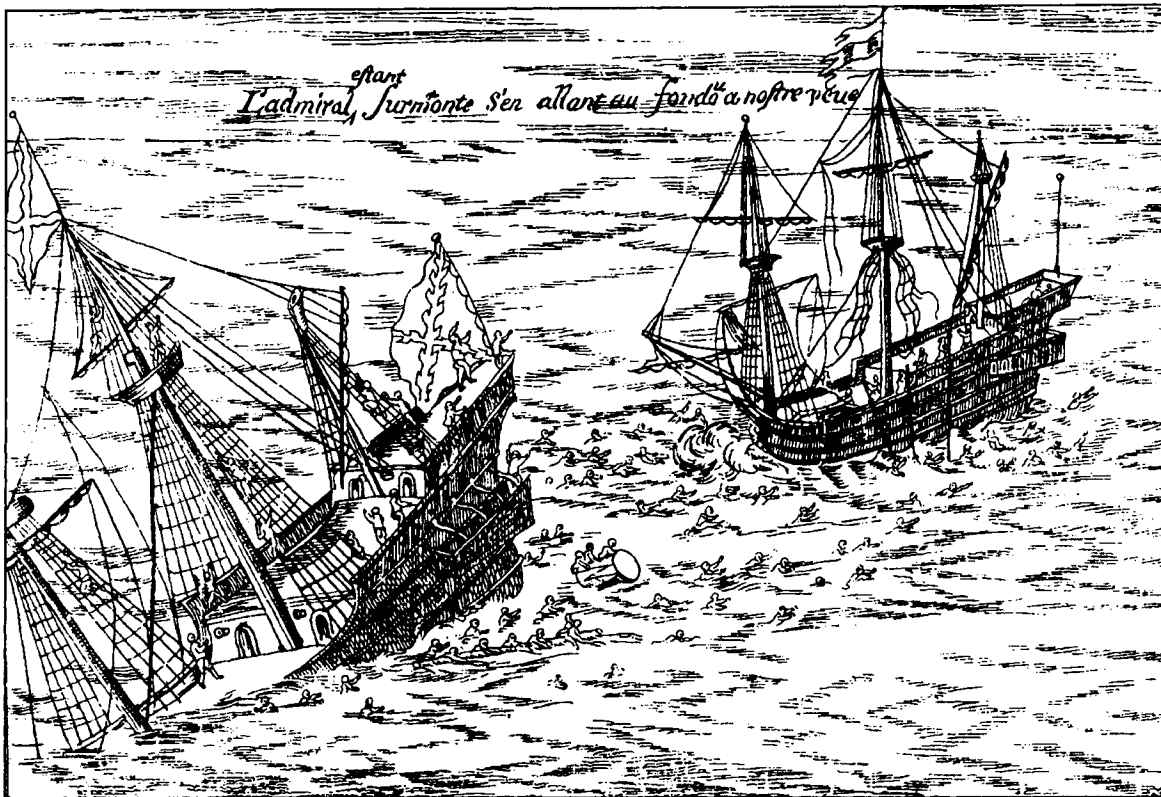
having been one of the last to die, and from his great devotion to confession and the care of souls, that in that hour of peril he must have been of service to all with much charity, as he always acted thus during his life.

By another disaster and misfortune, in these islands, we lost another father and a brother, if we may call those lost who, to win souls and aid their brethren, die with them in a righteous war. Some heretic corsairs from the islands of Holland and Zeeland went to those of the Philippines, bent on plunder, in the month of October of the year 1600; they had robbed a Portuguese vessel in the North [i.e. Atlantic] Sea, and in the South [i.e. Pacific] Sea, having passed the Strait of Magellan, some frigates from Peru. These corsairs entered among these islands, committing depredations and threatening even greater excesses. For this purpose their *almiranta* [Eendracht] and their flagship [Mauritius] (in which sailed, as commander, a corsair named Oliverio del Nort) were stationed at a place 6 leagues from Manila, where the ships from [New] Spain, China, and Japan were obliged to enter, and where all the ships and vessels which leave that city must be inspected.¹

Against the two Dutch ships went forth two others from Manila, carrying more than 300 men, the flower of the militia of those islands, with much artillery and military supplies. In the flagship [San Diego] went Father Diego de Santiago and Brother Bartolomé Calvo, at the request of General Antonio de Morga, auditor of the royal Audiencia, and other officers, who were wont to confess to the father, because he had a very affable manner, and could adapt himself to all persons. At the outset he heard the confessions of most of the men, and encouraged them, as well as he could, to make the attack and to fight valiantly. Finally, on the 14th day of December, they sighted the enemy; and crowding on sail, in their eagerness to overtake him, both flagships grappled together, so closely that one could cross unimpeded from one vessel to the other. They finally succeeded in seizing the enemy's colors and hoisting them on our flagship, our men confident of success, and already shouting "Victory!" But the ship, whether unsteady (for, carrying so many people on one side, it took in water through the port-holes of the lower tier of cannon), or laid open at the keel by the very weight of our guns (which were very large), or by the will of God, went to the bottom with all its crew—except a few men who seized the enemy's shallop and escaped in it, and some others who reached the shore by swimming. Among the latter was the commander, who with the enemy's two flags gained the shore. Our *almiranta* (which was a new *galizabra*,² in charge of Admiral Juan de Arcega [or Alzega], grappled with the enemy's *almiranta*, captured it, and brought it to Manila, where justice was executed upon the corsairs who were in it.

1 Ed. note: This inspection station was located in the port of El Frayle, near Mariveles, on the Bataan Peninsula.

2 Ed. note: A type of oared galley fitted with a sail. This vessel was called the San Bartolomé.



The Spanish flagship San Diego sinking on 14 December 1600. *It sank after battling with the Dutch flagship Mauritius (shown on the right). Most of the crew were carried down with the ship. Those who swam to the Mauritius were received with pikes and killed. Very few escaped by swimming to the island of Fortuna. The Spanish almiranta, however, was able to capture the Eendracht, with 19 men still alive, and took it to Luban Island to make hasty repairs. The Manila authorities later garroted the 13 Dutch men, sparing the 6 boys among them. (From de Bry's *Peregrationes*, Amsterdam, 1602)*

Among the dead and drowned—who numbered 109 Spaniards, the pick of the captains and soldiers of those islands, and 150 negroes and Indians; Father Diego de Santiago also perished. He died bravely, encouraging the men, and having heard the confessions of nearly all. Seeing, a short time beforehand, that the ship was about to go down, he intended to save himself by swimming; but he heard the voice of a captain, who said to him: “Father, hear me but a word, for it concerns my salvation.” With much charity, he remained until the last moment, to hear the soldier’s confession; and afterward neither the father nor his companion was seen. The father was 29 years old, a member of the Society for 15 years, and a shepherd of the Indians and Spaniards. Brother Bartolomé Calvo was of the same age, attached to the Society in these parts for 7 years. He possessed much virtue and died through obedience, a quality for which he ever professed much esteem.

E2. Annual letter from the Philippine Islands

From Father Francisco Vaez, 10 June 1601, to Reverend Father Claudio Aquaviva, general of the Society of Jesus.

Amid all the calamities and miseries which it has pleased the Lord to inflict on these islands, the chief has been the loss of some ships which were wrecked, including among others the flagship and the *almiranta*. They set sail from this coast during the last year, 1600, for New Spain, being laden with a large amount of treasure and merchandise; and by them the records of this province and the letters from Japan for your Paternity were sent. But, after sailing for 8 months, these ships encountered a violent contrary wind, and, having on board a great number of sailors, were gradually driven back by sickness, hunger, and the fury of the waves, which swept the men from the very decks of the ships to be drowned in the waters. The vessels struck on rocks and were wrecked, a few men only being rescued, like the servants of Job, from the immediate danger, to announce the destruction which, being increased by one misfortune and mishap in war after another, heaped sorrow upon us.

On one of these ships, called the **San Jerónimo**, was Father Pedro López de [la] Parra, a professed religious of our Society who, as we trust, after this long voyage (or rather that longer one of 37 years in religion), has entered the gate of eternal life, laden with a rich treasure of good works. He had taught philosophy and theology in New Spain, having been one of the first members of the Society formerly sent thither; he trained our ministers with fruitful results. Although we have heard nothing certain with regard to the details of his death, yet, as he took great delight in the duty of hearing confessions and helping souls, it is likely that with great devotion he aided all in that extremity of danger.

In another disaster we have lost another priest and a brother, if loss be the proper name to give to the death of those who have been slain for the gain of souls, and while aiding their brethen in a just war against heretic pirates. These were Hollanders and Zeelanders who were driven to the Philippine Islands in the year 1600, and came to get booty on the sea called the North Sea (for they had already made spoil of a Portuguese ship), and, after passing the Strait of Magellan, had, in that South Sea, done likewise with a small vessel from Peru. Their leading vessels, the flagship and the *almiranta*, took a station 6 leagues from Manila, where the Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese ships had to unload their cargoes, and to which all the smacks and other small boats that left the city had to hold their course.

Against these ships of the enemy there were sent out from Manila two ships provided with 300 of the best soldiers of these islands, together with many bombards and other equipment of war. In the chief ships were Father Diego de Santiago and Brother Bartolomeo Calvo, at the request of the general, Antonio de Morga, auditor of the royal Audiencia, and of other officers of rank, who were accustomed to confess to the said father.

Now when the father had exerted himself to receive the confessions of the soldiery, and had exhorted them to fight bravely, on the 14th of December they came in sight of the enemy; and the flagship spread its sails and bore down so swiftly on the other flagship that the passage from one to the other was easy. In the conflict our men tore away the enemy's flags and carried them back to their own ship, shouting "Victory!" with joyful voices. Just then our ship, having taken in a great quantity of water from all sides, was by the permission of God suddenly swallowed by the waves with all the sailors, except a few who by the help of a skiff captured from the Dutch, or by swimming, made their way to land. The general was one who threw himself into the water with two flags of the enemy's. Then the *almiranta*, having encountered the enemy's *almiranta*, captured it, and carried it away to Manila, where punishment was inflicted on all the sailors.

Among the number of those on our side who were slain or drowned, 159 in all, Father Diego was drowned. He had heard, as it appeared, the confessions of all; and as he was making the effort to throw himself clear into the sea, he was called back by the voice of a captain desiring to make his confession. While he was hearing the confession he was drowned, with the brother and the rest. The father was in the 29th year of his life, and had lived 15 years in the Society. The brother, his companion, was of the same age, and had lived in the Society 7 years; he had entered it in these regions. He was a man endowed with every virtue, being specially noteworthy for his obedience, to which he was always greatly inclined.

E3. A successful eastward passage by Pedro de Teixeira

Source: E. W. Dahlgren's Discovery of the Hawaiian Islands, p. 54.

The unhappy fate of these vessels [i.e. the San Jerónimo & the Santa Margarita] is also mentioned by the Portuguese traveller, Pedro Teixeira, who arrived at Manila from Malacca on 22 June 1600. At that time he was unable, as had been agreed, to make the voyage on one of the two vessels which were afterwards wrecked. As regards the third, **La Contadora**, he says that she was 7 months on her voyage to Acapulco, and got there little better than a wreck. Teixeira himself travelled on the fourth vessel, whose name is not mentioned, but whose [former] owner was Gabriel de Ribera and whose captain was Domingo Ortiz de Chaboya.

They sailed from Cavite on 18 July 1600, and reached the Entrance as early as 26 July, which is mentioned as an unusually quick passage, whereas many vessels needed as much as two months to cover the same distance. After taking provisions on board at the island of Capul, they steered out into the open sea, with a course laid for Japan. When they had reached the latitude of Japan and believed that they were not far from land, the course was altered to E. As regards the continuation of the voyage Teixeira's narrative contains only the following short notice: "Sighting some islands new and unknown, we sailed many days on that wide South Sea, for the lands of New Spain. On 3 November, we made the land in 40° N. lat., at Cape Mendocino. This is a point of no

variation of the compass. Thence we ran down the coast southward, looking out for certain islands that lie thereby.”

... While sailing along the coast of California they met three vessels belonging to a squadron that the Viceroy of Peru had sent out to look for the Dutch privateers, who, under the command of Olivier van Noort, had appeared in the Pacific Ocean shortly before. In the course of their fruitless search for these privateers the Spanish fleet had been scattered by a storm, 21 September 1600: on this occasion the flagship itself, under the command of Don Juan de Velasco, disappeared without leaving any trace of its fate. On 1 December 1600, Teixeira arrived at Acapulco: “he had been four months and a half at sea, which was a good voyage enough.” (The Travels of Pedro Teixeira, transl. and annotated by William F. Sinclair. London, Hakluyt Soc., 1902, pp. 9-13.)