
Document 1649A

Letter from Governor Fajardo to the King, dated Manila 4 August 1650

Source: AGI Fil. 9-1-13, pp. 1-7.

Note: The Encarnación was diverted to Mindanao and was later lost in Camarines.

The shipwreck of the galleon Encarnación in Camarines in 1649

Original text in Spanish.

Nº 1. La Nao **Encarnación** que el año passado de seis çientos y quarenta y ocho ymbie a Nueva España y aguardava el de quarenta y nueve y en el buen socorro segun he manifestado al Conde de Salvatierra que governava aquel Reyno desde que llegue a estas Islas las grandes neçesidades que padezian por los cortisimos socorros que à ynbiado como en mis despachos è dado quenta a V. Magd. de buelta tomó puerto en uno de los de la Provincia de Caraga que esta çiento y ochenta leguas de esta çiudad donde dispusse llegara porque no diera con el enemigo olandes que de conoçido la avia de aguardar en el embocadero de estas islas de buelta (prevençion que hubiera escussado a hallarme con Galeones de armada para comboyarla y venir de via recta a esta çiudad) haçiendo su viaje para ella le sobrevino un tan gran temporal dentro del embocadero que a ssido el mayor que à avido en estas partes que se perdio en la playa de Psula(?) juridiçion de Camarines setenta leguas de aqui, que solamente se salvaron los ciento y seis mill nueve çientos y ochenta y dos pesos y quatro tomines y la poca ynfanteria que traya malograndose todos los generos y demas municiones, que fue gran misecordia de Dios el que se salvase plata y gente.

...
Guarde Dios la catolica y Real persona de V. Magd. como la Cristiandad ha menester.

Manila y agosto 4 de 1650 años.

Don Diego Fajardo

Translation.

Nº 1. The galleon **Encarnación** that I sent to New Spain last year 1648, and was waiting for 1649 to return with the good succor that I had represented as very necessary to the Count of Salvatierra who governed that Kingdom, since I arrived at these Islands, telling him of the great needs they were in, on account of the very short supplies he had sent, about which I had informed Y.M. in my despatches. She made port in one of those of the Province of Caraga [Mindanao], which is 180 leagues from this city. That is where I had ordered her to go, to prevent the Dutch enemy from meeting with her, as it was taken for granted that they would wait for her in the Embocadero of these Islands on her return trip; I would not have planned it this way, if I had fleet-class galleons to convoy her and come directly to this city. Continuing her voyage to this city, she had hit by such a great storm within the Embocadero—one the worst one that has been seen in these parts—that she was lost on the beach at Psula(?), within the jurisdiction of Camarines, 70 leagues from here. There were saved only the 106,982 pesos and 4 tomins, and the few soldiers on board, with damage being done to all the merchandise and the rest of the ammunition. It was through God's great mercy that the silver and the people were saved.¹

...
May God keep the Catholic and Royal person of Your Majesty, as Christiendom needs.

Manila, 4 August 1650.

Don Diego Fajardo

¹ Ed. note: He adds that the galleon **San Diego**, which had turned back, was then being despatched once more in 1650. He deplores at length the lack of galleons, so that two could be sent every year.