

**Ernie Newbold** – “G’day Paul.

I have a timely item that you may wish to include. A long time ago, in late 1966, while we were stationed at Holsworthy **Capt. Warwick Hamilton** set a task for a group of young gunners to undertake in their own time, after work one day.

Capt. Hamilton wanted us to find out who **Saint Barbara** was. Remember that this was in the days before we had computers / internet / etc. so we set off to the local library in Liverpool after work to find the answer and to report in the following morning.

Attached are two images seen at the Artillery Museum in Puckapunyal when we were there in May.

Note the spelling of Barbara (Barbera) on the sign, Barbara seems to be the favoured spelling. As Saint Barbara’s Day is on the 4<sup>th</sup> December each year it might be an appropriate time to remember her in the *Eyes and Ears*.

You may notice the lightning bolt in the picture and story of Saint Barbara, this is represented on the Artillery Corps dress tie.

Here is a link to Wikipedia, in case you require further information:



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Barbara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Barbara)

Regards, Ernie.”

## Saint Barbera

Saint Barbera is one of the most well known of the class of military saints of the early Christian church. She is venerated by artillerymen all over the world.

Saint Barbera is generally believed to be the daughter of the Dioscurus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor (today Izmit, Turkey) in the third century AD. Legend tells us that Barbera converted to Christianity and Dioscurus, a heathen, denounced her and ordered her brutally tortured and killed by beheading in the year 235. After her death Dioscurus was immediately struck dead by a bolt of lightning. Veneration of her as a saint was common since the seventh century. She was later canonized by the Catholic Church and relics of mortal remains asserted to be those of St Barbera are currently housed in churches in Burnao, Italy and Kiev, Ukraine. Due to her reputed ability to draw lightning from heavens she began to be associated as the patron saint of most anything to do with military explosives around the 1400s when gunpowder found its way to Europe.

Saint Barbera today is the Catholic Patron saint of US Naval Aviation Or dance men (AO), artillerists, anti-aircraft gunners, ammunition magazines, ammunition workers, armourers, artillery, artillerymen, bomb technicians, and military engineers - specifically sappers and pioneers. The artillery arms of the Polish, Greek, Croatian, Spanish, Italian, British, Canadian, and Australian, most Latin American as well as many other refer to St Barbera as their patron. In many Latin militaries the magazine of a fort or warship is even referred to as a “Santabarbera” in the Spanish language in honour of the saint and images of her are often found in such places as icons.