

The warrior saint was prepared for emergencies and had accumulated a quantity of explosives in one of the subterranean passages of the convent. At the crucial moment a deafening explosion was heard and both conquerors and vanquished were crushed beneath the debris of masonry. Thus did the Saint with her companions escape the outrages of a licentious soldiery.

II

SAINT BARBARA—SAINT, VIRGIN, AND MARTYR

There is no reference to St. Barbara by early Christian authorities, neither does her name appear in the original of



ST. BARBARA (from an old Italian Print) *St. Barbara was the daughter of a rich nobleman of Heliopolis in Egypt, martyred by her father about A.D. 303 for becoming a Christian. As he descended the mountain where he had cut off her head with his own hands a "fearful tempest arose with thunder and lightning, and fire fell upon this cruel father and consumed him utterly, so that not a vestige of him remained." St. Barbara then became "patron saint of armourers and gun-smiths." She is invoked against thunder and lightning, and all accidents arising from explosions and gunpowder. It was thought possible that she was selected as patron saint for artillery because in early days cannon usually blew up on discharge and therefore artillerymen were always liable to sudden death from explosions of gunpowder.*

St. Jerome's Martyrology. Veneration of the saint was common, however, from the 7th century on.

About this time there were in existence legends of her martyrdom which were inserted in the writings of Symeon Metaphrastes and which were used as well by such authors as Ado, Usuordus, Boronius, Mombritus, and others during the 9th century. According to these narratives, which are essentially the same, Barbara was the beautiful daughter of a wealthy, bad tempered, and heathen Greek named Dioscorus.

Dioscorus in his wicked and paganed mind conceived the idea of using his beautiful daughter to increase his worldly wealth. For this purpose he allowed her very little liberty, so that she might grow up free from worldly contamination. She was only allowed to have with her, her hand-maiden Juliana, and to receive at stated intervals her tutors, who were selected from old and repulsive looking men.

In her youth Barbara embraced Christianity, the teachings of which she had no doubt obtained from the tutors who were provided for her.

Among Dioscorus's many friends was a magistrate named Marcian, a wealthy and wicked man like Dioscorus. One day Dioscorus, for the purpose of evading punishment for his many misdeeds, offered his beautiful daughter Barbara to Marcian.

Upon informing his daughter of his intentions to part with her to Marcian, Barbara told her father that she had

embraced Christianity and therefore could not consent to the arrangement, having dedicated her virginity to God. This so enraged Dioscorus that he imprisoned her in a very high tower which concealed her from the view of the outside world.

Some time after her imprisonment her father was called away, but before his departure Barbara persuaded him to gratify her wish for three windows to be constructed in the tower, in order to admit light. In reality, Barbara's intentions were that the windows should be a symbol of the Trinity and the admission of Light the emblem of Christianity. Her desire was to openly make known her conversion, and this was her only way of showing it to the outside world.

On account of her open acknowledgment of Christianity she received a Spiritual Blessing. This Blessing made her even more beautiful than she had previously been. She therefore prayed for a bathing pool in which to disport herself and while away the tediousness of the long hours of her incarceration.

One day upon drawing her finger in the form of a cross on the floor of the tower, the rocks were parted and in the midst of a blaze of light through the three windows a pool appeared, the cross remaining permanently furrowed in the stone at the edge of the pool.

Upon her father's return from his journey he discovered the great light streaming through the three windows onto the cross. This greatly angered him, and he remonstrated with her.

Barbara took this occasion to preach to her father. She told him of the mystery of the Trinity and used her persuasion with a view to converting him to Christianity. Dioscorus became furious on account of Barbara's pleadings. He drew his sword and rushed upon Barbara to kill her. Barbara avoided her father and miraculously escaped from the tower, where she left him striking furiously on the flinty floor in an endeavor to obliterate the cross.

Accompanied by soldiers, the enraged parent scoured the mountain side for his daughter, who had taken refuge in a leafy glade some distance from the tower. Encountering two shepherds during his search, he asked them if they had seen his daughter. The first one, being a godly man and fearing for Barbara's safety, to shield her told an untruth to Dioscorus and said she was not in the forest; the other shepherd being of evil mind told him where she was hiding. Her father found her, beat her unmercifully, and dragged her by the hair before the magistrate, Marcian.

When Marcian saw her he was captivated by her beauty and did his utmost to persuade her to give up her Christianity and marry him. She steadfastly refused, and repulsed all Marcian's advances, whereupon he ordered her to be

stripped and beaten in front of him. Still resisting his entreaties she was taken to prison, where a blaze of light streamed upon her and healed her wounds.

Next day she was again brought before Marcian. She still persisting in refusing his entreaties, he then ordered her to be torn with iron combs and her saintly head to be hammered. On witnessing these barbarities, her handmaiden Juliana burst into tears and was promptly arrested and treated in the same cruel manner.

Marcian was at a loss for further tortures to exercise on Barbara without destroying her beauty, so in revenge for having all his advances refused he ordered her to be led naked round the town accompanied by her hand-maiden Juliana.

Notwithstanding the beating on her "Venerable Head" Barbara preserved her faculties and was able to address to Heaven an eloquent prayer, which was answered and a mantle was cast about her body. This enabled her to lift herself and preach to the people whom she implored to embrace Christianity. So thoroughly enraged was her father at this that in a fit of violent temper he struck off her head together with that of her hand-maiden Juliana. At this moment a vivid flash of lightning fell which completely consumed Dioscorus; a moment later a second flash reduced Marcian to a heap of smoking ashes.

For this reason Barbara is held to be the patroness of Fire, Cannon, and Firearms. She is also invoked against the thunder and lightnings of Heaven, for just previous to her death Barbara prayed that whosoever should invoke her aid might receive protection against implements of war and lightning.

A pious man named Valentinus buried the bodies of the virgins. At this grave the sick were healed and the pilgrims who came to pray received aid and consolation.

It is certain that before the 9th century she was publicly venerated both in the East and in the West, and that she was very popular with the Christian populace, being called upon as intercessor to assure the receiving of the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist at the hour of death.

An occurrence in the year A.D. 1448 did much to spread the veneration of the Saint. A man named Henry Kock was nearly burned to death in a fire at Gorkum. He called on St. Barbara, to whom he had always shown great devotion. She aided him to escape from the burning building and kept him alive until he could receive the last sacrament. A similar occurrence is related in the "Legenda Aurea."

The Emperor in whose reign the martyrdom is placed is sometimes called Maximinus and sometimes Maximianus, but there is not sufficient evidence to ascertain whether Maximinus Thrax (A.D. 235—238) or Maximianus Daza is meant.

Traditions vary as to the place of martyrdom. Symeon Mataphrastes and Mombritus, the Latin scholar, make Heliopolis in Egypt the site. Usuordus and Ado in their martyrologies mention Tuscany. And Boronius, whose account might be considered the most reliable, in his "Martyrologium Romanum Paruum" (about A.D. 700), quotes "In Tusia Barbaræ Verginis et Martyris." Saint Jerome and Bede say "Roame Barbaræ Virginis" or "Apud Antiochiam Passio Saint Barbaræ Virg," while others give the place as Nicomedia. These various statements prove, however, only the local adaption of the veneration of the saintly martyr.

In the Greek and Roman Calendars the Feasts of St. Barbara fall upon the 4th of December, while martyrologies of the 9th century (with the exception of Robanus Maurus) place it on December 16th, which is now the English date for the festival; the United States observes December 4th.

It is quite possible to suppose, however, that the period from the 4th to the 16th of December was the time of her escape from the tower until her death on the 16th.

Saint Barbara has often been depicted in art, always carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand and often with the chalice and sacramental wafer. She has been represented standing by a tower with three windows and sometimes fire, cannon, firearms, and lightning are displayed near her.

General Officers From The Field Artillery

Outstanding among the service of the Field Artillery in World War II was its contribution of a large number of general officers. Their duties often ranged far afield from purely artillery matters. Their adaptability, fostered in part by long background and training in manifold duties of their arm, led to outstanding performance in many fields. All Field Artillerymen salute these leaders from among their ranks.

Their roster is constantly changing. Some officers are promoted, others retire, and with demobilization a good many will undoubtedly revert to field grade. In compiling the following list, an effort has been made to indicate the highest grades attained, regardless of whether or not they are the current ones. If errors or omissions are noted, correcting notes will be most welcome.

GENERAL OFFICERS KILLED OR DIED IN WORLD WAR II

Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, former Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, killed in action in France, July 25, 1944.

Major General Edwin M. Watson, Military Aide to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, died at sea enroute from Yalta to this country on February 20, 1945.

Brigadier General Allen C. McBride, Chief of Staff, Philippine Department, Manila, reported prisoner of war of the Japanese government in Taiwan Camp, Island of Formosa. Reported died in Japanese prison camp, May 9, 1944.

Brigadier General Edmund W. Searby, Artillery Commander, 80th Infantry Division, killed in action in France, September 14, 1944.