

THE MONTGOMERY MEMORIAL

PLAQUE - ALBURY HEATH

The Albury History Society is pleased and grateful to have received the following descriptive note of the Review which is commemorated by this Plaque - especially since the note is written by one of the participants of that Review.

Submitted by Walter A. Moir - A Canadian soldier of World War Two:

"During World War Two I was stationed at Round Down, Gomshall, with the Royal Canadian Engineers. There were over six hundred men in our unit. It was while I was there that we marched from Round Down to Albury Heath via the Silent Pool to be introduced to Field Marshal Montgomery. There were over ten thousand Canadian Troops on Albury Heath that day. We were told we would be under his command. But did not know that we would be going to France.

"It was while I was on holiday in Shere in April 1990 with my wife that I learned that a monument had been erected on Albury Heath in commemoration of the above event. I was in the 'Prince of Wales' when several hikers came in. When they realised I was a Canadian they enquired if I had been one of those who had met Field Marshal Montgomery. I answered "yes". Then they told me of the monument they had seen that morning. Relatives of my wife drove us to see it and we had pictures taken by the monument. We were impressed by what had been done at this historic site.

"While out for a walk a few days later, I met two Canadian couples also on holiday in England. The two veterans had also been among the ten thousand troops and had been stationed at Aldershot. They did not know about the monument so I was able to tell them and give them directions. When we returned from our holiday, we discovered a personal friend was also on Albury Heath that day. (We did not know him then). He had married a girl from Chichester."

The Montgomery Memorial commemorates the review of Canadian troops on Albury Heath by General (later Field Marshal Sir Bernard) Montgomery in May 1944, prior to the D. Day invasion of France on 6 June 1944. This memorial was erected by The Albury Trust and unveiled on 1 September 1984 by Mrs. Win Browne, who was a spectator at the 1944 event.



Walter A. Moir
1944