





36.


MEMORIAL
OF
ALPENDORADA




-  Rua do Memorial Alpendorada e Matos Marco de Canaveses


-  41° 5' 20.05" N
8° 14' 49.71" W


-  +351 918 116 488

-  ×

-  ×

-  National Monument 1910

-  P. 25

-  Free

-  ×

Combining the ideas of the tomb and remembrance monument, the Memorial of Alpendorada currently stands close to the intersection of national roads 210 and 108, on a platform and within a completely urbanized area. However, this is not its original site and its transfer was made during the 1970's.

As far as we know, their construction was surely associated with the choice of an isolated location. These graves, which may be dated back to the 13th century, were built in isolated areas, often close to important roads, thus contradicting the trend manifested in that period of locating necropolises in sacred grounds close to churches and chapels. Besides, these are generally associated with the “faithful to God” who, somehow, suffered an accidental death or were killed in duels, thus being ecclesiastically forbidden to be buried in consecrated places.

The Memorial of Alpendorada does not bear any epigraph that might help us specify the nature of the burial that took place here. However, on the upper stones of the plinth supporting the arch there is an engraving depicting a long sword with a straight guard and whose hilt ends with a circular pommel. The design of the blade is in line



THE MEMORIALS

"In Portugal, especially in the North, there are small isolated monuments along passageways, whose reports, faithful or fanciful, are kept alive by tradition. People call them 'marmoirais' (a corruption of the word "memoriais") or merely arches, given the shape of almost all of them". It was with these words that, in 1942, Pedro Vitorino tried to define this type of funerary monuments for the first time; as far as we know, they are exclusively Portuguese and commonly known as "arches, little arches, memorials and 'marmoirais'".

with the common typology of the 11th and 12th centuries, showing parallel edges and a tip that is only slightly pronounced, thus indicating it would be essentially used for cutting. Moreover, from the second half of the 12th century onwards, most pommels featured a discoidal shape similar to the one engraved in this stone.

This nobility attribute was also included in the monument of Lordelo (Baião), demolished in the 19th century, and is still preserved in the one of Sobrado (Castelo

de Paiva) (p. 104). In the so-called Templars' grave (Marco de Canaveses), a medieval granite slab located in Alpendorada e Matos, near the monastery of Alpendorada, there are also reliefs on the lateral ends that, despite being hardly visible, could correspond to one sword on each side. So, in the Memorial of Alpendorada, we are certainly standing before a funerary and remembrance monument associated with a nobleman and, more specifically, with a knight.





The Memorial of Alpendorada was built in granite and bears a similar structure to that of its counterpart from Penafiel (p. 96). It comprises a base with two rows of well-cut stone above which there is a round arch composed of ten plain voussoirs. The ensemble is surmounted by a protruding horizontal double-framed cornice which runs along its entire length that, in turn, supports a steep gabled top framed by two casings with hexagonal cross-sections, one on each side. This arch rests on a solid parallelepiped base with a footing, and features a double mortuary cavity.



SOUSINO ALVARES

Popular tradition has been associating the Memorial of Alpendorada with the knight Sousino Alvares, a figure that has been also connected to the Memorial of Ermida (Iribo, Penafiel) (p. 96). According to a document from 1114, quoted by friar António da Soledade in the 18th century, the latter would be his grave. However, taking into account this monument's style, we are standing before a memorial raised after his death with the intention of keeping his memory alive.



DON'T MISS OUT

• 0.6 km: Stone Museum (p. 276)