



Continuing to support our British Armed Forces

The William Aldridge Foundation has been established as a lasting and living legacy both in memory of and dedicated to one of the very youngest British soldiers to serve in Helmand Province, Afghanistan and the youngest to have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Rifleman William H Aldridge of 9 Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion The Rifles gave his life in service to his Queen, country, comrades and devoted family on 10th July 2009.

“ We are so much more than a not for profit Forces Charitable Organisation. We seek to network, forge links, build-on, communicate, promote and work alongside existing Military Charities, Organisations and Welfare Funds. We are independently, raising funds for our 'Supported Charities', through various events up and down the country and the sale of our merchandise. We believe we are quite unique in showcasing the available assistance & support for our Tri-Services through our easy to navigate and continuously updated 'Forces Friends' online directory. Here you will find listings with kind permission, for those organisations helping British Serving Armed Forces, Veterans, Injured Service Personnel and Bereaved Military Families. ”

Lucy Aldridge, Founder



William Aldridge came from Bredenbury, nr. Bromyard, Herefordshire. He attended The Minster College in Leominster and was very keen on Rowing & Martial Arts.

Rifleman Will Aldridge joined C Company 2 Rifles in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland in December 2008 at seventeen years of age, after attending The Army Foundation College, Harrogate and completing his Infantry Training in Catterick. He completed pre-deployment training for Afghanistan with his Platoon, but was unable to deploy on tour until he turned 18 on 23rd May 2009. Rifleman Aldridge played a key role with the Battalion's Rear Party in Ballykinler, guarding the families of those already in Afghanistan until he was old enough to deploy himself.

He duly deployed on 26th May 2009 and was fiercely proud of being one of the very youngest British Soldiers serving in Helmand Province. Rifleman Aldridge was one of five soldiers from 2nd Battalion the Rifles who lost their lives on 10th July 2009, in a series of I.E.D explosions whilst on foot patrol in what was reported to be a Joint Forces Exercise, not far from their base at FOB Wishtan in the Sangin District of Helmand ... and one of eight to perish within 24hrs. He still remains the youngest soldier to have been killed at just 47 days past his 18th birthday.

He, along with members of his fellow fallen, displayed great acts of bravery in trying to save their injured comrades. Despite his own injuries, sustained during the first explosion that killed one of his friends instantly and left several others wounded, William assisted the Field Medic in tending to casualties. A second device detonated whilst the injured were being moved back to the relative safety of the FOB, killing three more of his friends, injuring several others and mortally wounding him.

The William Aldridge Foundation are currently supporting **Riflemans Aid, Hounds for Heroes, RCDM Patient Welfare Fund, Families' Activity Breaks, British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association, James Backhouse Memorial Trust Fund.**

Annually donating all money raised through our fundraising events to assist and ensure continuity of care for our British Armed Forces. We welcome enquiries from all military-based organisations.

For more information or to make a donation please visit our website:

www.williamaldridgefoundation.org.uk

The William Aldridge Foundation is a Not-For-Profit organisation.