

## Helmand Governor's invitation to grieving mother

Posted by Lucy Aldridge - 2010/11/12 09:39

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Afghan Governor invites soldier's mum to visit once country is safe

THE governor of Helmand province used his visit to the National Memorial Arboretum to invite a grieving mother to Afghanistan, once the country is safe.

Gulabuddin Mangal said he dreamed of the day he could show families of British soldiers killed in his province in Afghanistan that their deaths were not in vain.

Lucy Aldridge, whose 18-year-old son, William Aldridge, was one of five riflemen killed by a blast in Helmand in 2009, accompanied the governor as he was shown around the Armed Forces Memorial.

As they stopped at where William's name was inscribed among 16,000 others who have fallen since the Second World War, Mr Mangal kissed his fingers and ran them across the rifleman's name.

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<http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/news/Afghan-governor-invites-soldier-s-mum-visit-country-safe/article-2841400-detail/article.html>

[http://williamaldridgefoundation.org.uk/images/fbfiles/images/National\\_Memorial\\_Arboretum\\_Governor\\_Mangal.jpg](http://williamaldridgefoundation.org.uk/images/fbfiles/images/National_Memorial_Arboretum_Governor_Mangal.jpg)

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