

Ex-soldier saddles up for 300-mile ride for charity

by **Tricia Jamieson**

tjamieson@thekmgroun.co.uk

@triciajamieson1

An ex-soldier is in training to cycle 335 miles to raise money for wounded servicemen and women.

Peter Williams is taking part in the Big Battlefield Bike Ride in aid of Help for Heroes.

With around 300 others he will cycle from Brussels to Paris over six days in June.

On the way, they will call at First World War battlefields and memorials, marking this year's 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

Mr Williams, 56, of Colonel Stephens Way, St Michael's, said: "Because of my Army background, Help for Heroes is a charity I feel close to.

"I served for over 20 years and thought I now have the time and the will to raise money for injured servicemen and women.

"There are some servicemen who have lost both their legs and are taking part in the ride on special bikes. They may be in their 20s now, but they will need support for the next 50 years or more."

Mr Williams is head of communications and IT for a private security company.

Prior to that, he spent 21 years with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, leaving



with the rank of warrant officer class 1.

This is the first time he has taken part in the annual Big Battlefield ride.

"I decided to do it because it is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War," he said. "We can easily forget what happened, and I want to do something to stop that."

After reaching Paris, Mr Williams will come back to the UK on Eurostar to join with thousands of other cyclists who have done Help for Heroes rides for a mass ride from Blackheath to The Mall in London on Sunday, June 8.

He has not set himself a fundraising target. So far he has got £3,600, including £690 from donations when he rode 100 miles in six hours on a static bike at Tesco in Tenterden on Saturday.

He was helped by members of Tenterden Rotary Club who collected the money.

Mr Williams is married to Maria and has two children, Richard, 15, and Aileen, 12.

■ To make a donation, go to www.bmycharity.com/peterwilliams



Peter Williams gets some training in and collects cash for Help for Heroes

Picture: Paul Amos FM3039846