



Picture Lucy Duval EH100408_LD02_004

IN TRAINING: Corporal Steve Harvey, left, and Lance Cpl Steve Hutton

'Prep race' is marathon

MOST people train for the Plymouth Half Marathon by jogging around the streets and parks of the city – but two servicemen are going several thousand steps further.

Plymouth-based Corporal Steve Harvey and Lance Corporal Steve Hutton are warming up for next month's half marathon by running in tomorrow's Flora London Marathon.

The Royal Citadel-based duo believe it is the best way to test their fitness – not to mention raise much-needed funds for charity.

"Well, why not?" laughed 45-year-old Cpl Harvey, from Widewell.

"We need to get fit for the half marathon. What better way is there to get fit and raise money for charity?"

The duo are taking part in tomorrow's event in aid of Plymouth toddler Archie Barton, who had to have both his legs, his fingers, the tip of his nose and part of one ear removed after being struck down by meningitis.

They are just two of dozens of city fundraisers who are heading up to the capital for the spectacular annual event.

"A friend of mine asked me which charity we were supporting and I said I hadn't decided yet," added Cpl Harvey, who has taken part in the London Marathon five times

over the years.

"When he told me about Archie I couldn't think of a better person to raise money for.

"He is an incredibly brave lad and deserves the support.

"We have managed to raise £800 in three days so far, so we are well on course to raising around £1,500 for Archie."

For L/Cpl Hutton, it will be his first full marathon.

"It's going to be hard work, that's for sure," said the 29-year-old, who lives on the Hoe.

"I've taken part in seven or eight half marathons before, and a 20-mile event, but never a full marathon.

"It's certainly going to be a challenge, but it will also be a lot of fun.

"Steve's been telling me about how great the atmosphere is. That atmosphere gets you through it."

Both Cpl Harvey and L/Cpl Hutton work alongside 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery with the Military Provost Guards Service at the Royal Citadel.

To sponsor the two servicemen, call 01752 236130. Visit www.archiesstory.co.uk.

City servicemen, Corporal Steve Harvey and Lance Corporal Steve Hutton, completed the 26-mile course in three hours 58 minutes in aid of Plymouth toddler Archie Barton.

Archie had to have both his legs, his fingers, the tip of his nose and part of one ear removed after being struck down by meningitis.

"We wanted to do it under four hours but, realistically, we didn't think we would achieve that," said Cpl Harvey. "We pushed ourselves to the very limit and we're chuffed. It was hard work but enjoyable."