

■ On Duty – The Guardian Text (Factual Group Questions & Answer Key)

Group A – The Event

1. Where did the attack take place?

Answer: In the town of Trèbes, near Carcassonne in southern France.

2. When did it happen?

Answer: On a Friday morning in March 2018.

3. What were the first actions of the attacker?

Answer: The attacker hijacked a car near Carcassonne, killing one passenger and injuring the driver before attacking police officers.

4. How long did the hostage situation last?

Answer: The siege at the supermarket lasted for about three hours.

Group B – The People

1. Who was the attacker and what do we know about his background?

Answer: The attacker was Radouane Lakdim, a 25-year-old Moroccan-born man who lived in Carcassonne. He was known to police for petty crimes and drug dealing and had been monitored for radical views.

2. Who was Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame?

Answer: He was a French gendarme (police officer) who had received military honours and was known for his bravery.

3. What heroic action did Beltrame take?

Answer: He volunteered to take the place of a hostage inside the supermarket.

4. How did Beltrame try to help the police outside the supermarket?

Answer: He left his mobile phone line open on a table so that the police could listen to what was happening inside.

Group C – The Aftermath

1. What happened to the attacker in the end?

Answer: The police stormed the supermarket after hearing gunfire and shot the attacker dead.

2. What was the fate of Arnaud Beltrame?

Answer: Beltrame was seriously injured during the assault and later died from his wounds.

3. What did the French Interior Minister say about the attacker?

Answer: The Interior Minister, Gérard Collomb, said that Lakdim had been under surveillance but was not thought to be radicalized at the time.

4. How did President Emmanuel Macron describe Beltrame's actions?

Answer: Macron praised Beltrame's courage and self-sacrifice, saying he showed exceptional military virtues and deserved the respect of the entire nation.

Teacher's Note: These factual questions focus on reading comprehension. Encourage students to find evidence from the text to support their answers.