**Read the following text and answer the questions below.**

**Airmobile Brigade is ready and waiting**

The Southern Croatian town of Ploce has been home to Britain’s 24th Airmobile Brigade since August. The town has its own port and is an ideal base for the brigade. On one square kilometre of barren wasteland alongside the docks, three tented camps have been erected by Royal Engineers to house almost 4, 000 troops. Conditions are spartan, but morale remains high despite the problems faced by the brigade.

During the first few summer weeks of the deployment, soldiers had to sleep under nets to counter the swarms of mosquitos. The refusal of the Croatian authorities to provide training areas on which the brigade could hone battle skills proved a major disappointment.

Recently, the 3rd AAC Regiment and the 1st Anglian R exercised with the sappers and gunners. Soldiers were flown round a pre-designated route on the base and disembarked on the same bit of ground. They then came under fire from another position and had to counter-attack and breach a simulated minefield. Written into the scenario were details of the casualties sustained crossing the minefield, and the injured were passed down a medical chain for treatment by 19 Field Ambulance.

“You can make plans, but the next week the situation changes and you have to move on to the next phase,” said Brig Brims.

The Croatian authorities are naturally suspicious of the troops’ intentions.

"It takes some understanding, but it is very important to see things from the Croatian viewpoint,” emphasised Brig Brims.

1. Where are the British troops based?

2. Are the camps situated in beautiful surroundings?

3. Has moral been influenced by tough conditions?

4. Why did the soldiers have to sleep under nets?

5. Why were the British troops disappointed?

6. What were the soldiers supposed to do when they came under fire?

7. Why was the Field Ambulance on stand-by?

8. Why do the soldiers serving in Piece have to be flexible?

9. What is the attitude of the Croatian authorities to the troops’ activities?