Conops, perhaps use a narrative flow moving from before invasion for the

prep work and training, to the actual invasion for execution and adaptation,

to transition around or after TOTALIZE?

TLDR: if you accept that the British CA soldier was tactically worse than

the Germans but were able to defeat the Germans by unloading an ungodly

amount of steel and explosives over their head at the first sign of

difficulty, then the British logistical soldier was far superior. A war

cannot be won by killing alone!

Thesis:

L1: Historical community is quite hard on the British for lacklustre

results vis-a-vis armoured warfare and armour-infantry co-operation;

however, what this is missing is that the British Army --- Army, not

economy --- work quite well at a logistical level. This is what, in the

field, enabled the British Army to defeat the Germans despite tactical

mediocrity. Logistics worked to support flawed tactics.

L2: Criticality of the services to the effective waging of war.

L3: We ought to stop viewing armies as mere fighting forces. Understanding

them using a systems approach explains why we can win wars. Merely

examining how an army can outfight its opponent at a tactical level misses

the operational reasons the tactical level can even function.

CONOPS: What if I do this as a microhistory of 90 Coy? I can use them as

a way to talk about the criticality of logistics. What if I used them as

the pivot around which an army (27 Armd Bde, and 3 Div) can turn? I

can use it to skirt around the wider issue that I don't have evidence for

a macro view but I do have 90 Coy's WD. Alas, I can't find as many decorations

for them as I would like to really make it personal. Could I use examples

from other units as a `take Cpl Bloggins from X, note the work he did'?

time to run git branch I suppose. It also allows me to be narrative which

is always fun. Their 4 day history was already 7 pages, I could breath life

into. I can harp on about them for 8-10 x that, right? 1-2 pages

Introduction (let's do it as if they hit a beach and they're driving a

convoy up the road to Benouville with that preload of supplies for 6 Airborne Division

whence we pause to discuss what we currently talk about in the

historiography. I have 5-10 pages on what other people have been writing

about Normandy, from there, perhaps another 5ish to narrow down on Sword

Beach, the whys, the objectives, who was involved etc. --- I should re-read

return of martin guerre I think.

% so 20-30pgs here, I'll probably do more once I footnote it all.

With this context, we return to the convoy and lay out the theoretical

framework by which logistics operates. Depots, lengths of supply lines,

how distribution happens, etc. How this work integrates with the rest of

the army. We deliver the supplies and talk about the RV. Let's also start

talking about the arduous work over the next few days to supply 3 Div and

27th Bde as there are no other 2nd line transport units. As we continue

here, I can intersect the sources for 27th Armoured Bde to give context

as to what 90 Coy was doing. I suppose I’ll have to do some probables and

perhapses. We can talk about how 90 Coy supported the Bde until the Bde was

disbanded. Then, continue talking about how the Coy supported other units

till Totalize maybe? Then, have a final almost pre-conclusion discussing

% Perhaps this takes 4-6 pages-ish?

how, whilst we often don’t discuss the services, these operations would have been

impossible without the supporting units and concluding with how the British

ability to have tactical mediocrity and an unwillingness to spend lives

meant that their logistics had to be good, really good.

Expand this to how armies function, and who this paper doesn't cover. I

don't discuss workshops, clerks --- the whole of A branch actually --- MPs,

BADs, beach detachments, etc. yet they're all important. (5 pgs) Maybe

paint a picture of the whole rear area and why it's important (landing

tickets maybe?). Play to the theme of an army as a system, not as a weapon.

Tie it back to historiography and methods like how a lot in the sources

requires you to intersect doctrine with the WDs to figure out what supply

units were doing --- making a meal delivery isn't something that really gets

recorded in the WD, etc. (5 pgs)

Finally, conclude.