

8.2 Discussion Questions

- Molly: How does technological innovation compare to strategic and tactical creativity? To what extent does an army have to make trade-offs between new technology and new tactics? Sometimes the two go hand-in-hand, but to what extent does it behoove an army to keep doing what works with (potentially) dated technology rather than expend resources trying to adopt new technology?
- McCracken: My question involves the abundance of reserves Eberbach committed to his defence in depth (122-124). What purpose do these troops serve? Obviously, adding fresh troops to a drawn out fight can be advantageous - but is there another advantage in the increased mobility of reserve units, making them more able to respond quickly to unexpected assaults? Are reserves a necessary aspect of Biddle's modern system? How does this connect to Montgomery's later justification that Goodwood wasn't actually meant to break out, just to hold down the Germans near Caen (Biddle, 130)? Did Montgomery force Eberbach to overcommit to his defense, rather than have those troops available to counter the imminent American attack?