

# CLICK

August, 1943

p. 31

## He Tripled Our Army

Every U. S. Soldier Is Three Men  
When He Carries a Garand Rifle



**GARAND SCALES A DRAWING** of a new piece of equipment, to be used in the manufacture of his semi-automatic rifle. He is proud that most of the facilities of the Springfield Armory are diverted to making the Garand rifles.

**H**undreds of thousands of the new veterans of foreign wars will remember gratefully the name of John C. Garand. For many of them, Garand's semi-automatic rifle will have meant the difference between a safe home-coming and death on a far battlefield.

The tripled firing power of the Garand semi-automatic rifle (in Ordnance lists, "U. S. Rifle, Calibre .30, M1") has increased the fighting chance of survival for the average infantryman beyond calculation. Because of the rapid death it is capable of dealing to the enemy, it saves the lives of American soldiers!

Since World War I, Garand has been designing guns at the government armory in Springfield, Mass., where he is now chief ordnance engineer and technical adviser to the works manager. His start as a designer came during the first World War when he submitted the design for a machine gun which won him an appointment to the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C. From there he was appointed to Springfield Armory, where he has worked his way up.

His academic background is negligible. Coming to the States from Canada's Province of Quebec while still in his early 'teens, he went to school for one year before getting his first job in a cotton mill. He then took an International Correspondence School engineering course, only a part of which he completed. But Garand was in the New England tradition of tinkers—a tradition established by the men who built America's industrial empire in barns and woodsheds. Typically he invented his first machine (*Continued on next page*) when he was only fourteen. Bit by bit he acquired on his own the amazing knowledge of many mechanical skills which has contributed immeasurably to his success. He has to his credit a machine gun, two machine rifles, three semi-automatic rifles and more than 20 machines for the manufacture of semi-automatic rifles. Today he is working industriously to devise a number of other machines so production will not be too little and too late. Each day he diligently works at improving his rifle and designing more formidable small arms for democracy's soldiers. The brains of this super-mechanic must be inventoried as among the most valuable wartime resources of the Army.



**TEST SHOOTING** checks "bugs" in one of the semi-automatic rifles of Garand's design. Shooting is done by Albert Woodworth, principal technician at the Springfield Armory for 43 years. He is a trusted friend of Garand.

[OldMagazineArticles.com](http://OldMagazineArticles.com)

## HE TRIPLED OUR ARMY continued



**GARAND SHOWS DRAFTSMAN.** Mrs. Olga Petrick, how a Garand rifle is assembled. She is one of the draftsmen employed by Garand at the Armory for the detailed drawing of intricate models and complicated fixtures.

Garand is undistinguished in appearance. He might be a Rotarian or a Kiwanian in any American village; in fact, he is a member of the Springfield Rotary club. He might be mistaken for a grocer or a butcher but it would be a clairvoyant who, passing him on the street, could recognize him by appearance as the peculiar genius he is. His furrowed but youthful face is crowned with bushy salt-and-pepper hair. His glasses are schoolmasterish. His clothes have the neatness and conventionality of those of a cautious and honest bank clerk. His body is a dependable tool for his energetic and unusual mind. At 55, he is of youthful appearance.

Although his adequate income as a civilian employee of the War Department would permit him to live in upper-middle-class style, he proudly lives in a "workingman's section." Garand bought his house, a six room stucco cottage, when he was a bachelor and brought his bride to it.

The Garands have a son, Dick, 10, and a daughter, Janice, 12. Mrs. Garand, whose given name is Nellie, was also a Canadian, though not of French extraction. She is completely in charge of the Garand home and has worked a miracle in the living room of their house. In his bachelor days, Garand, an ice skating enthusiast, had made the living room into an indoor rink. Maple furniture, chintz, and pastel walls have been combined by Mrs. Garand to form an attractive, simple interior. This room is often the scene of the checker games between Garand and "my good neighbor, Al Souvigney." The Garands are almost as proud of the three Souvigney boys in the Navy as they would be were the lads their own sons.

Garand also plays checkers with cronies in the park. It helps him pass the time when he isn't thinking, dreaming, drawing or reading about guns. Evenings he frequently steals a march on his wife, takes over her maple Boston rocker and reads technical journals. They are practically his only reading, except for the war news.

He made his famous semi-automatic rifle available to the Army without royalty. It was his gift to his country. He rejects any suggestion that he was altruistic, and assures visitors that he explored the chance of marketing it. Some of the interested were suspected Nazis. Rather than let them have it he gave up his chance of wealth.

Garand gives an impression of vigorous honesty and sincerity. Thoreau, New England's famous tinkering sage—also of French extraction—would have found much to admire in this gunsmith of unusual gifts and citizen extraordinary.



**THE INVENTOR GIVES HIS SON POINTERS** on holding a rifle in the backyard of his home. Dick, 10, took up shooting while at summer camp, welcomes his coaching by his father. Garand himself used to be an excellent shot.

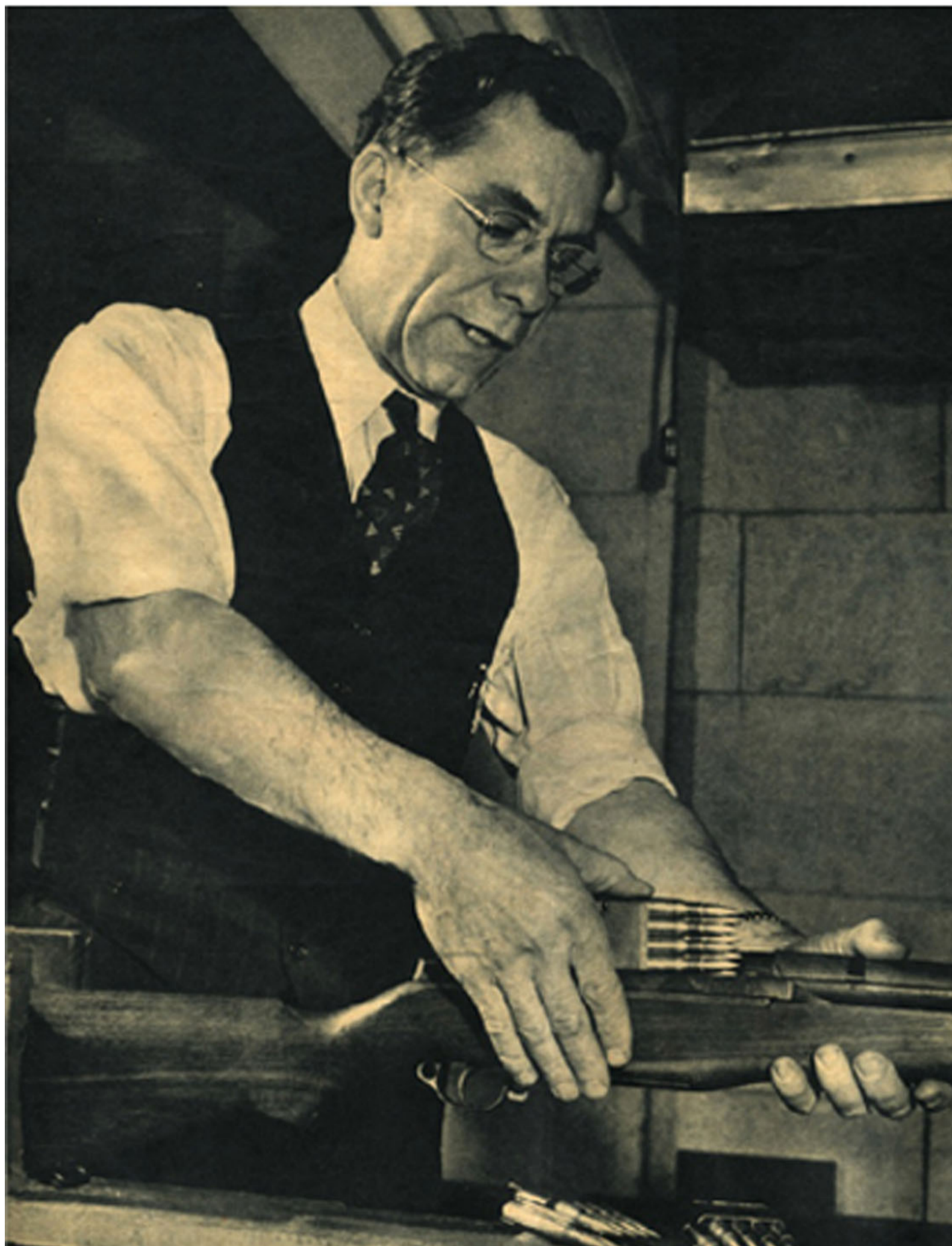


**GARAND CATCHES UP ON HIS READING** of the Ordnance Department's *Fire Power*. Stacked on nearby shelves are his favorite publications, technical magazines which he reads carefully to learn about new types of machinery.

## HE TRIPLED OUR ARMY continued



**IN THE EVENING** Garand and his wife like a lively game of bridge in the living room of their home. Here they are playing with long time bridge partners, Mr. and Mrs. "Bob" Henry. Guest is Garand's chief draftsman at the Armory.



**GUNSMITH GARAND** loads an "M1" semi-automatic rifle on the target range of the Springfield, Mass., Armory. The inventor and designer of the Garand rifle is chief ordnance engineer and technical adviser to works manager.



[OldMagazineArticles.com](http://OldMagazineArticles.com)

(color image added)