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Yank: October 19, 1945: page 7

*Biennial Report of*  
**THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES ARMY**  
July 1, 1943, to June 30, 1945

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR

## **The Greatest American Advantages**

**Careful planning and husbandry of the Army's meager peacetime resources and the nature of this Nation's machine economy gave the American armies in Europe two good advantages over the German enemy. One of ours was the Garand semi-automatic rifle, which the Germans were never able to duplicate. It is interesting to trace the planning and decisions that gave us the Garand rifle and the tremendous small arms firepower that went with it, noting especially that the War Department program for the Garand was strenuously opposed.**