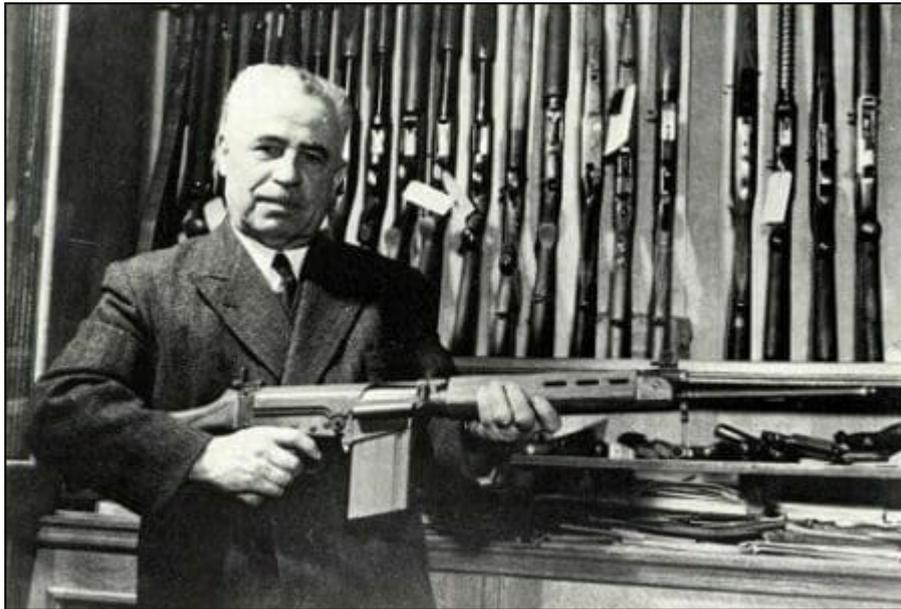




# Gunsmith, Dieudonné Joseph Saive

## Dieudonné Joseph Saive



Dieudonné Joseph Saive (1888 - 1970) was a Belgian small arms gunsmith who designed several well-known firearms for Belgian armsmaker Fabrique Nationale. He is also known for modifying several of John Browning's firearms designs, including the 1931 Baby Browning and Browning Hi-Power pistol. He was born in Wandre, Belgium near Liege - only a few kilometers from the village of [Saive](#).

Saive is pictured above holding one of his modern gas-operated self-loading rifle designs that was ultimately developed into the widely successful *FN FAL* selective-fire battle rifle that went into cold war production in 1953 to become celebrated as "**the right arm of the free world**".

[\(WIKI\)](#)



**In 1928 Saive traveled to Yugoslavia to set up the state arsenal in Kragujevac.**

In 1929, Saive returned to Belgium where he oversaw the manufacture of the commercial version of the Browning Automatic Rifle. By 1930, Saive was promoted to become FN's chief weapons designer (*Chef de Service*). Saive improved the operating mechanism of the .30 cal. M1919 Browning M2 AN **aircraft machine gun** in 1932, increasing its rate of fire to **1,200 rpm**. In 1938, he made additional improvements to the M2 further increasing its rate of fire to **1,500 rpm**. During the same period, Saive continued to improve the *Grand Rendement*, and by 1934 the French term *Grande Puissance* ("Hi-Power") was first applied to the evolved design which became the **French GP-35 self-loading pistol** or FN Browning Hi-Power. The Hi-Power was the first 9×19mm handgun to utilize a true staggered-column magazine. The large magazine enabled the weapon to carry a total of **fourteen cartridges** without an excessively oversized or protruding handgrip.

France declined to adopt the *Hi-Power* for its armed forces, instead using the Modèle 1935 pistol. Despite this rejection, the *Hi-Power* was a sales success with more than 56,000 produced by May 1940, mostly for the Belgian military. It was used extensively in World War II

by many nations including the British Commonwealth and Chinese forces. More than 65,000 Hi-Power pistols were also used by German forces, renamed *Pistole 640(b)*, after the **Nazis captured FN's manufacturing plant in Liège on May 12, 1940. Saive fled the German invasion, eventually arriving in London in mid-1941.** He was soon at work at the Enfield Design Department at the Drill Hall in Cheshunt, England, recreating production drawings for the Hi-Power and further developing his design for a gas-operated rifle called the *EXP-1*, later the *FN Model 1949*. By June 1943, the British modified Saive's technical drawings to produce the *Mk. I U.K.* model of the *Hi-Power*. In April 1943, China requested 180,000 Hi-Powers with hollow wooden shoulder stocks that also served as holsters through a Mutual Aid Plan with Canada. The Chinese were familiar with the C96 Mauser Broomhandle that came with a stock/holster and wanted the same thing for the Hi-Powers they requested. **The Canadian contract was with the Inglis firm who hired Dieudonné Saive and Rene Laloux, both Belgian engineers, to work on production.** After the war, the Browning *Hi-Power* was adopted as the standard military service sidearm of many Western countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia. Slightly modernized versions remain in production today, three-quarters of a century later. ([More at Wiki visually](#))

### **Saive's Gas-Operated Rifle Designs**

Saive is most famous for his series of gas-operated self-loading rifle designs, which used a tipping bolt to lock the action. His *FN-49* rifle went into production, and was later developed into the widely successful ***FN FAL selective-fire battle rifle***. ([WIKI](#))





**Browning Hi-Power**  
Most popular pistol of the 20th Century



**"Baby" Browning**  
A .25 caliber vest pistol released in 1931



**FN-FAL "Battle Rifle"**  
Used in over 90 countries, one of the most widely used rifles in history

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### [12/10/2019: John Browning's Final Performance: The Browning Hi Power](#)

Dieudonné Saive

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dieudonn%C3%A9\\_Saive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dieudonn%C3%A9_Saive)

Dieudonné Saive - Wiki Visual

[https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Dieudonn%C3%A9\\_Saive](https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Dieudonn%C3%A9_Saive)

Dieudonné Saive - This Day in History: Father of the FAL Dies

<https://www.ammoland.com/2019/10/this-day-in-history-father-of-the-fal-dies/#ixzz63g1FvtYq>

Dieudonné Saive - Man and the Gun: Dieudonne Saive

<https://blog.westernpowders.com/2017/04/man-and-the-gun-dieudonne-saive/>

Dieudonné Saive - Gunsmith

<https://alchetron.com/Dieudonn%C3%A9-Saive>

Dieudonné Saive - Milestone: The 100,000th Inglis Automatic Pistol

<http://www.sadefensejournal.com/wp/milestone-the-100000th-inglis-automatic-pistol/>

Belgian Guns

<http://www.littlegun.be/arme%20belge/a%20a%20site%20belge%20gb.htm>

Dieudonné Saive or related? - **Arnold Gérard Dieudonné**

BOUQUETTE Arnold, Gérard, Dieudonné, gunsmith, born in Liège in 1877, husband of BIHIET Marie Julia Gabrielle, born in Neufchâteau in 1881, living in Liège, Impasse Nihart, 15

<http://www.littlegun.be/arme%20belge/portraits/a%20a%20portraits%20fr%20gb.htm>