

# Military Bases To Be Abandoned

OTTAWA (CP)—The defence department will have at least \$15,000,000 a year when Canada's two military installations in France are abandoned next year, defence officials estimated Wednesday.

## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Patients Tell Story Dr. Shapira's Skill

By NEIL A. MATHESON Provincial-Farm Editor  
A LETTER to The Guardian this week recalls the feats of surgery performed here some years ago by Dr. Max Schapira who practiced at New Glasgow back in the 1940's. Marc Gallant, a 19-year-old former North Rustico boy who has made an outstanding success as a photographer and artist in the United States, tells an interesting story in his letter to Advertising Manager Stewart Vickerson. A call to my friend Joe Gaudin, a North Rustico man who is managing director of the P.E.I. Credit Union League, set me on the trail of still another Dr. Schapira story. This one concerns Felix Pineau, who owes to the skilled surgeon the fact that he has two feet today, instead of being a partial cripple.

### Injured Arm Almost Like New

MR. GALLANT reports that "after a three year search he recently located the doctor who saved his arm in an operation performed in a Charlottetown hospital almost 18 years ago."  
"At the mischievous age of one and one-half years Marc caught his right arm in the wringer of a washing machine. Several doctors told his parents the arm would have to be amputated. Then Dr. Max Schapira, a young doctor who had been in the province only a few years, attempted an operation, making extensive skin grafts. Four months later the injured arm was almost like new," Marc tells us. Several years later Dr. Schapira and his family moved to New York.

### Luck Changes-Dr. Schapira Located

BUT LUCK changed late last month. It was Thursday, April 21, that Marc Gallant was invited to have dinner with a New York dentist. During the man's home, the conversation gradually shifted to Prince Edward Island.  
Very casually the dentist noted that he knew a doctor who once practiced on P.E.I. Hardly daring to hope, Marc waited as the dentist said "His name is Doctor Schapira."  
The three-year search was over, Marc had found his favorite doctor at last.  
Phoning at last "the right Dr. Schapira"—the words are Marc's—the former Rustico man gave only the circumstances, not his name. After a slight pause Dr. Schapira recalled not only the patient's name—Marc's name—he also reminded Marc that his mother, Mrs. Edmund Gallant, RN (remembered as Zeta) had often assisted the doctor with house calls.  
The following Sunday Marc met his long-lost doctor and his family at their home in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., which is a suburb of New York City. The long search was really completed.

### Felix Pineau Story More Unusual

THE PINEAU story is even more unusual, so far as the surgery is concerned.  
After my friend Mr. Gaudin told me about it, I called Mrs. Gallant on the telephone and found it was back on August 27, 1947 that Felix Pineau had his foot virtually cut in two.  
He was cutting grain with a horse-drawn binder, his good wife recalled for me. He stopped the operation, got down to pick something—I think it was a stone—from the table. That's the part of the binder immediately behind the cutter bar and the knife.  
The horses became startled—there were three horses pulling the binder—and they started running across the field. Mr. Pineau's foot was cut "across the middle". Mrs. Pineau told me. There was just the skin and a bit of flesh at the bottom of the foot holding the severed part of the rest of the foot.  
Remember that this was 19 years ago next August, and modern feats of surgical skill had been unheard of. It looked as though Mr. Pineau would lose the front part of his foot at least.  
But the man was rushed to Charlottetown and was put on the operating table as soon as possible. It was six hours later when the operation was completed. Mrs. Pineau told me over the telephone. Next morning Dr. Schapira, telephoned her to say her husband was out of danger.  
Felix Pineau has had the use of his foot through the intervening years. He is able to do his own work as a normal man should.

### Foot Not Completely Normal

THE FOOT is not completely normal. The circulation is a bit sluggish, apparently. The foot is inclined to be cold, compared to the other one. But that detracts but little from the skill of the man whom New Glasgow people recall as a good doctor and a skilled surgeon.  
My thanks go to Mr. Gallant whose letter brought attention to the job Dr. Schapira did on his arm. It led in turn to the story of Felix Gallant and his foot operation. And here I express appreciation to Joe Gaudin, who was so often helpful in providing information for good stories over the years we have known each other.

### Dr. 'Gus' MacDonald's Feats

FOR THOSE who are keeping scrap books, it was back on December 29, 1961 that I wrote the first column about Dr. A. A. (Gus) MacDonald of Souris who performed unusual feats of surgical skill more than a half-century ago.  
It was just over 55 years ago, I believe, that Dr. MacDonald found A. J. McCormack—a lad of 4 years—at St. Margaret's with his feet cut off by a hay mower. Only a bit of skin was holding the feet—both were the same—when Dr. "Gus" arrived.  
In the case of the St. Margaret's boy—I knew A. J. later when we were in Prince of Wales College together—Dr. MacDonald performed the operation in the farm home without any help. As I recall the story, Dr. MacDonald broke the staves out of the barrel that was catching rain water from the roof, and used them for splints.  
I'm not trying to take anything away from Dr. Schapira and his feats of skill. I know many of you would want me to recall once more the feats performed by Dr. "Gus" who is known and loved by thousands in Eastern Kings where he was the family doctor for so many years.

the most likely course of action:  
—Two of the six CF-104 bomber squadrons at Zweibruecken and Baden-Sollingen in West Germany will be disbanded.  
**WILL MOVE SQUADRONS**  
—The two CF-104 reconnaissance squadrons at Marville will be moved to the two German bases.  
—Baden-Sollingen will be used instead of Marville as a stop-over point for air transport command. A transport base is needed for supply of the Air Division and the Canadian Brigade in Germany as well as for support of Canadian contingents serving with United Nations in Egypt, Cyprus and Kashmir.  
—The Metz headquarters will

be drastically reduced in the number of personnel, now some 700, and shifted to one of the German bases.  
Informants said it is possible a joint headquarters will be established for the Canadian Army and RCAF in Germany. This would become even more likely if CF-5 ground support planes were eventually sent to Europe.  
The defence department has long hoped to have a transport terminal more handy to both the brigade and Air Division. Germany, Canada might get it.  
French squadrons leave one of their abandoned bases. However, the German armed forces desperately need more elbow room and it would appear more likely the RCAF will

run its transport operations from a corner of the field at Baden-Sollingen.  
Meanwhile, the Commons defence committee will hold its first meeting—in secret—today to get a briefing on current intelligence data. Informants said this will mainly concern estimates of Communist military strength.  
**BRISTOL**  
This vicinity lost another of its old veterans in the sudden passing of John R. O'Brien, on Saturday morning following a heart attack. A veteran of World War One, he joined the staff of the Camp Hill hospital in Halifax after leaving the Army and served there until his retirement nine years ago when he returned to his Bristol home. He went back to the sea and followed the fishing until two years ago. His funeral, from his late residence to the Church of The Little Flower was one of the largest seen here for some time. Besides his wife, the former Ethel Conohan, he leaves a family of 13, most of them married in different places across Canada. All arrived home for the funeral.  
Mrs. Donald MacAdam died in the Charlottetown Hospital on Friday after a lingering illness. She was the former Dora Doyle. She taught school in the different districts here. Her husband predeceased her.  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter McLellan were weekend visitors to this

vicinity from Indian River to attend the funeral of Mrs. McLellan's uncle, John R. O'Brien. She was the former Mabel Sinnott.  
Mr. and Mrs. Aldus McKenzie were Friday evening visitors to the city. Mr. McKenzie is the fire chief in the village and reports the call to St. Peter's last week was one of the worst battles in his years as a fireman.  
Rev. T.P. Butler, parish priest here, who has been on vacation, returned to his duties over the weekend.  
A visitor here last week reports it is 38 years since the Little Flower Parish was formed here and the hall hauled out from Sinnott's road to be converted into a church. The first funeral held here was that of Mrs. George Barry, and the second one, Mrs. John R. O'Brien. Mrs. Joseph Walsh, was in the city on Friday, along with other friends on business and visiting some sick friends.  
Herb Kenny, who has been employed at Beach Grove for some years will retire shortly, it is reported.  
Anslem Lapierre was a business visitor to the city last week. For many years he was a cook house operator at the Red Head packing plant.  
Joseph Campbell, Halifax, has arrived here to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law John R. O'Brien. Mr. Campbell will also spend some time around the old home in Tracadie, before returning to his duties with the CNR

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