



# WOMPATUCK NEWS

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## Ex-Annex Worker Salvatore Amonte

Salvatore Amonte died April 10, 2011. He was 87. Called Sam, Amonte worked as a railroad flagman at the Cohasset Annex. He left the ammunition depot in the early 50s to serve for 36 years as a police officer for the Town of Hingham. As everyone said of him, "You couldn't meet a nicer guy." That's for sure. He volunteered valuable information to the park on the operation of the Navy trains at the Cohasset Annex. He'll be sorely missed.

## Former Resident at Park Home Recalls Good Times

Robert Liddell sent an e-mail this spring and reminisced about the great experience he had growing up as a Marine officer's son at a house the park still uses as a residence. It's located on a dead end left of the main gate. His father, Major Liddell, served at the ammunition depot as an executive officer. He saw action in Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. His duty was featured in the film "Band of Brothers."



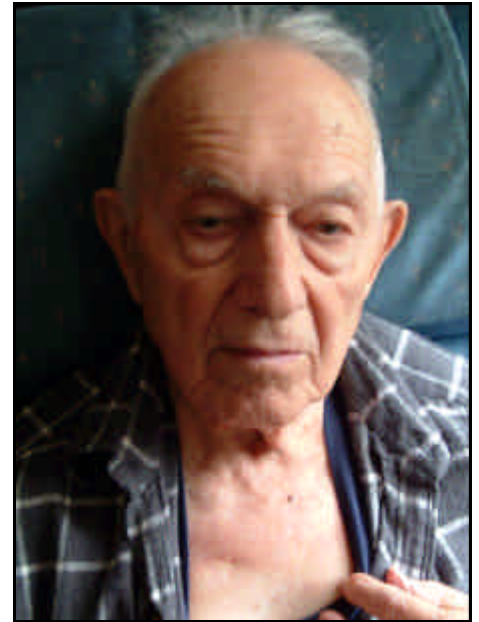
*The Liddell house as it appeared in 1951. He and his three-year-old twin sister Barbara are looking out the bottom left window.*



*The Liddell house as it appears today.*



*Former Annex worker Guido Guaraldi poses in front of his garage made from five-inch rock-et boxes. Guaraldi shows where he was shot through the chest during World War II.*



## The Last of the Mohicans

*By Jim Rose, FOW News Editor and Historian*

No, I'm not talking about James Fenimore Cooper's classic. It's about ex-Annex worker Guido Guaraldi of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Since most of the former employees of the Cohasset Annex have gone to the "Happy Hunting Ground," Guaraldi's fascinating story needs to be told.

Guaraldi was born on July 12, 1921 in Plymouth to Italian immigrants. Like most of the Annex workers, he joined our country's armed forces during World War II.

Wounded three times, he points out that he is lucky to be here. "See this scar," he says as he pulls down his undershirt. "I was shot through the back and out the chest. I suffered that wound at the Remagen Bridge in 1945. (Park director Steve Gammon's father, Lester, was one of the first GIs to cross the bridge) I also got hit with shrapnel in the shoulder at Aachen and along the leg in the Huertgen Forest the year before."

I asked Guaraldi what were the most memorable events of the war. "Where do

I begin?" He answers. "I'll give you a funny one. World War II wasn't all blood and guts.

"When we were bivouacked in this German village during rest and recovery, the engineers rigged up showers for us out of canvas and pipes so we could get cleaned up after battle.

"Well, just when it got to be my turn to strip down and lather up, a German fighter jet, the ME-262, swoops down on us. We saw what appeared to be a bomb tumbling toward the showers.

"Everybody scattered! All running bare-assed through town to take cover. But, lucky us, the bomb was just an empty fuel tank. Nothing happened.

"What we didn't expect is the laughter it created from all the women and children when they saw all these GIs running through their village nude and scared out of their wits. There were no men there because they were all fighting on the Front. At least we gave the villagers a good show."

"After the war ended, I started work

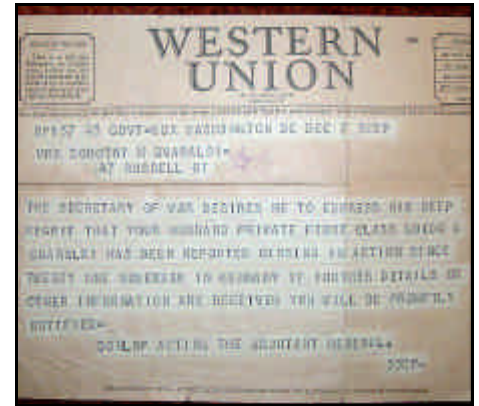
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*Nazi flag that Guaraldi picked up in Bonn, Germany after he kicked and spat on it.*



*Nazi stamps Guaraldi found in the University of Bonn.*



*Army telegram informing Guaraldi's wife that he was missing in action.*

## Last of the Mohicans (continued from page one)

at the ammunition depot as a forklift operator. The funniest event I can think of was a prank another veteran friend of mine, Bert, pulled on this woman who worked in administration at the depot.

"To begin, during the war Bert lost an eye. A German shot it out. The Army replaced it with a glass one. You couldn't tell the difference when you looked at him. Even now.

"Getting back to this woman, she always enjoyed getting on his case. In other words, she liked to give him a hard time. One day Bert had enough. While she was giving him the business, he says to her, 'You can't get to me because the eye will always be watching you!' Whereupon he pulls out his glass eye and sticks it in her face. She never bothered him after that.

"Another funny event took place over at Mainside (Bare Cove Park). The Navy told these warehousemen to clean out the old poor house tomb and turn it into an office. When the workers went in there to

square it away, they found a dead body inside waiting for them. Apparently that was the edge of the poor house cemetery. They really got quite a fright that day.

"I worked mainly on Mainside, but I did work at the burning area at the Annex now and then disposing "D" powder. That's the propellant that turned people orange. You could identify people that worked at the Depot in Hingham by their ghoulish yellow orange skin color.

"A number of times the fire department had to be called in to put out fires at the burning area when the ordnance burning got out of hand. They had explosions there too.

"We had some sad events at the Depot as well as the humorous ones. In 1956 I loaded obsolete torpedoes on the LST-519 ship *Calhoun County* for disposal at sea. As the torpedoes were sent overboard off Nantucket, one exploded and blew off the galley leaving the captain with minor injuries.

"Another time this worker was killed by lightning while playing golf at the South Shore Country Club during his day off. He worked in Security.

"I left the Depot in the late 50s when the Navy started to gradually shut it down. As we were cleaning the place up, you were permitted to take wooden rocket boxes for personal use. Some of the guys would make lawn furniture out of the boxes. Others used it for framing because the wood was so strong. I'll attest to that. My garage is built with it and it's still standing after 50 plus years." (Park users will be able to view a rocket box once the new park history museum is set up at the Transportation Building.)

"The Depot and Annex were great places to work. I'll be 90 next month, and I'm still going strong. I have six wonderful kids and my late wife Dorothy took good care of me. I still miss her cooking. Italian cuisine, of course." ■



*Cohasset Annex five-inch rocket box used as siding for Guaraldi's garage.*



*Poor house tomb that became an office.*