

# SEABEE NEWS SERVICE

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## GOOD JOB PROSPECTS FOR SEABEE SPECIALISTS

The training they receive as members of Seabee Specials or Army Port Battalions should qualify servicemen for permanent, good paying jobs after the war, Cmdr. S. E. Mittler, CEC, USNR, Special Assistant to Captain H. P. Needham, CEC, USN, stated in a recent address to the American Merchant Marine Conference.

With American foreign trade after the war likely to be plentiful, he said, there would be a splendid opportunity in the ranks of longshoremen for these men "who have already proven their worth and properly served their apprenticeship."

This is the time, Commander Mittler suggested, for steamship and stevedoring companies, labor unions, and the War Shipping Administration to begin a program of joint action to make jobs available to servicemen returning from duty with the Specials or Army Port Battalions.

"A steady job at a fair wage with opportunity," he said, "is more desired by American veterans than any substitute therefor."

Commander Mittler pointed out that despite the difficult conditions under which the battalions operate, their records compare favorably with pre-war work at the most modern terminals. Shipmasters of many years' experience, the Commander reported, have stated they never observed such rapid and efficient cargo handling as is being performed by the Seabee Specials.

## JAPS PREPARING FOR RAIDS ON MAINLAND

Displaying increasing concern over expected American air raids, Japan has announced that millions of civilians will be evacuated from eleven of her largest cities, under new regulations designed to decentralize huge population centers.

The action followed Tokyo reports that B-29 Superfortresses had appeared over the main Japanese island of Honshu on "reconnaissance" missions three times this month.

Meanwhile, speaking in Detroit, General H. H. Arnold, Army Air Forces head, indicated the Japs' fears were well grounded. His prediction that Japan will be visited by thousands of bombers daily when the American air attack hits its stride was backed by an order for 1,000 more Boeing B-29s.

## TIME OUT

A Seabee detachment launched two pontoon causeways during the assault on one of the Palau Islands with only a slight interruption while one of their number

underwent an emergency appendectomy, Sgt. John Worth, a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, discloses in a delayed dispatch.

Worth relays the following official report on the two operations, amphibian and surgical:

"At 1200 on 17 September we received an order from the control boat to launch causeways and bring them into Blue Beach. The port causeway unit was launched at 1230. The launching of the starboard causeway was interrupted by an emergency appendectomy. This took place on the tank deck of the LST which had been converted into a Hospital Evacuation Ship for the assault. The second causeway finally was launched at 1530."

### ADMIRAL INGERSOLL TO ACCELERATE PACIFIC SUPPLY

The recent appointment of Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll, USN, as Commander of the Western Sea Frontier, in which capacity he will speed up the flow of supplies across the Pacific, is another indication that the Allies are beginning to apply their heaviest pressure against Japan.

In his last post as Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Ingersoll successfully managed a similar supply problem, convoying 11,500 ships across the Atlantic and many thousands more in cooperation with the Royal Navy. He handled the supplies for all Naval forces in the Mediterranean and European areas, and helped the Royal Navy in bottling up the German fleet and in hunting down raiders.

The great problem the Admiral will face in his new assignment, Secretary of Navy Forrestal said, will be to integrate supplies pipe-lined from all over the United States to the West Coast and then to push them across to the Pacific Fleet.

The vital task, said Mr. Forrestal, is "one requiring imaginative knowledge and will be done by a man who has this."

### MERRY GO-ROUND

They work hard but they never get anywhere, lament Seabees of Detachment 1011. The boys have the important but thankless job of building beach obstacles at a base which turns out Naval Combat Demolition Units. No sooner do the Seabees build them than the trainees tear them down!

### ISLAND MOVIE SPECIALIZES IN "THRILLERS"

Any day now they'll have dish night at the Seabee neighborhood movie at an advanced base in the Pacific.

Already they have double features.

The difference between this Seabee theater and the Bijou back home, though, is the fact that both features are going on at the same time. It's like this:

Maria Montez slinks across the screen in a cheerful item entitled "Jungle Woman." The audience -- aviators, Seabees, Marines, and a large contingent of the local population of men, women and small boys -- lean forward on their cocoanut-wood benches on the edge of the ravine.

At the first scream in the first reel, the second feature opens up over on the right. Carbines ping in the trees and bushes. The ushers (gun totin' Seabees) have discovered what they think are a couple of Nip gate crashers, and they are giving them the bum's rush, with lead.

This being as exciting -- or even more so -- than the main feature, it has the audience rolling on the floor -- in self-protection. This is fine for the customers in the rear seats (if they care to remain upright), since they no longer have heads in their way.

Meantime Maria moves back and forth across the screen, sometimes with an audience, sometimes without. The ushers patrol the outer rim of seats along the barbed wire, clicking their rifle bolts. When the second feature gets interesting, Seabees in the audience jump up with their rifles to help the boys at the gates.

In the particular movie at hand, Maria wound up as a corpse, which is appropriate, for any of the Banzai boys who get close enough wind up the same way every night.

### SEABEES' SKILLS WILL BE ASSETS IN PEACE

"The Navy has learned a great deal about the need and importance of skilled workers by witnessing the outstanding performance of the Seabees," said Rear Admiral Frederick G. Crisp, USN, in a recent address at New Orleans. Admiral Crisp predicted "the precision-mindedness of our American workers and the men in our armed forces will have a profound effect upon our national economy and our standard of living when this war is won."

### PASSWORD

The Marine was out of ammunition and a party of Japs, crawling through the brush, were closing in. Desperately he jumped to his feet and, as bullets whistled close, raced for the rear.

His frantic eyes recognized the outline of a foxhole -- but a rifle muzzle peered over the edge as a voice demanded, "Who goes there?"

The Marine wasn't in any mood to stop for a mere password. Continuing toward the foxhole, he shouted, "lemme in there, dammit, the louzaye -\*-\*-\*! Japs are after me!"

The foxhole's tenant, Chief Cloyd M. Winfrey of the 73rd Battalion, relaxed

behind his gun. "I almost let you have it," he told the Leatherneck as the latter tumbled in. "Then you opened your mouth and it was OK. No Jap ever knew that code!"

### THIRD FLEET SCORES HEAVILY IN MANILA RAIDS

Carrier-based planes of Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet destroyed 440 Japanese planes, sank two enemy warships, probably sank a third and damaged eight others in a two-day raid on the Manila area in support of General Douglas MacArthur's drive to secure the island of Leyte.

In addition, three cargo vessels and an oil tanker were sunk, a trawler and 14 cargo vessels were damaged and heavy destruction was spread among airfields, oil stores and installations during the November 4-5 strikes.

(Presence of many cargo ships in Manila Harbor indicated that the Japs either have been able to slip one or more small convoys into the Philippines or were preparing to rush supplies to other Philippine Islands.)

The two-day toll of 440 planes probably was the second highest of the war in the Pacific, exceeded only by the more than 500 record of June 18-19 when the Third Fleet destroyed 402 the first day and followed up with scores more the succeeding day.

### NO PLACE FOR HITCH-HIKER

The Yanks hold the island but the Japs still set the speed limits. Here's the way it works at the advanced base at which the 17th Special is stationed:

The battalion's truck drivers haul cargo day and night along a road which leads inland from the shore. By day it takes fifteen minutes from beach to airfield including a mile of sniper territory.

MP's patrol the road and the Japs usually are reluctant to shoot and disclose their position. But at night the accelerator of every vehicle is permanently jammed against the floor for the entire distance.

Conservative estimates figure a seven-minute elapsed time for the course. Nobody stops for nuthin'.

A recent event has acted to increase the day time speed to the night time rate. Carpenter Alva D. Boggs is sporting a neat hole in the brim of his sun helmet and in the top of his jeep. Apparently at least one Jap isn't following the snipers' "working schedule" too closely.

### PRIVATE ENOUGH

As a token of friendship, the natives of a small village on Apamama invited Lt. E. F. Crosby, CEC, USNR, to take advantage of their bathing facilities: heated

water, a bar of evil-smelling Jap soap, and a battered wash tub in a small clearing.

The offer was tempting; the lieutenant had been without a bath for several days. But, he told the interpreter, it was his custom to bathe in private. The interested group standing in a semi-circle around the tub embarrassed him.

With solemn faces the natives discussed the situation. Then two of them picked up the tub and carefully moved it under the shelter of a ragged piece of sail cloth. That, they believed, was privacy enough. They were little concerned that the improvised tent lacked sidewalls.

"I stripped and climbed into the tub," Lt. Crosby said. "What else could I do?"

### SATISFACTION

A 107th Battalion Seabee, back in the States after receiving a medical discharge, wrote to the editors of the 107th's "Pipeline" describing his first stateside meal:

"The waiter handed me a menu.

"I don't want any menu," I said, "I know what I want. I've been thinking about this day for months and months.

" 'First,' I told him, 'I want an order of Vienna sausage, then an order of beans -- not too well done and plenty of salt on it. Then I want an order of powdered eggs, scrambled. Also, I want a bowl of chili and an extra large piece of Spam.

"After a bit, he brought all of it to me. I sat it around my table in a half circle.

" 'Now,' I said to him, 'I want to order something to eat,' I thought his eyes were going to pop out. 'Get me a two-inch steak about a foot long, smothered in onions -- fresh onions -- you know, the kind that grow in the ground. Then bring me a quart of fresh, white milk.' I used to hate milk before I went out there but now I've changed.

"For side dishes I ordered corn on the cob -- fresh, too, and not out of the can -- and lovely sweet green peas.

"As I got ready to eat I said to those Seabee dishes: 'Now, Raiders -- stomach raiders -- stick around and watch me eat a real meal.'

## THE MARINES AND THE SEABEES

(An editorial by Comdr. W. L. Johnson, CEC, USNR,  
OinC of the 95th Battalion. Reprinted from the 95th's "News-Views")

Talk with a Seabee who has been in the forward area and you talk with a friend and admirer of the Marines. It is a mutual friendship that has grown out of the respect each service has for what the other is doing.

The Seabee's first contact with the Marine was not so pleasant; throughout his boot training he was being continually reminded of what awaited in advance training "when the Marines get hold of you." It was a threat that turned out a good deal like it had been pictured; all lived through it but the Marine instructor came in for a lot of expert Seabee verbal decorations.

It was several months later, on our first "Island X" - Apamama - that we really got acquainted with the United States Marine. We discovered he was a worker as well as a fighter; an independent sort of guy who did things for himself, had tools of his own and knew how to use them. We learned, too, that he did not mind sharing them. It was Marine amtracks and tractors that plowed through the salt water and up the coral beaches bringing the Ninety-fifth's gear ashore during those first days before our own equipment could be brought into use. There we heard the story of the Marines at Tarawa - heard first-hand how they fought and how they died. Their traditions about which we had heard so much suddenly became living events with which we were closely associated.

Common privations and common dangers brought us close to the men of the Marine Corps. We shared with them everything from food to fox-holes; we were welcomed to their camp and post exchange; we found them to be all-round good fellows who liked Seabees and the Seabee way of getting things done. Anything they had was shared for the asking - scarce items such as welding rod and tires were divided cheerfully. We discovered them to be ingenious craftsmen - a power washing machine they built of junked odds and ends was a work of art. It is only natural that these working, self supporting, hard fighting men won respect.

This friendly relationship carried on into the Marshalls. There again was a sharing of equipment and supplies - their large concrete mixer that saved hours of back-breaking work - a sharing of messing facilities, a welcome to their entertainments, friendly competition in some instances and mutual support in others.

The men of the Ninety-fifth do not have to read newspapers and magazines to learn about Marines. And the experience of this Battalion has been the experience of innumerable Seabee units throughout the world - especially in the Pacific area. The small cemetery at Apamama, the large one at Tarawa, the wind-swept one at Roi-Namur - these are mute but eloquent proof we have seen of the way they have to get some of their jobs done. Beside it, our difficulties and inconveniences assume small proportions.

No comment need be made of the major role the Marine Corps is playing in the war and its contribution toward approaching victory; it will become part of the tradition that has made the United States Marine the toast of fighting men the world over, and the dread of our enemies. Comment is in order on how personal experience convinced us that his reputation is well earned.

Incidentally, no greater tribute has been paid the Seabees than their acceptance into close friendship with this, the proudest branch of the armed service. Primarily builders but none-the-less fighters, the Seabees will be going wherever duty calls and if given their wish, they will be going along with the United States Marines.

### GI WITH A FLOURISH

"The swankiest GI haircuts in the Navy," is one of the inducements the 129th Battalion holds forth to new men. Barber for the battalion is Armando P. Desculapio, S1c -- in civilian life, Mr. Armando, one of New York City's most fashionable hair-dressers.

Desculapio, who was employed by Charles of the Ritz at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and at Wanamaker's, has fashioned coiffures for the famed Powers models and has had samples of his handiwork pictorialized in Vogue, McCall's, and other smart women's magazines.

### NEIGHBORS

Sing Got Wong, Canton-born graduate of Dwight Prep School in New York and now a Steward's Mate in the Seabees, hasn't seen China for many years. But when his mates in the Admiralty Islands brought in five Chinese laborers whom the Japs had forced to work for them, Sing wasn't surprised to be called in as interpreter.

Then he took a good look at the men. "What you know!" he exclaimed. "These fellows my neighbors back in China. This fellow Jun Chun ... this one Wu Lut Chang ... that Wong Juck and here Sun Tung and Wong Lai, all Cantonese."

In order to furnish the Chinese refugees with money, the Seabees peddled as souvenirs the invasion money they had carried. By the time the funds were gathered together, however, the Chinese had been moved from the Seabee camp.

The \$20 proceeds went, instead, to United China Relief, with this note

"Enclosed is a small contribution from five men of Canton."

### ELUSIVE SUBJECT

The Japanese Army, the Tokyo radio has announced, has undertaken the establishment of a "central headquarters" within its general staff to "study the secret of certain victory."

It is presumed that instruction in "the secret of certain defeat" will continue to be provided, gratis, by the United Nations.

## IRRITATING

Some forty days after they first landed with the Marines on D-Day, members of a Seabee Special on a recently captured West Central Pacific island are still being plagued by snipers.

Lying in his tent on the beach after coming off duty, Max M. Biglow, SK2c, was grazed by a stray bullet which passed through the shelter's canvas sides. A few days later, Thomas H. Gray, Slc, had a close escape while taking his nightly shower. He suffered a slight scalp wound when an unannounced piece of lead hit him behind the ear. Another casualty was Antonio Martins, BM2c, who, while working at the supply dump, was hit by a .31 calibre bullet which pierced his lung, narrowly missed his heart, and lodged in his back. Fortunately Martins will return home none the worse for his experience.

As a group, however, the Seabees are chagrined that snipers are still active after more than a month of intensive mopping up operations.

## PLENTY OF FINGERS

It was shortly after D-Day at a recently invaded Pacific Island when Seabee Otto Gavenda reached up to turn off the light in the 73rd Battalion's heavy equipment office. Quickly he jerked his hand away from the socket.

"Wow, what a shock!" Gavenda gasped as he examined his fingers. "What the hell -- I've been shot! A Jap sniper ...."

The bullet had nicked his forefinger and thumb.

Making his way to sick bay, the Seabee scratched his head with his good hand and commented, "That Jap almost got our last light bulb."

## BUILDERS

"Now we'll have some civilization here!" a Marine exclaimed as a battalion of Seabees -- in this instance, the 101st -- landed on a newly-won island.

Two weeks later, the Leatherneck's prediction had become fact. The Seabees had completed a camp which included such conveniences as electric lights, refrigeration, concrete-decked galley, mess hall, scullery, heads, two deck Quonset huts for living quarters and sick bay, and regular Quonset construction for commissary warehouse, recreation hut, laundry, and ship's store.

## G I S THANK SEABEES

An Army newspaper, published on the 99th Battalion Detachment One's "Island X", gave front-page prominence to the "benefits which the Seabees have brought to all servicemen on the island."



"There is not an Army enlisted man or officer who had not at one time or another had reason to thank these workmen of the Navy for the canvas roof over his head or the concrete flooring under his cot," the article said in part.

#### ALMOST SHORTER THAN HE FIGURED

A veteran of two years overseas duty which included two months on the Normandy beachhead, Warren E. Suell, EM2c, is sure that heaven protects not only fools but Seabees as well.

Watching a mine-removal squad unearth more than 100 mines from a Normandy pasture, Suell realized suddenly that only the day before he had taken a short-cut across the same field.

"From then on," avows the Seabee, "I took precautions whenever I crossed a field .... I always carried a parachute."

#### CAPTAIN JOHNSON AWARDED LEGION OF MERIT

Captain C. R. Johnson, CEC, USN, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for his work as Public Works Officer and Officer in Charge of Construction at the U. S. Naval Base in Iceland from Feb. 16, 1942 until Sept. 8, 1943.

Among the projects completed by units under his direction were a tank farm and two large airfields.

#### SEAT OF THE TROUBLE

Three times German artillery has taken the seat of his pants off Pfc. William G. Mashburn of Covington, Ky., -- but that's all. He hasn't been nicked personally, reports the United Press.

Bill lost his first trousers' seat at Brest while bending over helping dig a command post. Later he lost another while taking cover in a sunken road. The third disappeared when he took his attention off the Nazi artillery to watch a strafing plane.

Bill is now on his fourth pair of pants -- and looking both ways every time he stands up.

#### LIT UP NOW

Bolts, springs, castings and a miscellany of other parts lay stewn on the ground,

just where they were when the last man had given up trying to make the motor run.

The motor, a Japanese diesel engine, had been used to operate a generator in another camp on the 107th's "Island X". But now, no engine, no generator, no lights.

That is, there wasn't any until Thomas Dennis, MMS1c, of the 107th came along. Although he had never even seen an engine similar to the Jap-made motor, Dennis went to work. Soon the motor was humming again, the generator was generating, and the lights were going on all over the camp.

### SAILING NEWEST SPORT ON TREASURY ISLAND

On Treasury Island, where not too long ago a Seabee used his bulldozer to smash a Jap pillbox, the big event last month was a sailboat race, the first held on the island. There were six entries and the winner was a Seabee, Chief Electrician's Mate Marks, attached to a maintenance unit. Marks, who built and designed his own boat, received the Hersum Trophy, presented by Cmdr. Charles R. Hersum, Commanding Officer of the Base.

### UNDER THE BIG TOP

The 23rd Battalion's Roy Vern Brewster, MM1c, is a man who can do almost anything.

As a Seabee he is a skillful truck driver, a better than fair hand with carpenter tools, a capable catskinner, and an expert shovel operator.

In civilian life, after regular working hours as partner in a trucking concern, he was a tight-wire artist, animal trainer, and lot superintendent of the third largest circus in America.

### PRACTICAL

The war sometimes provides strange answers to conventional questions. When J. W. Yates, Jr., SK3c, returned from the European theater, he was asked, "What did you think of the French countryside?"

"Pretty sandy," he replied in all seriousness. "Nice to dig foxholes in, though!"

### NEW PETTY OFFICER RATING?

Shortly after the rout of the Japanese fleet off the Philippines, Rear Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf, victor in the naval battle off Surigao Strait, sent this message to Admiral T. C. Kinkaid:

"Here's one for the book. Several destroyers have applied for the new rate of "cowboy" after roping unwilling Nips from sinking ships and downed planes."

### SCRUBBED WAY ACROSS

"....This vessel has transported several thousands of personnel of all the branches of the armed services," wrote the captain of a troop transport which carried the 87th Battalion, "but not until the last operation have we contacted a unit which by its magnificent spirit and whole-hearted cooperation has moved us to so depart from orthodox routine as to prompt the writing of this letter.

"Prior to embarkation, the men of this unit removed to their encampment and scrubbed by hand over one thousand canvas bunk bottoms; thoroughly scrubbed, washed, and policed all the troop compartments on the ship, loaded some 1500 tons of their own equipment, volunteered for sea watches, accomplished innumerable repairs in all Departments, and as a final gesture of good-will provided the manpower to load outbound Army materiel and mobile equipment when other labor was not provided. As this is being written, artificers from this unit have just completed an all-night task of installing a new unit of ovens in the bake shop."

### 28th SPECIAL OFFICER HAS SEEN LONG SERVICE

Military, ordnance and educational officer for the 28th Special is Chief Boatswain Raymond H. Honeycutt, veteran of almost a quarter-century's service in the Navy.

After being on North Atlantic convoy duty during the last war, Honeycutt made two trips around the world, served three and a half years in the Philippines, and was adjutant at the Naval Training Stations at Norfolk and San Diego. In 1941 he took charge of the Chief Petty Officers and Officers Indoctrination School at San Diego, training more than 10,000 men before leaving in 1943 to captain tug boats on the west coast.

In December, 1943, he reported to Camp Peary for duty - his first contact with the Seabees. "I have never changed the opinion I formed about the Seabees at that time," he says. "Although I have been in the Navy all my life and trained thousands of men, I have never encountered better men than those in the Construction Battalions. And I mean that."

### MYSTERY

Seabees of a battalion in the Hawaiian Islands are still puzzling about who shot Joe Wallace, SK2c.

Joe was cleaning out his desk early one morning when there was a sudden crash and he fell to the floor with a bullet wound in his left leg.

An armor-piercing 50 caliber bullet had torn through the wall and the desk, and inflicted a two-inch flesh wound before it bored into the floor. Two Seabees

standing outside the building, told investigating officers that while they had heard the sound of a shot in the distance and the buzz of the bullet, they were unable to tell from which direction the bullet had come.

Wallace is rapidly recovering from the effects of his wound, and the search for the "culprit" goes on.

### SHORT SPORT SHOTS

**FOOTBALL:** Traditional Army-Navy game looms as year's biggest football attraction. Navy's powerhouse eleven finally lived up to pre-season predictions in handing Notre Dame its worst defeat since 1933. Before 65,000 at Baltimore it was Navy's first victory over Irish since 1936 and 4th in 18-year series. Loss was Irish's first to college eleven since November 1942. Four Navy backs, operating from single-wing, gained more ground individually than entire Notre Dame team netted during contest. Army, next to tangle with Irish, continued undefeated, rolling up 83-0 score over Villanova even though second half was cut to 12 minutes. Although Notre Dame has never lost to both Army and Navy in same season, pre-game odds established Army as 2-1 favorites. Army hasn't scored against Irish in past six years, hasn't won from Irish in 13. Week's results placed Army in nation's No. 1 spot, followed by Ohio State "civilian" eleven, and Navy. Undefeated Randolph Field Flyers, rated as greatest non-professional squad ever assembled, topping service elevens. Ranks of undefeated and untied major teams reduced to 11, six of which are service teams. Only college teams with perfect records are Army, Ohio State, Mississippi State, Wake Forest and Yale. In Pro league, Chicago Bears, led by Sid Luckman on shore leave from Maritime Service, dumped Green Bay Packers 21-0. First time in 66 league games that Packers failed to score, also first time in 41 straight games that Don Hutson was held scoreless. Despite loss, Packers, with 6 wins, are comfortably ahead in Western Division. Washington Redskins squeezed through to 14-10 victory over Cleveland Rams to remain in deadlock with Philadelphia Eagles for Eastern Division lead.

**BASEBALL:** Men in action on battlefields will shortly view World Series motion pictures. Lew Fonseca, motion picture director of American League, revealed that prints of 2400-foot film, which runs for 25 minutes, completed this week and ready for shipment overseas via air. Branch Rickey, president of Brooklyn Dodgers stepped into stockholder class when he and two associates purchased 25 percent of club.

**HOCKEY:** National Hockey League season opened with strength again concentrated in two Canadian teams. Toronto leading league with 3 straight wins. Detroit only American club rated as contender.

**SERVICEMEN'S SPORTS:** Hank Luisetti, one of greatest basketball players of all time, recovering from attack of spinal meningitis. Now lieutenant attached to carrier, Luisetti, captain of crack Stanford quintet in 1937-38 season, hovered between life and death for several days before taking turn for better. Mickey Livingston, Chicago Cubs top 1943 catcher, given medical discharge from Army, expects to return to club. J. B. Ellis, MM3c, with CBMU, set new record for St. Andrew's Golf course at Trinidad. shot 18 holes in 63, 6 under par and 1 under previous record. CSp(A) Joe Teson, who managed 129th Batt's "Redmen" to Central Pacific Seabee Championships, veteran of 10 years in minor league baseball.

**SIDELINES:** Football celebrated its 75th anniversary this week. First game played between Princeton and Rutgers in 1869 had 25 men on a side; against rules to throw or run with ball; team that scored six goals first won. Navy's assistant line coach Ray Swartz revealed that Navy "had" to beat Irish because Admiral King ordered it. Swartz said Admiral King gave team pep talk and concluded by saying: "Let's win this game. What else could boys do", Swartz said.