

# AWARE OF PERIL AT SITKA'S BASE

Fire Sunday Night Was Third of Series, All of Mysterious Origin, Which Threatened Part Of Military Establishment.

By ROBERT J. CASEY

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SITKA, Alaska, Dec. 9.—The war, any Alaskan will tell you, started not Sunday morning in the Hawaiian Islands but Saturday night at Sitka. And the Alaskans will give you evidence that the first shot was really touched off a couple of months ago—and they'll make out a convincing case.

A drill barge burned Sunday night. In the channel between the town and the naval base it looked like a simple fire—one of those things you can expect around a busy construction camp.

Except that it constituted a menace to navigation it didn't seem to be worth much attention from anybody save the camp fire department.

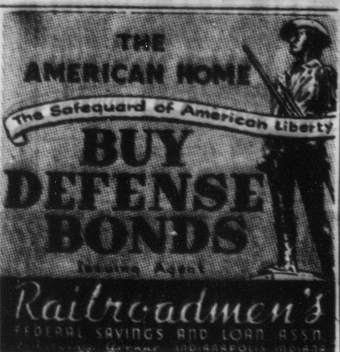
So, if you gave the matter any thought at all you might have wondered at the tone of dispatches which told about it. . . . Authorities feared terrific damage . . . the military base was thought to be in danger . . . and—significantly—the populace of Sitka had been warned to leave the town.

You heard that over your radio and maybe you wondered—now why should a fire on a drill barge in a wide channel cause the evacuation of a town—particularly when the inhabitants, old and young and well and ill, had no place to run except the snow-filled crevices of the mountains that rise abruptly where the pavement ends?

Well, through the well-meant hush-hush that has done nothing to keep such people as our little brown brothers from knowing what has been going on in our defense program in Alaska, you finally get a hint of the reason. Sunday night's fire wasn't anything new to Sitka. It was the third of a series, all mysterious, all big enough to threaten the destruction of a large and important part of the establishment. The first one was a little more than two months ago. News of it over established channels to the United States has been significantly scarce.

Sitka base, one violates no military secret in announcing, has been constructed by blowing the tops off a series of small rocky islands in the channel and linking them together. For this job large quantities of dynamite were necessary. As is the custom on projects of this kind, the stick dynamite was stored in one shed. The detonating caps were stored in another. Both, theoretically, were under military guard.

Sentry Discovers Smoke  
One fine night a sentry discovered smoke coming from cracks in the dynamite shed. He turned in an alarm. The soldiers and Marines responded and vol-



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Deputy Secretary of State Robert H. Loring will speak at a meeting of the Warren Township Republican Club at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Curry, 6787 E. 10th St.

## LOSES RACE TO CAST WAR VOTE IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (U. P.).—Rep. John M. Costello (D. Cal.) raced from Los Angeles to Washington by plane yesterday but arrived a few minutes after the war vote was taken.

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**Girls' & Tots' Dresses**  
TUBABLE PRINTS  
Adorable styles with smart, new trims. Assorted colors and color combinations. Sizes 2 to 6 and 7 to 14.  
**49c**

**Tots' Pinafore Aprons**  
FOR THE YOUNG MISS  
Washable, pinafores in choice of colors. Attractively trimmed. Give her several for Christmas! Sizes 2 to 6.  
**49c**

**Extra!—Just Received!**  
**CHILDREN'S SNOW BOOTS**  
With Fur-Trimmed Tops  
Fun to wear in the snow! White boots with Dutch last . . . sturdy composition sole. A fine gift for any youngster! Sizes from 10 to 2.  
**\$1.49**

**Beautifully Dressed**  
**BABY DOLLS**  
Thrill the little girls with adorable girl or boy dolls . . . dressed becomingly. The girls will love them!  
**49c**

**Kiddies' Dresser Sets**  
She'll adore this 3-piece comb, brush and mirror set.  
**49c**

**Kiddies' Hand Bags**  
Match her snow suit with a red, blue, brown, or tan bag.  
**49c**

**The FAIR**  
311-325 W. Washington St.  
INDIANAPOLIS

**Tomorrow, Wednesday...**  
**49c DAY**

**Girls', Boys' Play SUITS**  
Gay blue or red check or solid color suits trimmed with contrasting colors. Sizes 1 to 8.  
**49c**

**Girls' BLOUSES**  
Christmas Special! Tuck-in or "over" blouses in white and colors. Sizes 3 to 14.  
**49c**

**3-Pc. Cream & SUGAR SET**  
Glass tray with sugar and creamer.  
**49c**

**Gift Boxed STATIONERY**  
Fine quality stationery in assorted colors.  
**49c**

**Women's Cozy and Warm**  
**Brushed Wool Mittens**  
Every woman loves sporty wool gloves! Choose from red, white, blue and green. All sizes.  
**49c**

**Luxurious White Scarfs**  
A charming gift for a charming lady! Plain or brocaded scarfs she'll love to wear.  
**49c**

**Girls' PAJAMAS**  
Comfy flannellette pajamas that make good gifts! Contrasting color trim. Sizes 2 to 12.  
**49c**

**Tots' Polo Shirts**  
Give a h a m smart little polo shirt with a h a m of skirts! Dark colors. Sizes 2 to 6.  
**2 for 49c**

**Women's Better DRESSES**  
**REDUCED!**  
Charming Winter dresses reduced to this new low price! Solid color crepes in blacks and pastels . . . colorful prints . . . tailored and dressy styles. Sizes 12 to 20 and 38 to 52.  
**\$1.49**

**SAMPLE DRESSES**  
**\$3.49**

**Lovely First Quality SILK HOSE**  
Imagine these sheer beauties for so low a price. Popular shades. Reinforced with lisle. Sizes 8 1/4 to 10 1/2.  
**49c**

**RAYON UNDIES**  
—PANTIES—STEP-INS—VESTS—CHEMISE  
Smart lace trimmed and tailored undies in regular and extra sizes. Just what she needs!  
**49c**

**'Boys' and Girls' Snow Suits**  
**\$3.19**

**'Tots' Snow Suits**  
Attractive fashions to keep the kiddies warm! One-piece styles with matching hats. Red, wine, brown, blue and blue. Sizes 1 to 6.  
**\$2.49**

**Smart Fur Trim COATS**  
**\$14.49**

**Self-Trim & Fur Fabric COATS**  
**\$8.49**

**Modern Loose Powder Compacts**  
Gorgeous compacts in smart square and round shapes. And they come in every color under the sun! She can use her favorite powder, too!  
**49c**

**Gift for the Home!**  
2 1/2 Yards  
**"Celluprintz" Draperies**  
**49c**  
It's the NEW, SOFT, PLIABLE Cellulose Materials  
They drape and hang perfectly! Sunfast! Waterfast! Simply wipe off with damp cloth. Beautiful selection of patterns and colors. 2 1/2 yards long, 46 inches wide (the pair). Ready to hang.

**Tots' Corduroy Overalls**  
Gay little red, navy and brown overalls that are "tops" for gifts! Bib-style. And remember, little girls love to wear them for playtime as well as little boys!  
**49c**

**An Ideal Christmas Gift!**  
**Girls' Coats**  
Fashionable Coats for Fashionable Little Misses!  
**\$2.98**

**Smart Fur Trim COATS**  
**\$14.49**

**Self-Trim & Fur Fabric COATS**  
**\$8.49**

**Turkish Towel Sets**  
Always welcome gift! Heavy weight novelty towels. 49c  
Boxed.

**4 Part Linen Towels**  
Printed 5% linen towels in gay, colorful prints. 4 for  
**49c**

**Gifts for BABY!**  
**Infants' DRESSES** 2 for 49c  
**Infants' CREEPERS** 2 for 49c

**Women's Smart Wash Dresses**  
Beautiful Prints  
**49c**

**Smart Fur Trim COATS**  
**\$14.49**

**Self-Trim & Fur Fabric COATS**  
**\$8.49**

**Embroidered PILLOWCASES**  
Elaborately designed pillowcases . . .  
Xmas boxed!  
**49c**

**LUNCH CLOTHS**  
3 for 49c  
Bright rayon and cotton cloths. Gay colors. 36x36-inch size.

**Men's Gift Sweaters**  
**\$1.49**

**Gift Mufflers**  
100% wools . . . rayon in colorful plaids or white.  
**49c**

**Smart Fur Trim COATS**  
**\$14.49**

**Self-Trim & Fur Fabric COATS**  
**\$8.49**

**Women's Gift SLIPPERS**  
Fancy flowered slippers with flexible soles.  
**49c**

**Men's Felt Everetts**  
Oxford grey everetts of heavy felt felt.  
**49c**

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**Betty Gay THRIFT BASEMENT**  
5 EAST WASHINGTON

**CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE!**  
Shop Early and Avoid the Crowds

**BLOUSES**  
New Shipment Just Unpacked!  
Seconds of Reg. \$1 and \$1.19 Styles!  
**69c**

**USE OUR CHRISTMAS LAYAWAY**

**Pastels & White**  
**Stripes & Solids**  
**Tailored Styles**  
**Dressy Types**  
**Sizes 32 to 40**

**USE OUR CHRISTMAS LAYAWAY**