

Buppa



WAR in the AIR

The marshalling yards at Chumphon, on the Bangkok-Singapore railway, after attention by R.A.F. Liberators.

Japan's Collapse : The Atomic Bombs : Russia's Declaration of War : Invasion of Manchuria

JAPAN'S offer to surrender was so sudden that it took most people by surprise. It was the only sensible thing for the Japanese Government to do; but the Japanese do not always do the sensible thing. As we write it is hard to realise that soon no more shots need be fired in anger (except where justice deals with war criminals), no more bombs need be dropped, and no more torpedoes despatched upon their deadly errand. This news comes at the end of a week of surprises. Let us collect our minds and look back at what happened before.

Since VE Day no week has given to the world two such great pieces of news as the dropping of the first atomic bomb on a Japanese city and the declaration of war by Russia on Japan. Either by itself was news of first-class magnitude. Coming so soon one after the other they are staggering, and the rulers of Japan might well feel their minds reeling.

For a considerable time past it has been clear that Japan had no hope of avoiding unconditional surrender. The Allied forces already deployed against her, and being rapidly swollen as the might of America left Europe to assist in wiping the slate clean

of the recollection of Pearl Harbour, were sufficient to assure the collapse of Japanese resistance by the ordinary use of sea, land and air power. Only quite recently have the first 4,000 lb. bombs been dropped on the Japanese islands; but already the Japanese fleet had ceased to be a fighting force.

Then came the news of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and the whole world was amazed. Nations which feel no apprehension of being involved in war for as long ahead as can be estimated have nevertheless been

struck with awe at the fearful possibilities laid before humanity by this new and terrible means of destruction. It is not surprising that Japanese foreign broadcasts began to whine about the inhumanity of using such a terrific instrument of destruction. Bullies are usually prone to whine when they feel themselves beaten. Japan has claimed to be a civilised nation, she has talked about her *bushido* (which we believe means something like chivalry), and she has signed the Geneva Convention. Yet she has fought this war with the utmost barbarity, and so is in the



SHORT-LIVED : The Hawaii Mars, the first of twenty 72½-ton Martin flying boats for the American naval air transport service, which recently crashed on landing. It was launched on July 21st.