

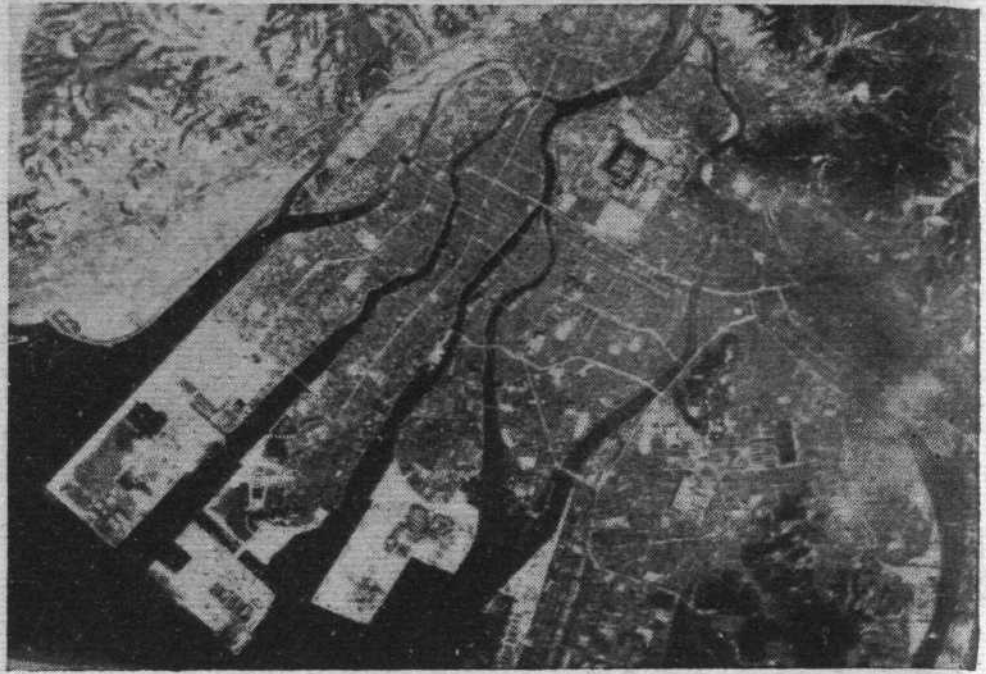
WAR IN THE AIR

worst possible position to complain when she now suffers herself.

The sea-air side of the war was strategically settled some time ago; but it did seem that the clearing of Japanese troops out of the mainland of Asia might give the Allies some trouble. A certain number of factories making munitions of war have been established in Korea and Manchuria. The Allies have proved their capacity to make amphibious landings, and they would doubtless have been able to put their armies ashore in China.

The immediate necessity for such a landing was removed by Russia's declaration of war on Japan. It was an event which was to be expected so soon as Russia had her hands free on her western borders. Not only does it bring the Big Four into line once more as Allies, but it gives the Russians a chance to wipe out the memory of the war of over 40 years ago when she was defeated by Japan. The declaration was promptly followed by an invasion of Manchuria from three sides, and the Russian armies poured forward with the speed which they have taught the world to expect from them. This move might not have made it unnecessary for the Allies to land on the coast; but it would have seriously embarrassed the Japanese commanders on the mainland if they had had to meet attacks from land and sea at the same time.

But before Russia had been at war with Japan for more than 30 hours, the Japanese offered to surrender on terms. Clearly this offer would have been made in any case, after the falling of the second atomic bomb on



HIROSHIMA BEFORE: A reconnaissance photograph of the Japanese town before it received the first atomic bomb to be dropped.

Nagasaki. But Russian action made assurance doubly sure.

The Japanese condition was that the authority of their Emperor should not be impaired. The Allies have always proclaimed that their object was to insure that the people of every country which submitted to them should get the form of government which they wanted. It would be illogical to insist that any country must become a republic if its people preferred a monarchy, and so the insistence on unconditional surrender was somewhat modified in their reply. They did not insist on the removal of the Emperor, as if he were a Hitler or Mussolini, but contented them-

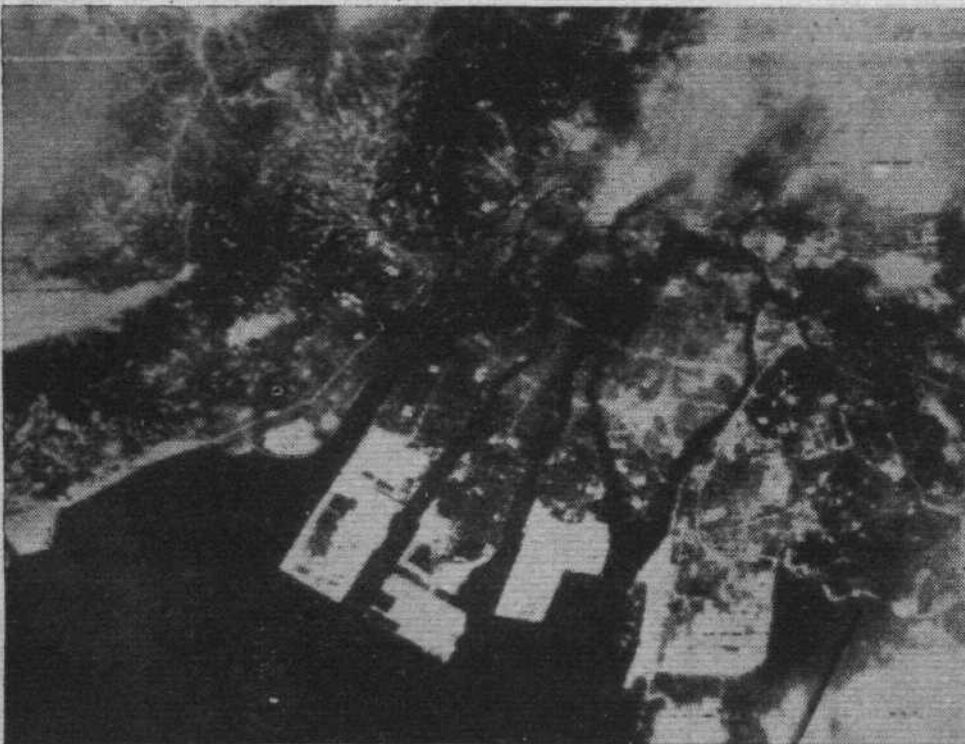
selves with demanding that he must take orders from an American Supreme Commander. In other respects the surrender of the Japanese forces must be unconditional, and the Emperor must issue orders which all Japanese commanders would obey. It is, as a matter of fact, more satisfactory to deal with an established Government than with a chaos in which nobody is quite sure whether the self-styled Dictator has authority to order the surrender of the troops.

Of course the Japanese took some time to consider this demand. No Asiatic ever accepts any offer without an attempt to bargain.

DEATH OF AIR COMMODORE GAYFORD

WE record with regret the death last week of Air Commodore O. R. Gayford, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., who will be always remembered as the chief pilot of the Fairey monoplane which, in February, 1933, set up a world's long-distance record by flying non-stop from Cranwell to Walvis Bay in South-West Africa, a distance of 5,340 miles. His second pilot was Flt. Lt. Nicholetts. This flight held the world's record until November, 1938, when it was surpassed by the flight of three Vickers Wellesleys, led by Sqdn. Ldr. R. Kellett, from Ismailia to Darwin in Australia.

Gayford enlisted as a rating in the R.N.V.R. in 1914, and was commissioned in the R.N.A.S. as an observer two years later. He won the D.F.C. in 1918. After the first world war he held many posts and had many adventures. In 1944 he retired from the R.A.F., and at the time of his death was Regional Controller for the Eastern Region of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.



HIROSHIMA AFTER: The terrible devastation caused by the first atomic bomb to be dropped in war

LINA