

TEXAS FIRE DISASTER

Here is the first report on the most terrible disaster ever to strike a single city in time of peace. Off the water front is Texas City, a piece of hot flying steel sends 50 storage tanks up in flames. Within a few moments, a chain of explosions wrecked the \$5 million Monsanto chemical works.

Miles away from the centre of the explosions, in Galveston, these pictures were shot. It is as if an atom bomb has hit the blast torn port. The death roll among the town's inhabitants may reach more than 1,800. Injured may number eight thousand. How many people were blown to bits in this, one of the world's most terrible disasters, may never be known. Red Cross workers, rescue teams, doctors and nurses raced to this city of death. Emergency rations were given out to thousands of refugees streaming away from the town. As our cameraman worked, the streets were still clouded with poisonous gases from the wrecked chemical plant.

From the air - this is the picture of Texas City today. President Truman has ordered full Government aid. We, in Britain, with our blitz memories know what this tragedy can mean. May it never be repeated.