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ADMIRAL CUNNINGHAM.

Before leaving for Washington as head of the British Admiralty delegation, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham pays tribute to our men who fight at sea.

"In the few minutes of this talk I want to bring home to you something of the spirit of the men who are fighting the war at sea in the Mediterranean, and whom it has been my privilege to command during the last three years.

Invariably outnumbered at sea and a prey to intensive air attack, they have yet succeeded in keeping the Italian Fleet at bay, in striking devastating blows as at Matapan and Taranto and in establishing their superiority in a score of minor actions.

I ask you to remember the story of Greece and Crete when, when over a period extending to 6 weeks, our ships removed tens of thousands of men to safety in the teeth of the severest air attack in history, when for days on end officers and men never left the decks, when every ship was packed with hundreds of soldiers, so it was barely possible to find room to man the guns.

Also remember the eight months when the survival of Tobruk rested on supply by sea and when only the determination of our most resolute Merchant Navy and of our well nigh worn out little ships kept the fortress supplied.

Think also of our submarines and aircraft issuing from the battered fortress of Malta and striking so hard at the enemy vitals that hundreds of aircraft are still at this moment trying to reduce the spirit of that gallant island.

There is not time to tell you more of this story but you will understand how proud I am to have had such men under my command and with what deep regret I leave them; But the work goes on and while that spirit remains we may rest quite confident of the ultimate outcome.'