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ITALIANS WORK FOR ALLIES.

As our armies advance up the map of Italy, local labour is enlisted to assist in the work of reconstruction. At labour exchanges Italian engineers and labourers are signed on for work on permanent ways and public services. The Germans had employed many in a similar way but conveniently forgot to pay them when it was obvious that they had to get out quick. Wrecked railway tracks receive priority attention.

This is a German track wrecking machine. A device which rips up the sleepers and deposits an explosive charge on the rails all in one neat movement. This appears very much to be a machine built by a nation admitting defeat. The Italians find that working for the Allies brings them in regular pay, which is not the phoney currency of their ex-Nazi bosses, but money guaranteed by the Allied Military Government.

A hand full of lire notes which are printed with a few reminders of the Atlantic Charter. The Four Freedoms which Italians had to sneer at under Fascism.

When the rains came in Italy, mud applied the brakes to everything. German and Allied convoys had churned every road into a sticky, clinging mass which begged down every form of transport.

Mud came to be known as "Hitler's Ally" - not the "Dr. Goebbels" variety, but knee deep slush which clung faster than an 18 B detention.

Way up on the Sangro River front, Monty chats to War Correspondents outside the same caravans he used in North Africa. Monty's reputation for informality goes a step further as he puts up his brolly against the rain.

Once upon a time an umbrella became the symbol of appeasement. But in the hands of General Sir Bernard Montgomery it's positively a battle axe.