Hitler’s Angel Has 3 Millions In N. Y. Bank

By M. J. Racusin

New York, July 30.—Hidden in the tides of economic warfare now surging over the world, the New York Herald Tribune has discovered that Fritz Thyssen, the German industrialist who was Adolf Hitler’s original patron a decade ago, has three million dollars in American cash suited away in the bank vaults of downtown New York.

In the American colony of Thyssen enterprises, perhaps the most interesting is the Union Banking Corporation, 39 Broadway, nominal guardian of the three million dollars cache, all in United States currency—a sort of nest egg for Thyssen or perhaps some of his high-placed Nazi friends when the present troublous days are over.

Real Ownership Is Mystery

Among other Thyssen interests in New York are half a dozen corporations engaged in the shipping, export and import trades, centering chiefly about the coal and steel industries and operating under the wing of the Union Banking Corporation. These organizations did a thriving business in rolling up dollars for Thyssen in years past, but have been brought virtually to a standstill during the last year by the war.

One of the most fascinating aspects of this story is the mystery surrounding the real ownership of the Thyssen fortune. At the moment, of course, no one can get at this Thyssen nest egg, because it is part of the $4,500,000,000 foreign assets frozen by the United States Government since Adolf Hitler’s...
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arrests began overrunning Europe.

Government circles assert that the
assets of the Union Banking Corpo-
ration and its subsidiaries were
frozen because control came from
a Netherland's institution called
the Bank Voor Handel en
Schepszaart (Bank for Trade
and Shipping) in Rotterdam. One of
the Thysen string of banking houses
on the continent. It was subject to
the freezing order because it was a
Dutch corporation, and not a
German-owned property.

As the custodian of all Dutch
property outside of Germany, the
Netherlands government in ex-
plicitly represents that a law in
1938, would seem to have some rights in
the matter. Nevertheless, the
Thysen's properties were confiscated
by the Nazi regime back in 1938,
and thus it might appear that the assets
here are legally a part of the Ger-
man government's assets in the
United States.

The Thysen bank in Rotterdam
which nominally is the N.Y. branch
New York corporation was bombed out
of existence by the invading Nazi
forces in May, 1940. No one in New
York knows to whom or what it ap-
pended to the officers of the
Rotterdam institution. Not a word
of instruction or advice has come from
abroad.

Blist Believed Not Genuine

Perhaps it wasn't Thysen's money at
all. Some persons suggest maybe
he sent it here for safekeeping for
some of the Nazi bigwigs—perhaps
for Hermann Wilhelm Goering, or
for Paul Joseph Goebbels, for Heinrich
Himmeler, or even Hitler himself.

No matter how the story comes
out, the United States Government
has the situation, however. Every
penny of known Thysen assets is
frozen, under the strictest control.

There are many Americans in
responsible positions who do not
think that the rigors of the thal,
and the Nazis were genuine at all,
preferring to believe that Thysen
was in reality a sort of economic
advance agent of the Nazi's interest,
a financial surveyor and sewer-
upping as a refugee.

Reliable private information is
that Thysen has been wandering
from Switzerland, France and other
European countries before and after
the '38 Nazi armies. There was quite
much hindrance from the Hitler
Government in Thysen's efforts in
Germany—not under confinement,
free-to move about but closely
watched—perhaps as a prisoner,
er, perhaps a hostage for his wealth
throughout the world.

Thysen's adventure in the Amer-
ican business world dates back to
August, 1924, when without foun-
daries or ruffles the Union Bank
Corporation was incorporated with
a capital stock of $400,000, the money
coming from the Hotel De Pa
een Scheepvaart, it was licensed un-
der the New York state banking
laws as an investment corporation.