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## Yorkville Shops Get Nazi Squeeze

Hitler Sympathizers Bully  
Owners for German Relief  
Funds, Commission Reports



Nazi sympathizers are browbeating and terrorizing hundreds of small New York City storekeepers into contributing hard-earned dollars and supplies to Hitler's war relief and military machines, PM learns. Crack investigators of the Commercial Crime Commission, headed by Col. Ralph C. Tobin, commander of the new 207th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, NYNG, have uncovered evidence which soon will be placed before federal and state authorities for prosecution.

Harold E. Chasmar, Crime Commission vice-president and general manager, former AEF Secret Service agent, confirmed reports that his organization has been investigating threats against the storekeepers by Nazi agents. His files revealed that Nazi terrorists gain minute details of private banking accounts of prospective victims through fifth columnists employed in financial institutions.

### Shopkeepers Beaten Up

Mr. Chasmar reports local Nazis threaten recalcitrant shop owners, their wives and children and have beaten up a large number. He says the victims were afraid to go to the police.

Complaints poured into the Crime Commission offices at 165 Broadway after supporting institutions (industrial firms, substantial business houses, bankers) were told by customers and small merchants about the threats.

Two weeks ago the first complaint reached the commission, whereupon its entire intelligence unit, composed of former FBI experts, swung into the investigation.

### Loyal Americans Terrorized

Loyal Americans with German names are principal victims of the terrorists, according to Mr. Chasmar. In one case, Nazi agents learned of a loan made by a Washington Heights storekeeper. They insisted he share the loan with them, but he refused.

"From confidential sources we have learned that storm troopers in Greater New York have approached and are approaching small storekeepers with German names, soliciting clothing and funds for German soldiers relief," Mr. Chasmar said. "If the storekeeper does not comply with their request, especially for funds, threats are made to injure the storekeeper."

### Kin in Fatherland Endangered

"They have even gone so far as to indicate that if the particular party has relatives in Germany there were ways and means to cause them undue hardships unless the storekeeper complied with their demands. It makes no difference whether the storekeeper has been in this country for some time, or whether or not he is a citizen. They take the position, once a German, always a German, and say the storekeeper should support the fatherland during the war."

"We are going into this matter further and are endeavoring to obtain more specific and detailed information regarding the extent and scope of the storm troopers' operation and the names of the organizations they are supposed to represent, in an effort to obtain enough data to warrant attention by the proper law enforcement agencies."