

"We are what we
pretend to be,
so we must be careful
about what
we pretend to be."





From 1996 Keith Gordon film version of *Mother Night*, starring Nick Nolte

- James Lundquist: “...the novel’s structure relies on “compounded absurdity”
- Jerome Klinkowitz: discusses the book’s “madly rebounding absurdity”
- Robert Tally: Campbell must ultimately recognize “the absurdity of the human condition”
- Andrew Hicks: notices “the patent absurdities” of “Nazis playing ping-pong” and of the “Black Fuehrer of Harlem”



White Plains Hall,
New York, April 24,
1938





William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw"
(Howard W. Campbell, Jr. in the novel)





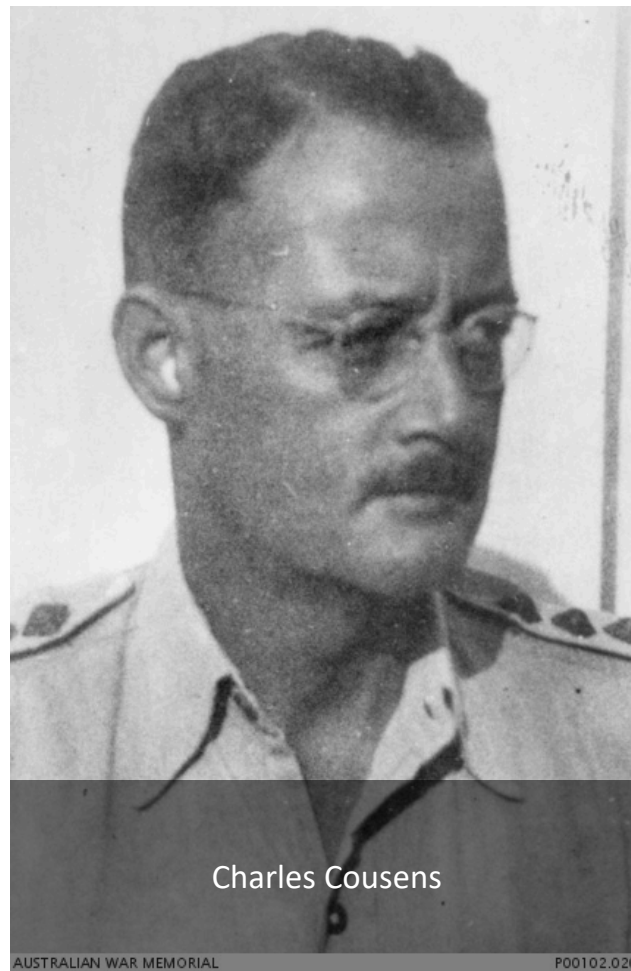
William Joyce in an ambulance, shortly after his capture by British officers in 1945



Wolf Mittler



John Amery



Charles Cousens



Fred Kaltenback—Lord Hee-Haw



William Dudley
Pelley (The
Reverend Doctor
Lionel J.D. Jones
in the novel)





- Anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi propaganda published in Asheville, NC by William J. Pelley

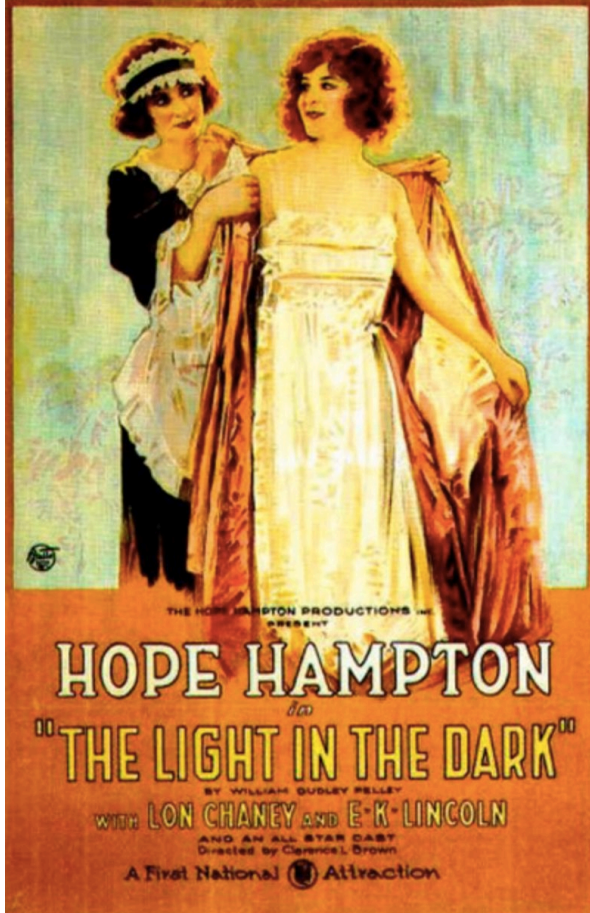
The Silver Legion



In Seditious Trial of 1942, defendants indicted for:

Conspiring to destroy the moral and faith and confidence of the members of the military and naval forces of the United States and the people of the United States in their public officials and republican form of government; conspiring to seize upon and use and mis-use the right of freedom of speech and of the press to spread their disloyal doctrines, intending and believing that any nation allowing its people the right of freedom of speech is powerless to defend itself against enemies masquerading as patriotic; and seeking to obstruct, impede, break down and destroy the proper functioning of its republican form of government under the guise of honest criticism; conspiring to render the Government of the United States bereft of the faith and confidence of the members of the military and naval forces and of the people, and thereby render that government powerless to defend the nation or the people against armed attack from without or treachery from within.

Exact wording appears in *Mother Night* for Lionel J.D. Jones' indictment (*Mother Night*, 68)



The Light in the Dark (silent film based on Pelley's story, "White Faith")



Degenerate Art Exhibit, Munich, 1937





August Klapprott on right (August Krapptauer in the novel)



Father Charles Coughlin
(Father Keeley in the novel)



Bund Rally, Madison Square Garden, February, 1939

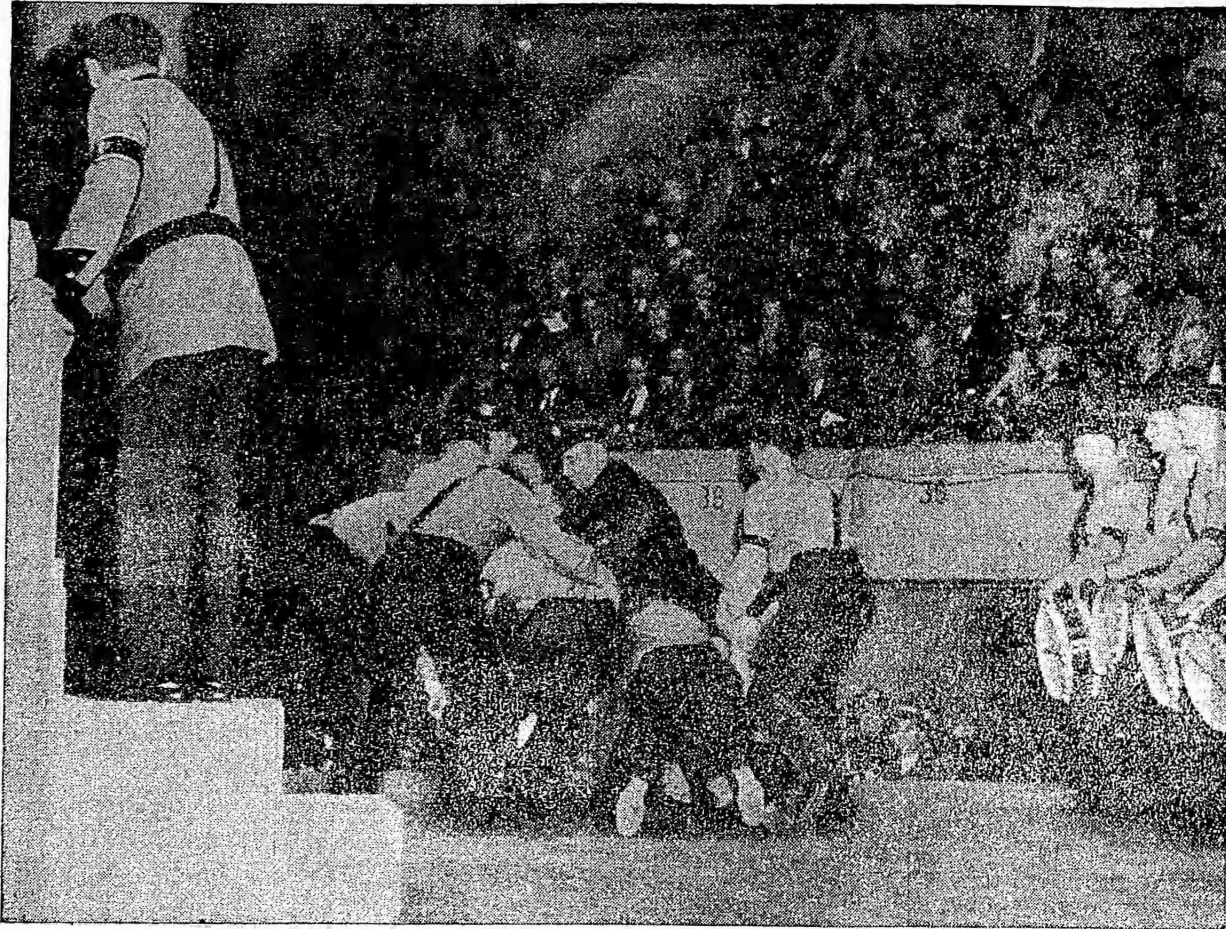


Camp Nordland



Joint rally of the Ku Kluz Klan and the Bund, Camp Nordland, August 18, 1940. Klapprott is shown shaking hands with James Bell, Grand Dragon of the KKK

Battles at Bund Rally Put New York in Uproar—Pass



Police and uniformed German-American bund storm troopers struggle over Isadore Greenbaum when he jumped to stage at bund rally in New York's Madison Square Garden last night. At left, Leader Fritz Kuhn, his speech interrupted, watches.
[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

(Story on page 1.)

Father Charles
Coughlin
(Father Keeley
in the novel)



NATIONAL WEEKLY

Social Justice

Founded 1936 by Father Coughlin

Royal Oak, Michigan

March 30, 1942

Subscription: Five Dollars Per Year

10c

JEWS PLOT TO BAN 'SOCIAL JUSTICE'

(See Pages 3, 4)

MacArthur Can Whip the Japs— But Can F.D.R.?

(See Pages 6, 7)

Why Mohandas Gandhi Wears a 'Loin Cloth'

(Page 11)



POLITICS AND
THE 40-HOUR
WEEK

★

WE ARE NOT
ON THE
DEFENSIVE

★

PAGANISTIC TREND
IN AMERICAN
MAGAZINES



Members of the Christian Mobilizers in New York, 1940

"Under the Light of the Cross"



THE CHRISTIAN FRONT

The aims and objectives of CHRISTIAN FRONT may be summarized as follows:
 To uphold the Spirit and Ideals of Christianity.
 To promote patriotism and true Americanism as opposed to internationalism.
 To safeguard the principles of liberty as fully expounded under the restraining discipline of Christian teachings.
 To prevent the infiltration of un-American propaganda and alien practices.
 To oppose the charges of un-American propaganda in the United States for the purpose of befriending American youth
 (AGAINST or IN FAVOR of—any foreign Power.)

The Christian Front recruiting poster

Sufi Abdul
Hamid
(Robert Sterling
Wilson in the
novel)



HARLEM

NEGRO METROPOLIS



Photo by Lewis

"Probably the best all-round study of the present-day Negro metropolis we've had so far, by the novelist who wrote 'Home to Harlem.' Excellent photographs."—Olin J. Johnson, *The New Yorker*.

BY CLAUDE McKAY



deal is part of Project.

YORK TIMES.
Pa., Jan. 19.—
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HARLEM'S 'HITLER' JAILED FOR SPEECH

Court Calls Sufi Abdul Hamid
'Imposter and Faker' Before
150 Negro Followers.

ONCE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE

Sudanese, a Former Soldier and
Philosophy Student, Said to
Have Urged Atheism.

Sufi Abdul Hamid, the towering Negro known to his followers as the "Black Hitler," was denounced as an "imposter and a faker" by Magistrate Thomas Auerlio in Washington Heights Court yesterday and sentenced to the workhouse for twenty days.

He was convicted on charges of making a speech in public without a permit, and selling a book without a license last Tuesday, and had been

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JEWISH DAILY BULLET

Turbaned 'Black Hitler' Invokes Bogey Man Against Jews Here

His head swathed in a white turban, Sufi Abdul Hamid, the "black Hitler" of Harlem, looked ominous yesterday. But what he had to say to a Jewish Daily Bulletin reported was even more ominous.

Speaking slowly and weighing his words carefully, he tacitly indicated that unless the Jewish merchants of Harlem stop their drive against him, he will invoke powerful Oriental secret societies to plague the Jewish race.

"I have connections with societies in Tripoli, Tunis, Palestine, Hedjaz, and other countries," he warned, "and my patience is being exhausted. After all, I am only human. I can make a great deal of trouble for the Jews."

Milk and Honey

"Until now I have treated Harlem Jewish merchants with the milk of human kindness. But I

may have to adopt different tactics."

Hamid is head of the Negro Industrial Clerical Alliance which is avowedly endeavoring to force Harlem Jewish merchants to hire members of his organization. He says there are between eleven and 14,000 members in his organization.

Hamid who has been accused of inciting Negroes against Jews, will be the subject of an Anti-Nazi Minute Men meeting across the street from Hamid's rally this Saturday night.

The Harlem Citizens Committee for Fair Play, representing 200 organizations fighting to have Harlem merchants hire Negroes, has outlawed the Negro Industrial Clerical Alliance, Hamid's organization, it was learned yesterday from Fred H. Moore, member of the committee and editor of the New York Age.

Newspaper Accounts from the *New York Times* and the *Jewish Daily Bulletin* identifying Sufi Abdul Hamid as a "Black Hitler"



Journalist Ted Poston



M0482_BOX63_A_3X4_049A

Vonnegut and the editors of Shortridge High School's *Daily Echo*, circa 1940;
Vonnegut in back row, far left

Sufi Abdul Hamid, In Stormy Court Scene, Held Without Bail

By LOU LAYNE

Haled into court on a comparative-ly minor charge, Sufi Abdul Hamid

by. of the Secretary of in reply to an in- an editorial which e Idaho Farmer of O. Adair of Em- ad written to the ng about the edi-

which told of an tural imports over orts in 1937 as an "how the American g sold down the river agreement program," rised by Secretary without "the slightest tion."

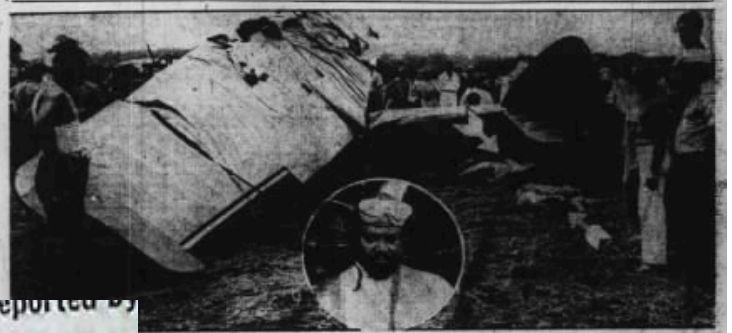
cult to see how so rmation and so many erences could be com- he short space of one e," he wrote, adding e editor might have ned, printing the edi- faith, the effect of the on" was the same. Called "Amazing" retary Hull described g statistical perform- torial subtracted 1937 xports from agricul- and described the ex- s as "net loss" to the ser.

New York Times front page article

HARLEM "HITLER" KILLED

PLANE RUNS OUT OF GAS

"BLACK HITLER" AND HIS PILOT KILLED IN CRASH



NEW YORK, Aug. 4—Sufi Abdul Hamid, the black-bearded, green-uniformed mystic, who was first to preach the doctrine of job-picketing in Harlem, and who was dubbed "The Black Hitler" by the Jewish press because he accused of exploiting his race, was killed in an airplane accident Sunday afternoon in full view of thousands of weekend motorists on a crowded highway near Balmain, L. I. A white pilot, Fred Burkhardt, who was giving Hamid flying lessons, was also killed, and Miss Kay Price, his white secretary, was seriously hurt. The 39-year-old Cessna plane,

Sufi Abdul Hamid, black-bearded Wantagh (N.Y.) "Prophet of the Universal Order of Transquility," and former "Colored Hitler" of Harlem, met death instantly Sunday with his white girl, Miss Kay Price, when Hamid's recently-purchased second-hand monoplane crashed on Jerusalem Road Wantagh, N. Y. Hamid's white girl secretary, Kay Price, was critically injured. In this photograph of the wreck, Burkhardt's body is still in the foreground. Miss Price can be seen under the tail of the shattered plane. Prophet Hamid in circle. International News Service.

cuss problems of the international language, Esperanto.

PLANE CRASH FATAL TO 'HARLEM HITLER'

Pilot of Negro 'Bishop' Also Is Dead, His White Girl Aide Hurt on Long Island

Sufi Abdul Hamid, Negro cult leader who was known as "the Harlem Hitler," was killed yesterday with an aviation pilot when his plane ran out of gasoline and crashed in full view of thousands of Sunday afternoon motorists near the crowded Southern State Parkway north of Wantagh, L. I. Miss Kay Price, the Sufi's white secretary and press agent, was seriously injured in the crash.

The anti-Semitic Negro "Bishop" and his secretary took off from Roosevelt Field yesterday piloted by Fred Burkhardt of Hempstead, L. I. in the nine-year-old J-5 Cessna

Reported by TOKYO, Monday, anese army commu Soviet Russian tro counterattacked Ch Shatsaopin, from been dislodged, an after hours of fight The Russians left the field, and Jap more tanks and t the army commu Soviet forces cover tacks with artiller

The attacks bega terday, the Japar said, where Japa succeeded at dawn trol from the J strategic hilltop near the junction Japanese protec Korea and Russia The War Offic that a "terrible when the hill, w occupied and beg 11, was seized.

Japanese L Special Cable to TOKYO, Mond net and army

ME OF GOV. Y FIGHT TO RACE

Aug. 4—Ohio will hold on next Tuesday important primary election. If one visiting both rural and industrial impressed by the keen interest taken

POWELL INSULT GETS 'BOOT' OF JUDGE LANDIS

Yankee Outfielder Suspended for Nasty Remark During Broadcast. "TEN DAYS," SAYS JUDGE LANDIS

The Pittsburgh Courier, Aug. 6, 1938



