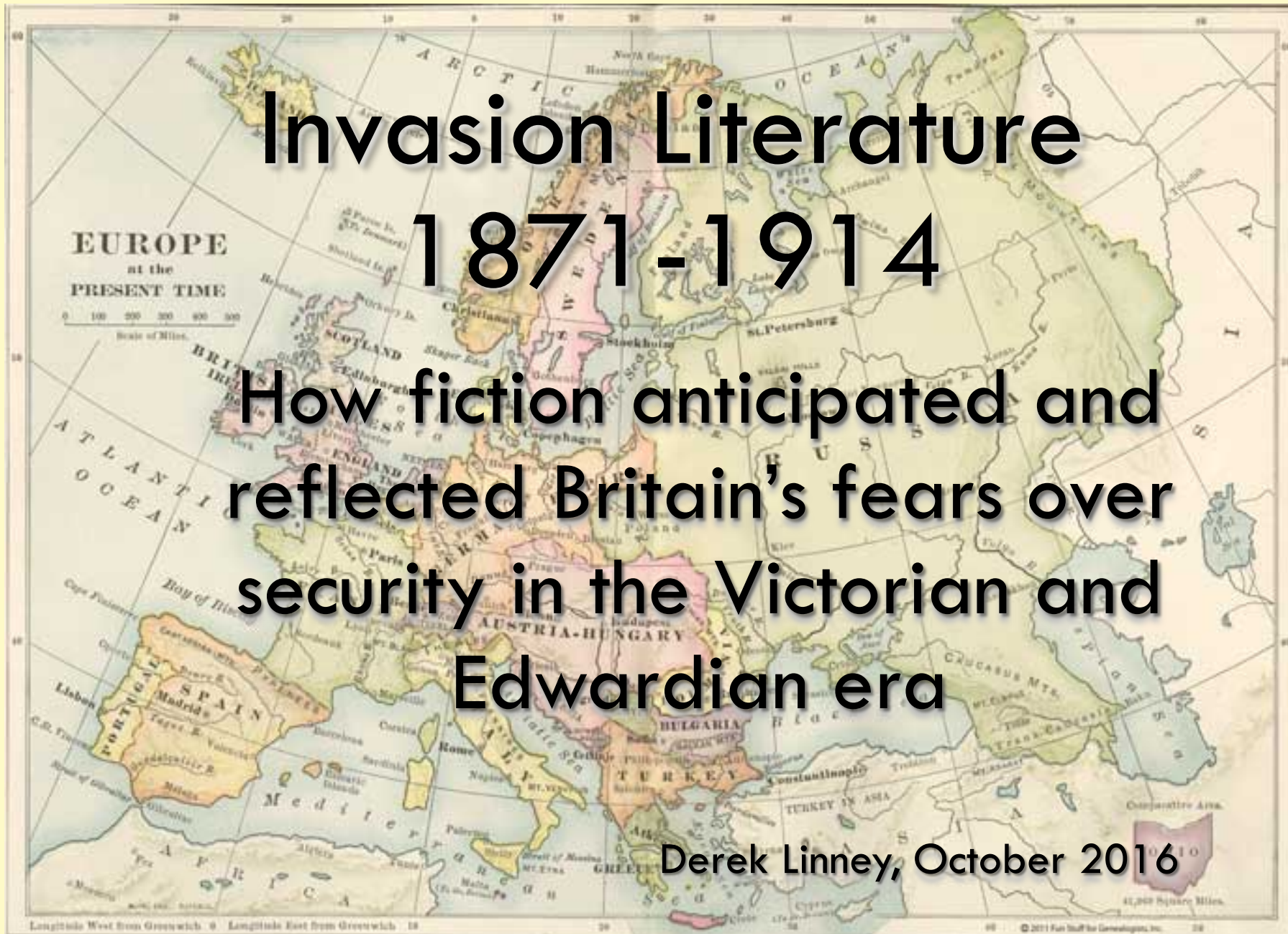


Invasion Literature 1871-1914

How fiction anticipated and reflected Britain's fears over security in the Victorian and Edwardian era

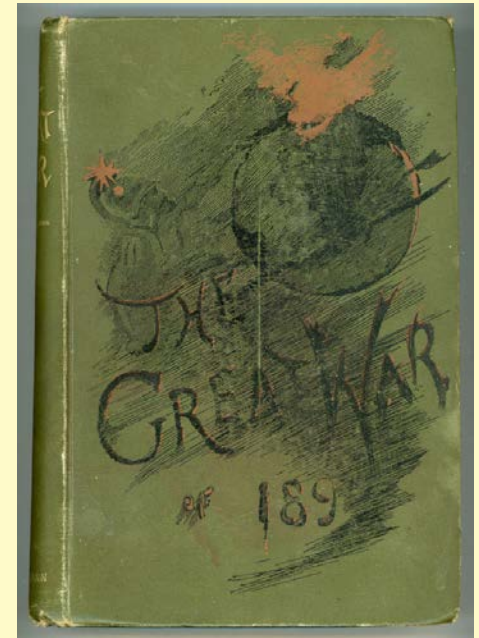
Derek Linney, October 2016



Countdown to War

- Crown Prince assassinated in the Balkans
- Serbian aggression causes Austria-Hungary to invade Serbia
- Treaty obligations escalate the conflict
 - *Russia joins the war to support its Slav allies*
 - *Germany joins in support of Austria-Hungary*
 - *France supports Russia and declares war on Germany*
 - *Germany advances through Belgium to attack the French*
- Britain initially stands aloof but eventually joins the fray

**ON THE SIDE OF GERMANY AGAINST
FRANCE & RUSSIA**



“The Great War of 189-” by
Admiral P. H. Colomb
Published in 1892

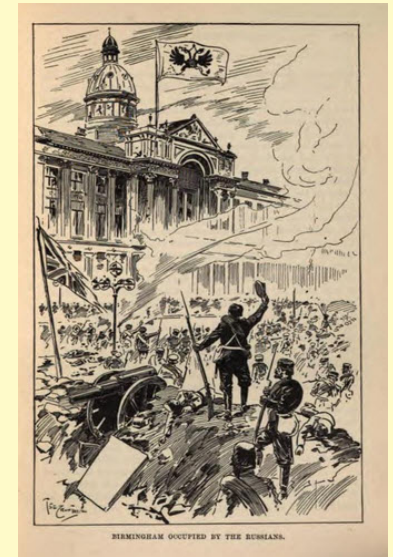
**An example of
“Invasion
Literature”**

Topics

- Introduction to Invasion Literature
- Who were the imagined enemies?
- What weaknesses / fears did the stories exploit
- New technologies of war
- The changing nature of war
- The motives for writing / publishing the stories
- Life imitating Art

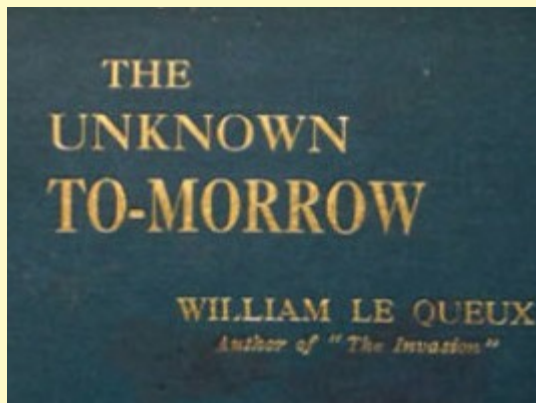
So what is “Invasion Literature”?

- Fictional Stories set in near future
- Featuring one or more of:
 - *Invasion by an enemy*
 - *Future war scenarios*
 - *Espionage*
- Sometimes written for commercial gain, but more often written to highlight perceived errors in government /military policy



What, to me, is not “Invasion Literature”

- Works of pure science fiction that don't relate to contemporary capabilities, fears or aspirations
- Works set in the far distant future
- Speculative fiction of social unrest and social change
- Fantasy stories



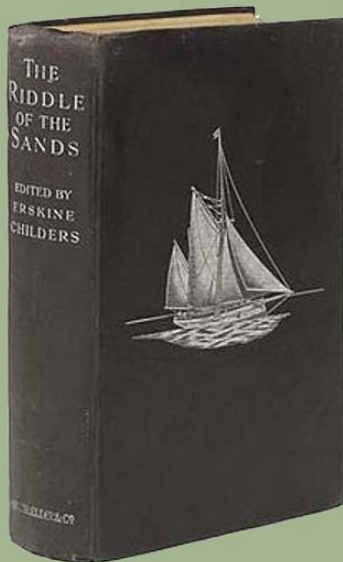
The WAR of the WORLDS By H. G. Wells

Author of "Under the Knife," "The Time Machine," etc.



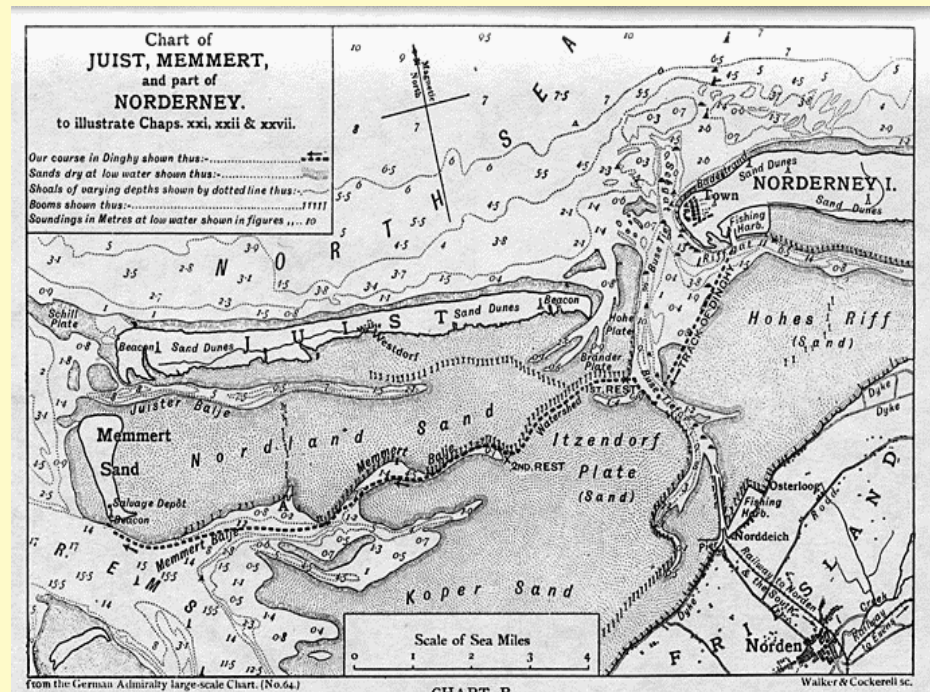
**Probably the only work of Invasion
Literature you might recognise**

The Riddle of The Sands by Erskine Childers (1903)



'And we aren't ready for her,' Davies would say; 'we don't look her way. We have no naval base in the North Sea, and no North Sea Fleet. Our best battleships are too deep in draught for North Sea work.'

- The BEST sailing novel ever written
- The first modern SPY novel
- For most people, the only work of Invasion Literature remembered today
- A jolly good read



THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS

In these shifting sands,
men can disappear
without trace...
and their secrets
with them.



Now a
Best-seller
from
Penguin

The Rank Organisation presents

MICHAEL YORK

JENNY AGUTTER · SIMON MacCORKINDALE

in **THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS** with ALAN BADEL as Dollmann

Screenplay by Tony Maylam and John Bailey from the novel by Erskine Childers
Music composed and conducted by Howard Blake · Director of photography Christopher Challis B.S.C.

Produced by Drummond Challis · Directed by Tony Maylam
Filmed in PANAVISION Released by Rank Film Distributors

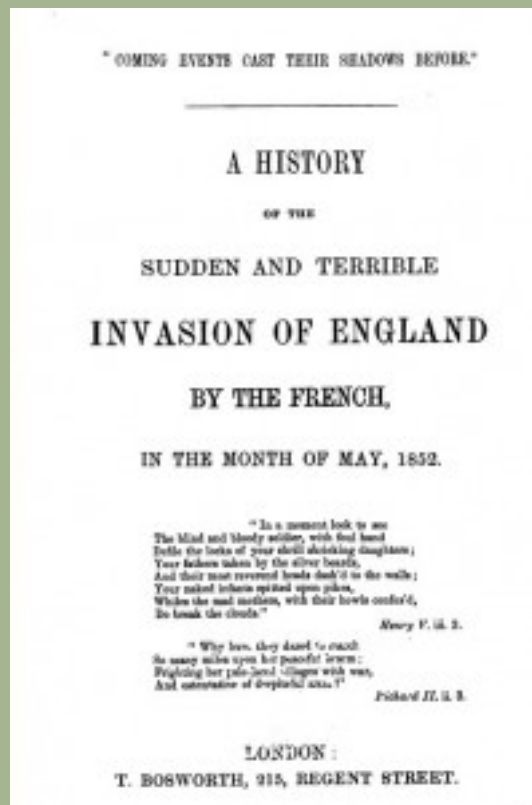
When did Invasion Literature start?

The conventional answer is:

1871 with George Tomkyns Chesney's
The Battle of Dorking

But

A history of the sudden and terrible invasion of England by the French (1851)



Many feared that military weakness at home would invite attack from abroad; and for the second half of the 19C not a decade passed without an alarm of some kind about the dangers pressing upon the nation. There were general fears that the French might attempt an invasion.

In order to demonstrate the defenceless condition of the country an anonymous author wrote "*A History of the Sudden and Terrible Invasion of England by the French in the Month of May, 1852*" in which the USA comes to England's aid when England is invaded by France.

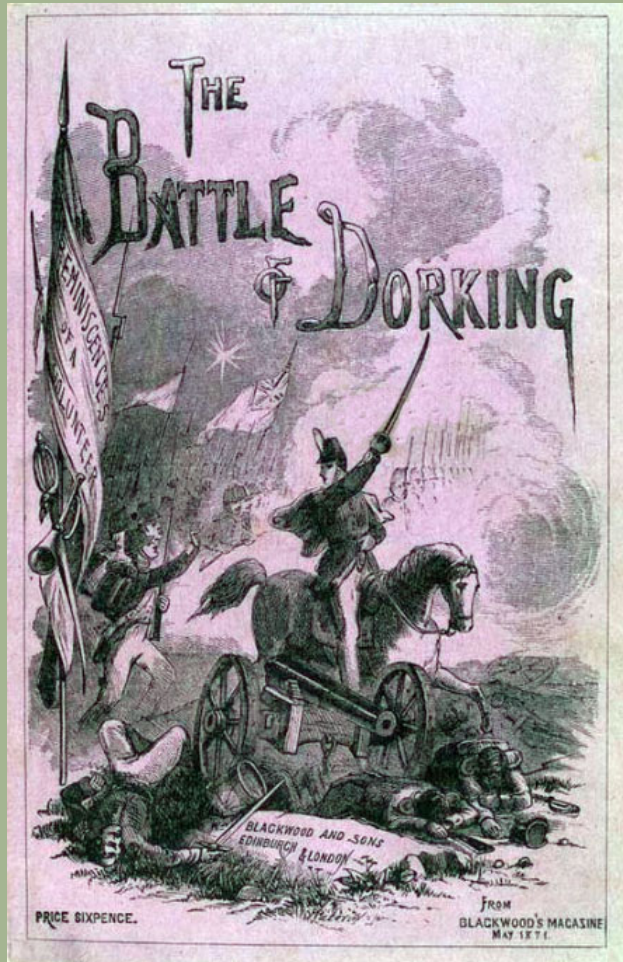
A genuine Invasion Literature novel but a one-off example of the genre

When did it all really start? 1871

- The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 led to a strong Germany and a weakened France
- It upset the *Balance of Power* in Europe
- Germany emerged as a new powerful country and a strong commercial competitor
- It became, for some, the new potential enemy of Britain

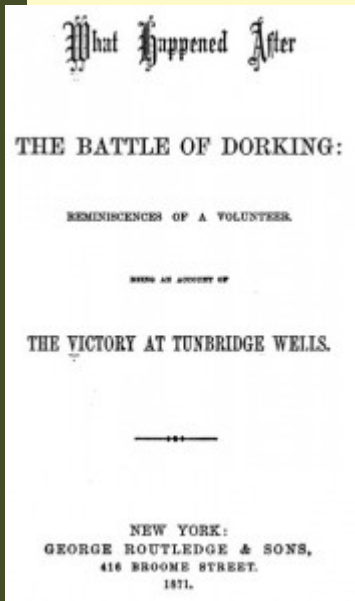


The Battle of Dorking by George Tomkyns Chesney (1871)



- First published as a serial in *Blackwood's Magazine*, then as novel
- Radicals and Liberals are unprepared for war and have trust in the British Navy to protect Britain against any attack
- Britain is pre-occupied with colonial troubles
- [Germans] invade Holland & Belgium
- Britain sends the fleet but is defeated
- The Germans invade Britain
- The professional German army defeats British reservists
- Moral of the Story:
 - *Britain's army needs strengthening*
 - *We need to be aware of the threat from Germany*

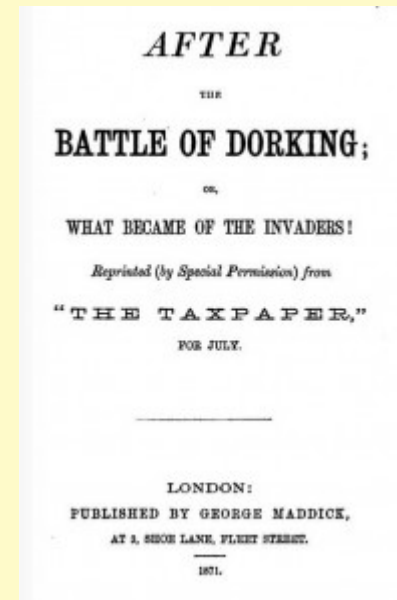
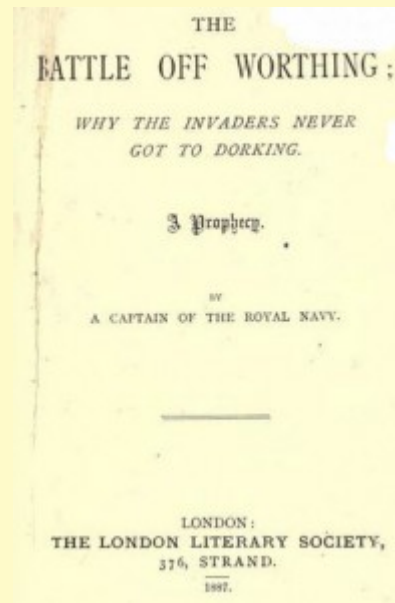
The Battle of Dorking produced an avalanche of copycat and follow up stories



Moltruhn, M. (1871) *The Other Side of the Battle of Dorking*

Anonymous (1871) *Our hero: or, who wrote "The Battle of Dorking"*

Maude, F.N. (1900) *The New Battle of Dorking*



Anonymous (1871) *The official despatches and correspondence relative to the Battle of Dorking*

Anonymous (1871) *The Battle of Dorking: a Myth*

Even *Punch* got into the act - 20th May 1871

MAY 20, 1871.] PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI. 207

FLATTERY.

"Bus-Conductor (to Little City Clerk going Washward). "HINTERMATIONAL, OR HYAL VADIENT, SIR! I CAN ALWAYS TELL A HARTS WHEN I SEES HIM, SIR!"

So easy it is for the foe to invade this Mammon-worship-
ping island—
So easy to prove the foundations we build our hopes on,
vapour—
So easy to turn a Channel of twenty miles' sea to dry
land—
So easy, in fact, to crumple up Old England—upon
paper!

There's a fable, how once in Æsop's days a Man with a
Lion beside him,
Was admiring a group—say in Ebony—where some
artist of the day
Had carved a Lion on the ground, and a hunter trium-
phant astride him:
"Behold," said the Man, "how human brains bring
brute force under sway."

The Lion smiled—as one that smiles when treated to
pompous platitudes—
"Ah," said he, "my friend, if the sculptor had been
Lion instead of Man,
How easy it would have been for him to have reversed
the attitudes,
And, instead of the Man the Lion, made the Lion
bestride the Man."

So Ebony's Article-writer might have shifted colours and
figures—
Have given England the Lion's part and Germany
that of the mouse,
Made our fleet floor their transports, our Enfields their
needle-triggers,
Had he but hailed from GLADSTONE'S, 'stead of DISNEY'S,
side of the House.

The "Battle of Dorking" he calls his fight—'tis clear
he's no game chicken—
In fact, I believe, that fighting fowls your Dorkings
never are—
Though they take kindly to cramming, and when roasted
are pretty picking—
But this Dorking bird seems to be a cross between
Dung-hill Cock and Cuckard.

War-Office and Admiralty may have their share of
burgle and blunder;
But JOHN BULL is not yet the brainless ass that *Black-
wood's* prophet would make him;
We may grudge the cost of our Army's strength, and of
our Navy's thunder,
But if the British Lion's asleep, 'twill prove no joke to
wake him.

THE BATTLE OF DORKING.

(See "*Blackwood's*" for May.)

THERE'S a Tory alarmist article in *Blackwood's Magazine*;
It's called the "Battle of Dorking," and has made a great sensation;
It's put in the mouth of a Grandfather, who describes what he has seen,
When England was invaded, and ceased to be a nation.

It tells how a German army landed, somewhere 'twixt Deal and Dover,—
Our fleet, at the time, being, most of it, just where it should not have been;
How the few ships that were in the Channel were sunk, smashed, and sailed
over;
How our Line, Volunteers, and Militia by the foe were chewed up clean;
How, about Leith Hill and Dorking, we got an awful thrashing,
And a second somewhere near Richmond; then further resistance was idle;
How through our suburban roofs and walls the German shells came crashing;
Till BISMARCK put his hook in our nose, and in our jaws his bridle:

By our bungling defence on land and sea shows us utter noodles and silly asses;
Paints our parlours and pantries made free with by High and Low German
fellows,
And harrows up the best feelings of *pater- and mater-familias*,
By describing British rategayers shot down in their own cellars,

While their fair-haired little darlings—which a horror even worse is
Than gen'ral *boucheerement*, bombardment, beating, and bobbery—
Are having their dear little brains dashed out at the doors of their own
nurseries.

Till Old England is given up helpless to organised German robbery.

Her colonies rent from her, her dependencies independent;
Her youth deserting her stagnant shores, no longer a land of Goshen;
Her manufactures gone with the coal, the basis of her ascendancy;
And BRITANNIA a rotten hulk upon an idle ocean.

NOMENCLATURE IN NOVELS.

THE Author of the *Fight at Dame Europa's School*
has produced a Novel, entitled *Tom Pippin's Wedding*.
The name of *Tom Pippin* suggests that of the friend of
our youth, *Tom Pique*. That naval hero, had he been
wedded, might be appropriately said to have been
applied; but one would rather describe a *Pippin* in like
case as grafted.

The Favoured Many.

Tax *proliferates* in this country used to be called "The
Great Unwashed." That was before the establishment of
Baths and Wash-houses for the Labouring Classes. Now
the policy of Direct Taxation announced by Govern-
ment, will constitute those Classes the Great Untaxed.

Thoughtful Care.

It should be made known at the May Meetings that
Government provides for all the wants of those in its
employment, as is evident from the circumstance that an
item in the accounts of Public offices is a charge for
"Clerical Assistance."

BY AN UNGRATEFUL GUEST OF BOOBY'S.

No "Booby Study" Booby's habits suits:
The room he calls his Study holds his Boots.

Even *Punch* got into the act - 20th May 1871

THE BATTLE OF DORKING.

(See "*Blackwood*" for May.)

THERE's a Tory alarmist article in *Blackwood's Magazine* ;

It's called the "Battle of Dorking," and has made a great sensation ;
It's put in the mouth of a Grandfather, who describes what he has seen,
When England was invaded, and ceased to be a nation.

War-Office and Admiralty may have their share of
bungle and blunder ;

But JOHN BULL is not yet the brainless ass that *Blackwood's* prophet would make him ;

We may grudge the cost of our Army's strength, and of
our Navy's thunder,

But if the British Lion's asleep, 'twill prove no joke to
wake him.

And then the presses started rolling



Who Were Britain's Perceived Enemies?

■ Germany

- *New upstart nation*
- *Powerful army and, later, navy*
- *Seeking an empire*
- *Commercially Britain's major competitor*

■ France

- *Traditional enemy*
- *Weakened after the Franco-Prussian War*
- *Geographic proximity*

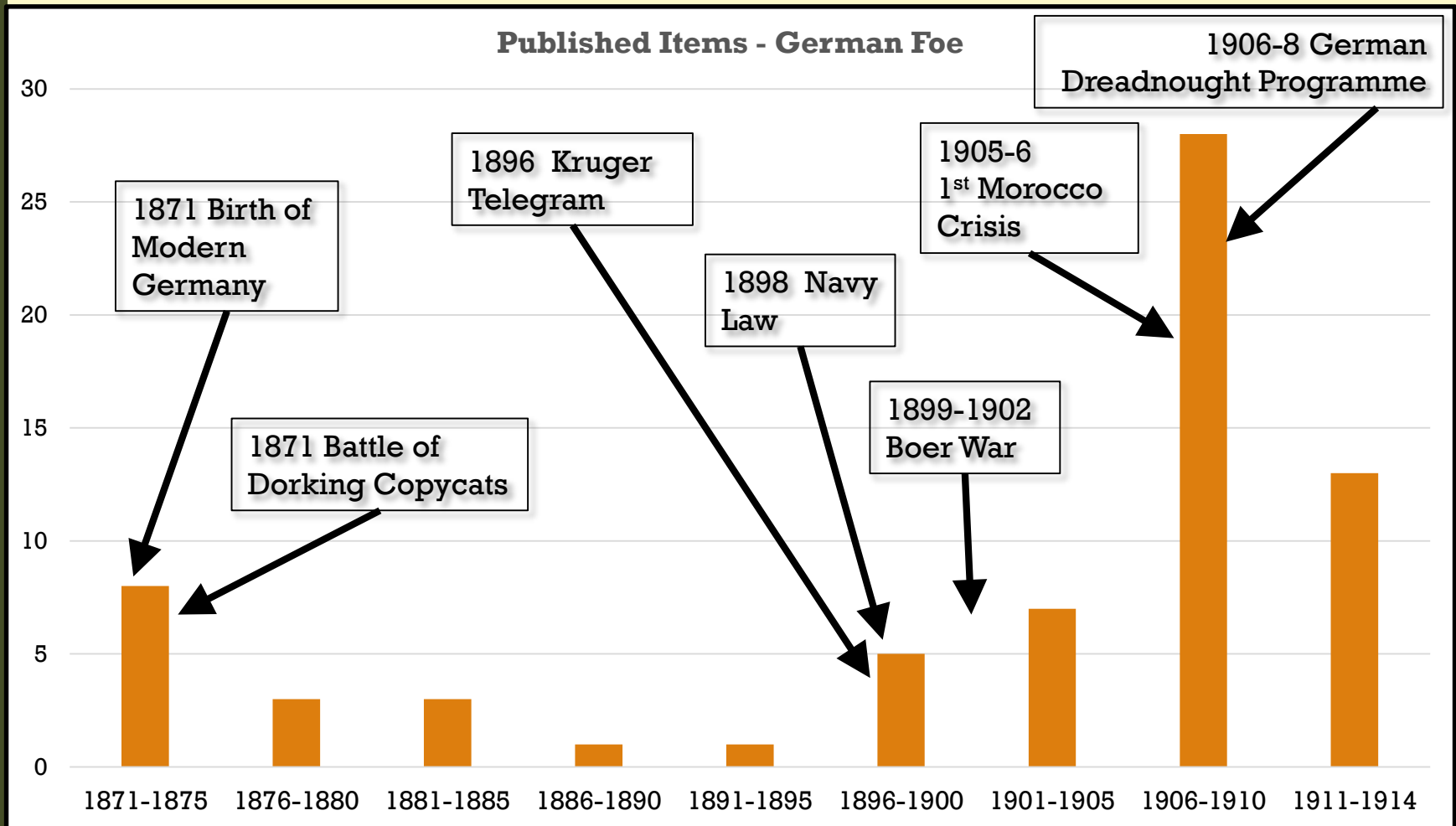
■ Russia

- *Long-term distrust*
- *Threat to the India: The Jewel of the British Empire*

■ New Threats

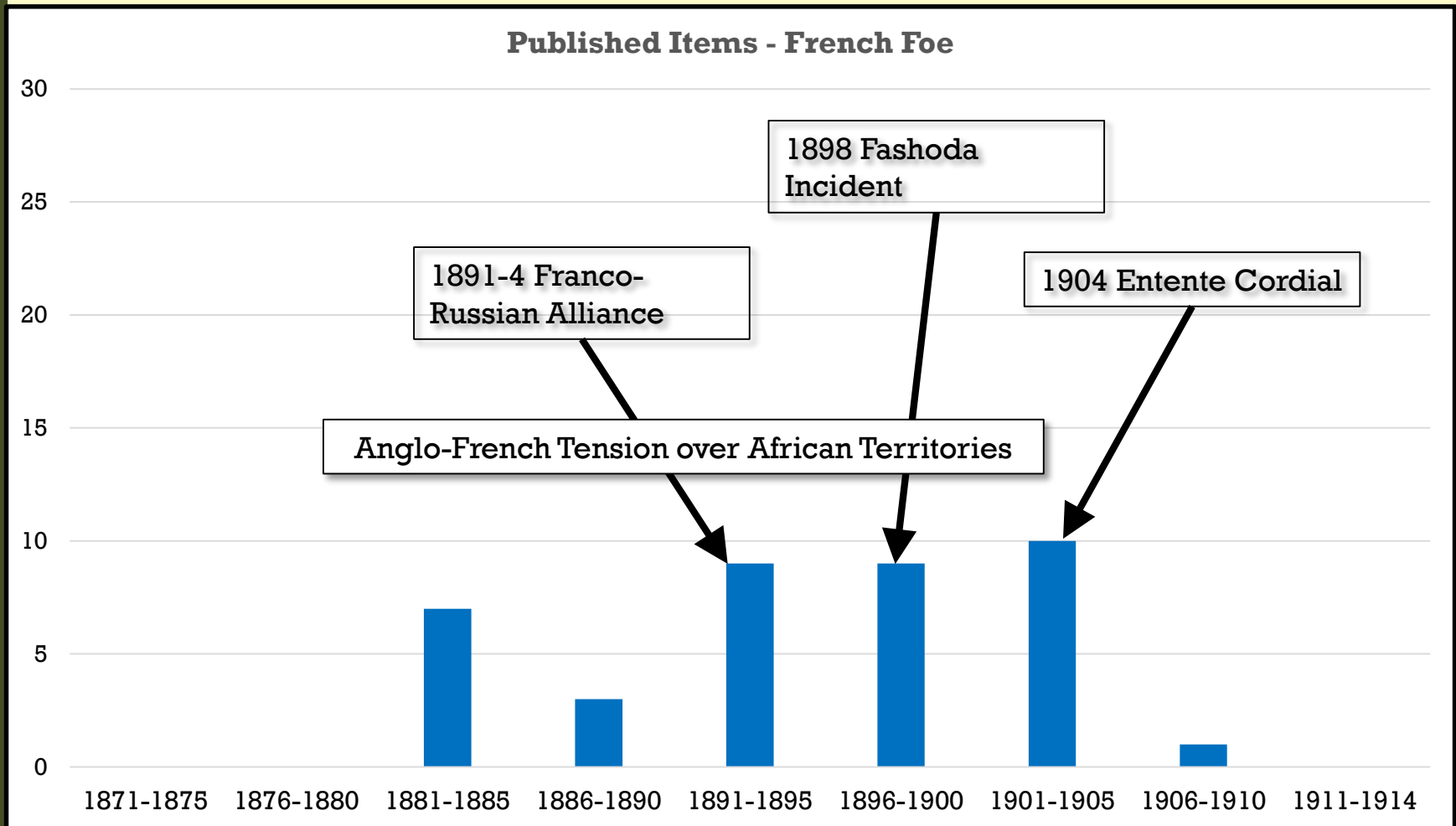
- *Asia: especially Japan & China*
- *Anarchists*
- *Irish*
- *America*

The Threat from Germany in Invasion Literature (1871-1914)



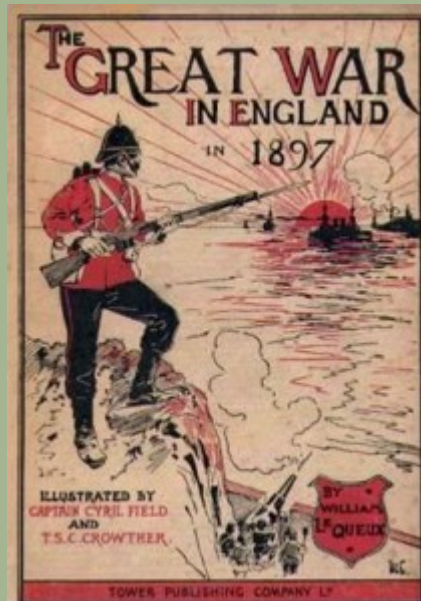
Charts are based upon an analysis of 136 works selected from some 200 stories

The Threat from France in Invasion Literature (1871-1914)



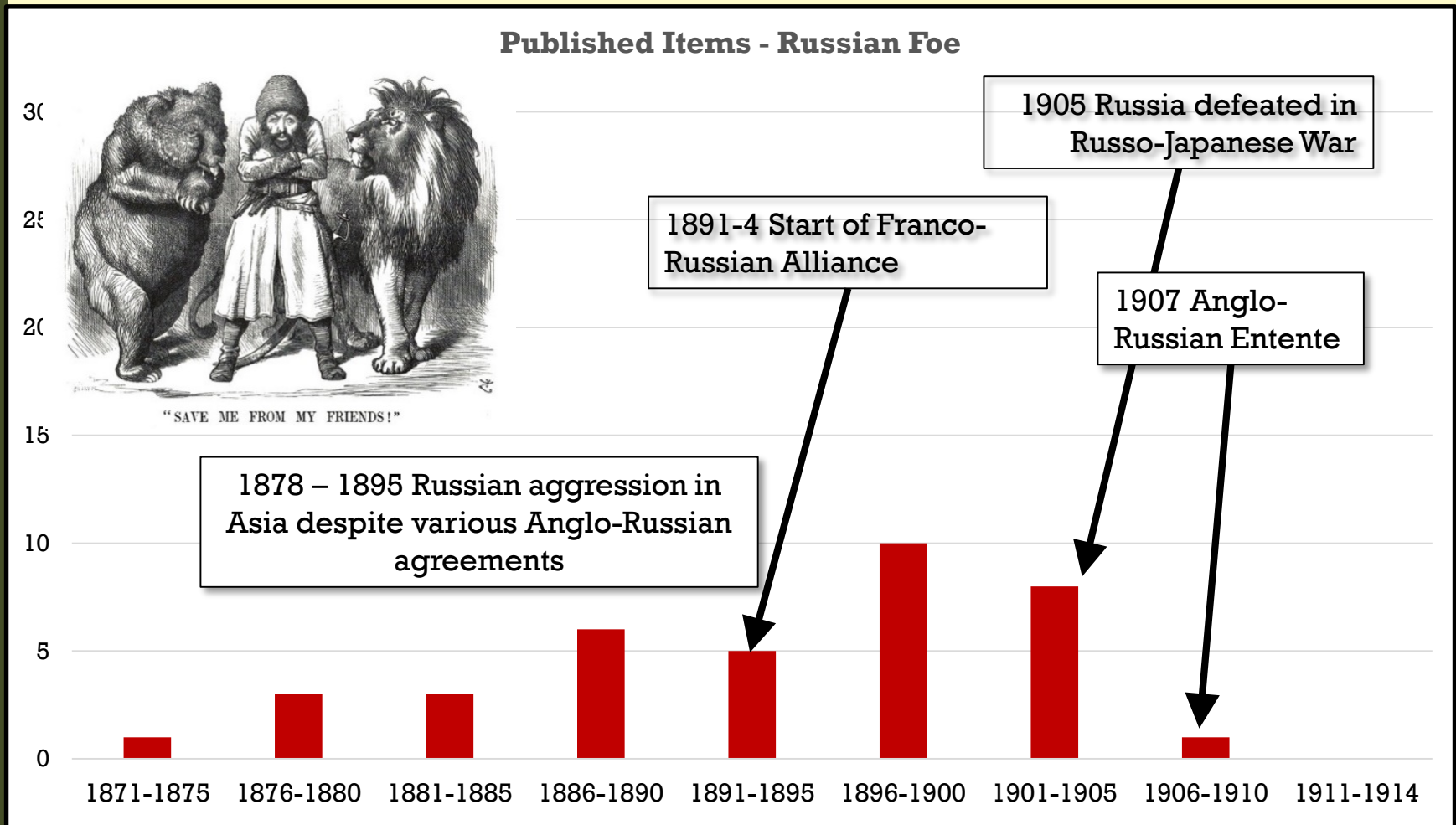
A typical novel of the 1890s

The Great War in England in 1897 by William Le Queux (1894)

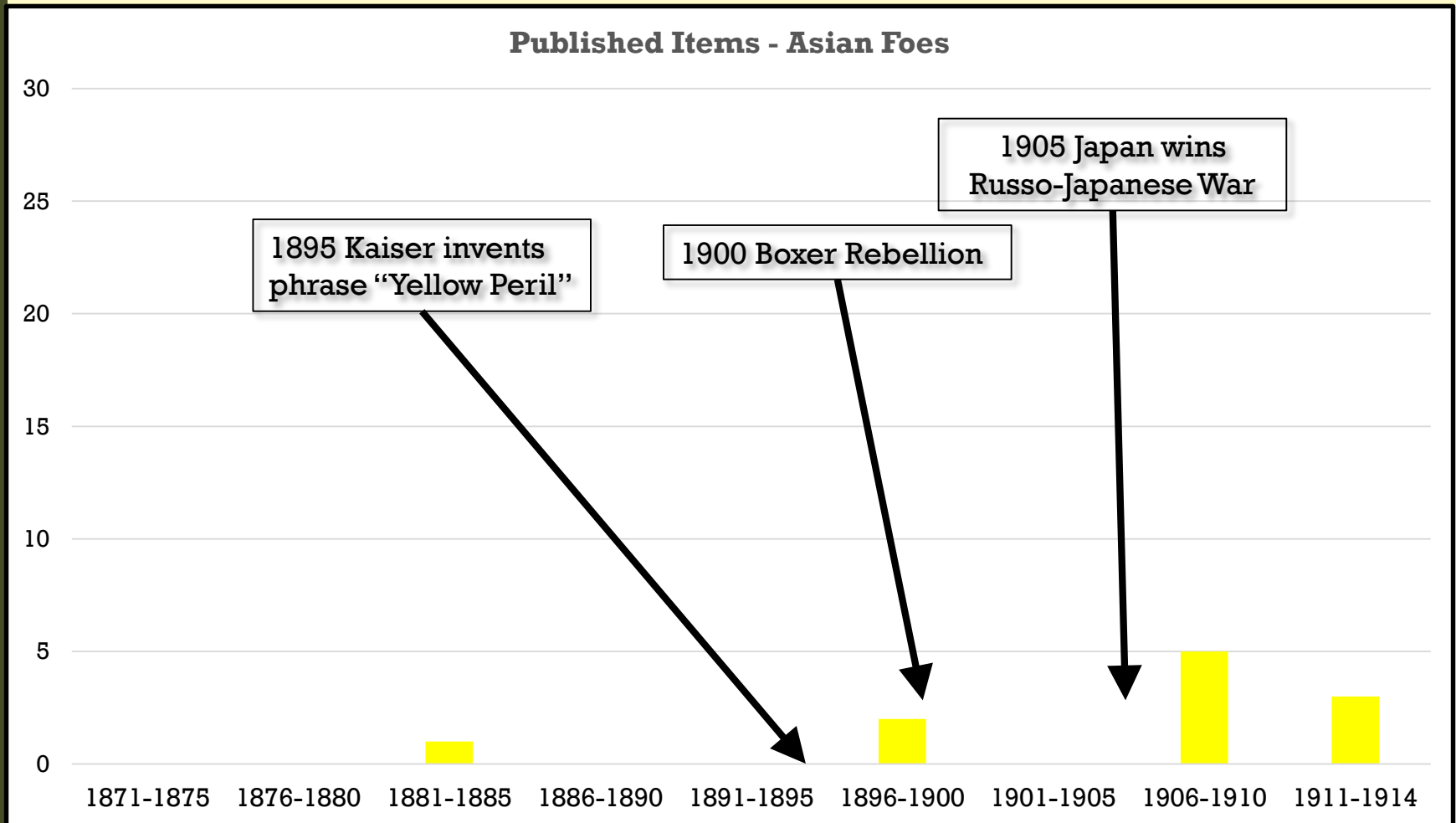


- *Britain is invaded by coalition forces led by France and Russia*
- *English patriots fight on and eventually turn the tide after Germany enters the war on the side of the British.*
- *At the end of the story, Britain seizes Algeria and Russian Central Asia*
- *Germany annexes more of mainland France in addition to Alsace-Lorraine*
- *The British and German empires become the dominant forces of Europe.*

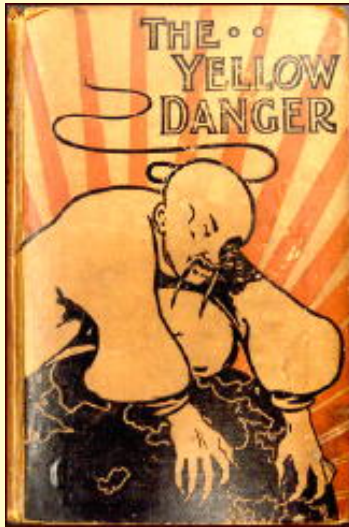
The Threat from Russia in Invasion Literature (1871-1914)



The Threat from Asia in Invasion Literature (1871-1914)

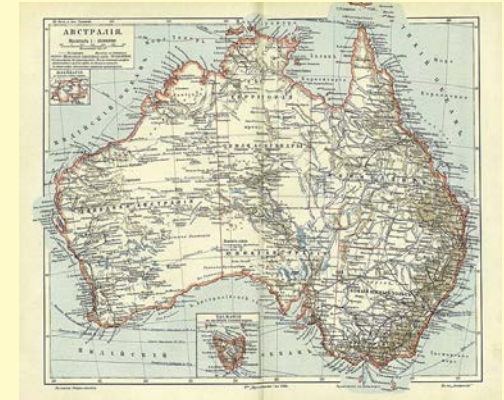
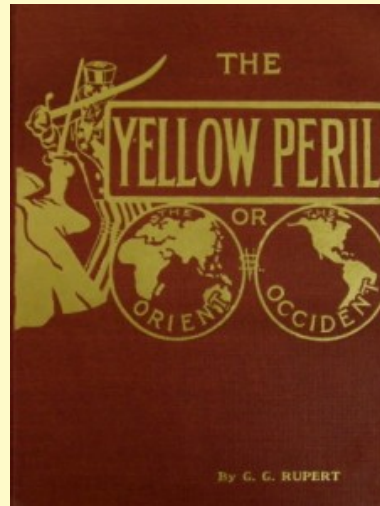


The threat from China & Japan



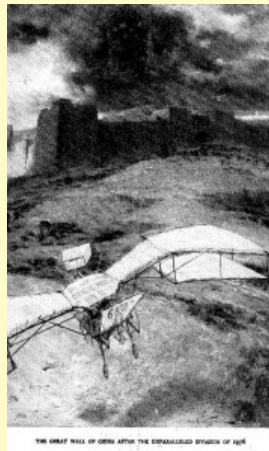
Shiel, M. P. (1898)
The Yellow Danger

Rupert, G.G. (1911)
The Yellow Peril

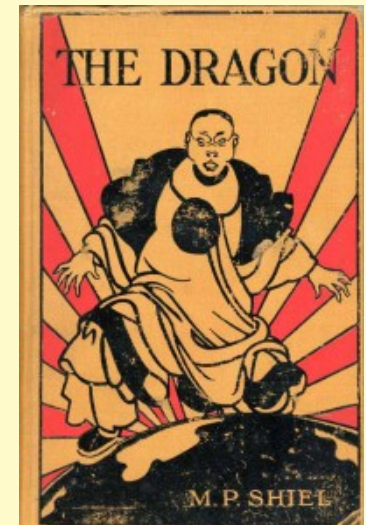


Mackay, K. (1897)
The Yellow Wave

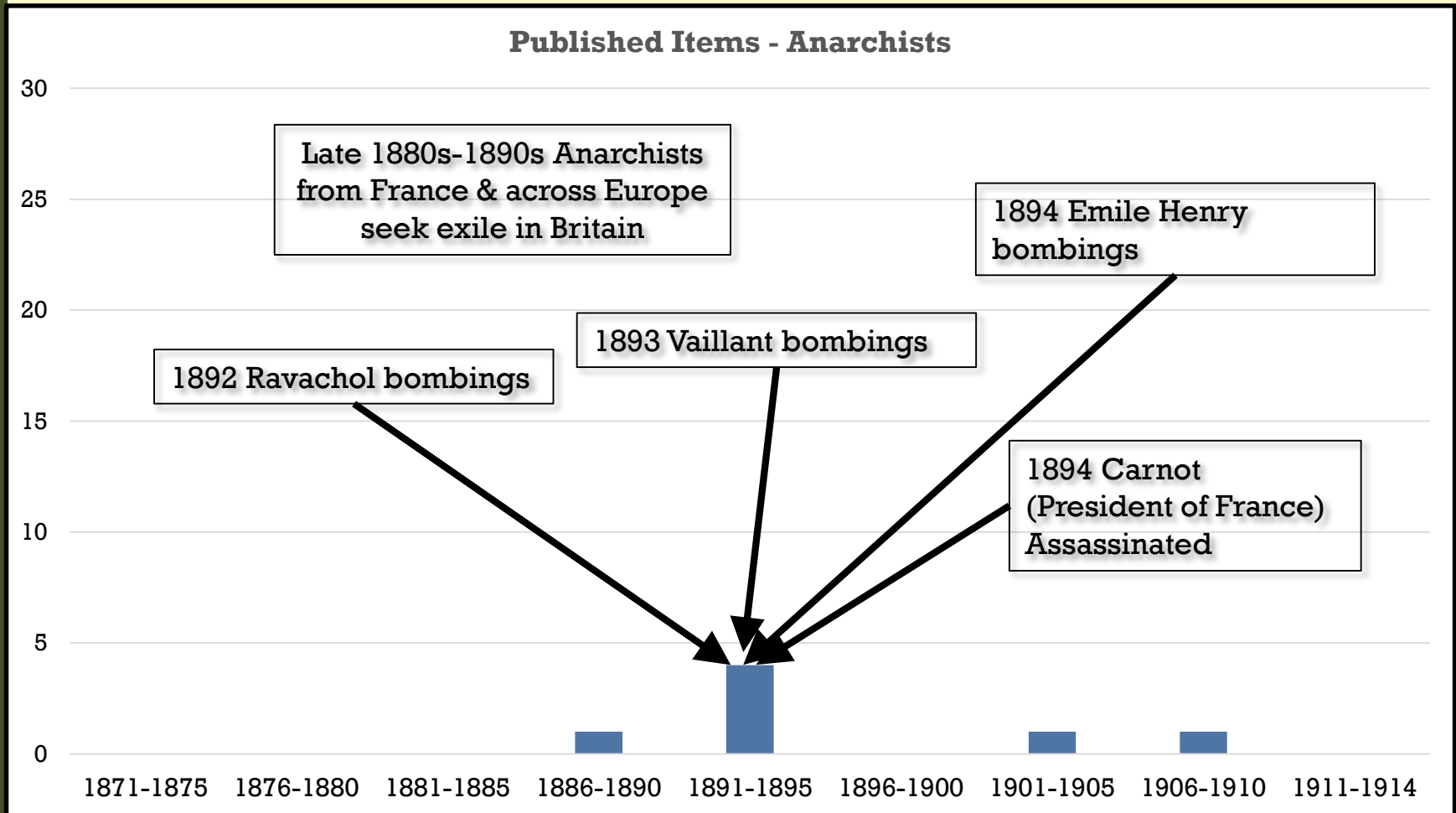
Jack London (1910)
The Unparalleled Invasion



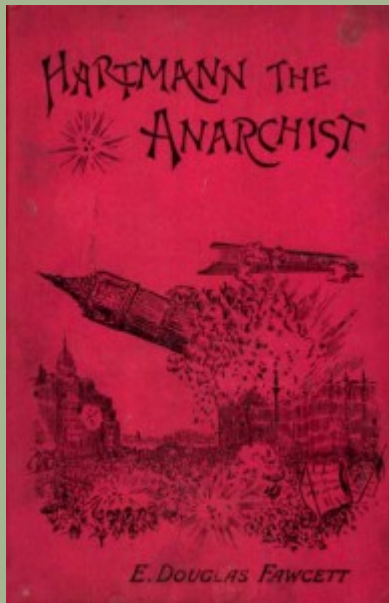
M.P. Shiel
(1913) *The Dragon*



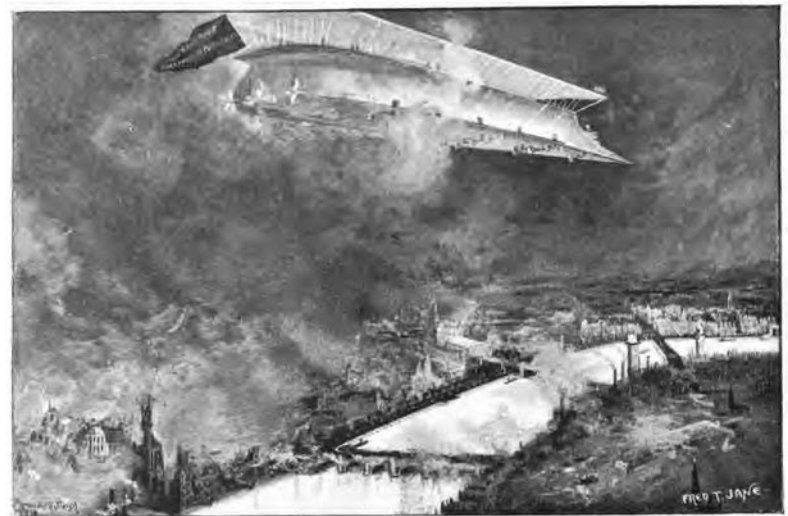
The Threat from Anarchists in Invasion Literature (1871-1914)



Hartmann The Anarchist by E. Douglas Fawcett (1893)



- *The plot centres around a young moneyed gentleman who aims to stand for election as part of the Labour party in the early 20th century.*
- *Through his associations with many of London's most prominent socialists and anarchists, he encounters and befriends Rudolph Hartmann and 'goes along' with Hartmann's plan to attack London using his airship The Attila.*



"THUS RETURNS HARTMANN THE ANARCHIST."

Perceived Threats to Britain

- Britain's island geography provided security as long as the British Navy had dominance of the seas
- But new technologies threatened this:
 - *Torpedoes*
 - *Submarines*
 - *Airships*
 - *Aeroplanes*
- Britain was dependent upon free movement on the oceans
 - *Not self-sufficient in food*
 - *Economy depended upon international trade*
- Concern over foreigners in the Merchant Navy
- Army was relatively small and widely spread over the Empire

Danger! by Sir
Arthur Conan-Doyle
(*Strand Magazine*,
July 1914)



DANGER!
Being the Log of
Captain John Sirius
By
A. CONAN DOYLE
Illustrated by E. S. Hodgson

The story describes how Britain is in need of getting up to date in its naval preparations.

A small country in Europe, Norland [? Netherlands]), has been fighting England. The Royal Navy destroys its fleet. However, Norland has a naval flotilla of submarines, which escape, and which it uses to lay a naval blockade around the British Isles, so that no supplies can be landed.

The result is that the British start suffering famine and end up surrendering.

Seven “experts” who replied to Conan Doyle’s idea in the same issue of *The Strand Magazine* all poured scorn on the story. Some of them even doubted whether **a civilized nation would use such a barbarous weapon as unrestricted submarine warfare.**

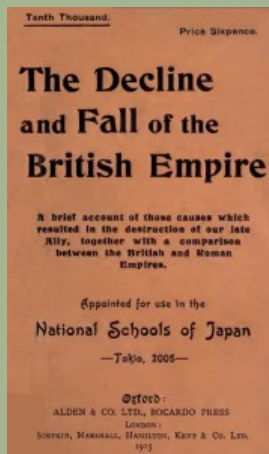
When War Breaks Out by H.A. Wilson & A. White (1898)



Dependence upon foreign seamen in Merchant Navy

- War breaks out between Great Britain and the allied powers of France and Russia
- Foreign seamen on British ships are ordered by their governments to refuse to cooperate in shipping movements

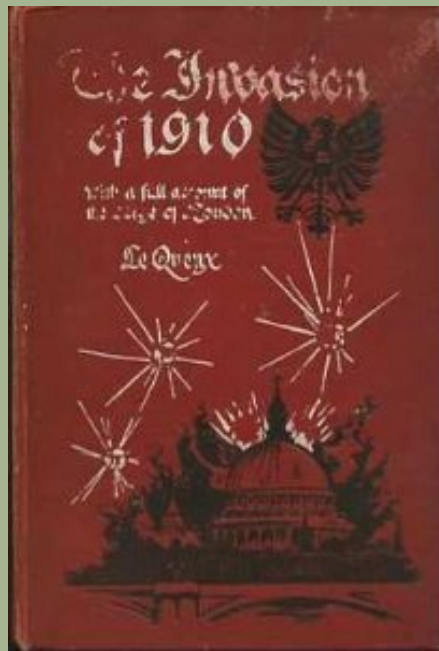
The Decline and Fall of the British Empire by E.E. Mill (1905)



- One of the identified weaknesses, among many, of the British Empire is its dependence on “alien” seamen.
- The novel quotes Lord Muskerry speaking in a House of Lords debate on the Merchant Shipping (Aliens) Bill in 1905

The Invasion of 1910 by William Le Queux (1906)

*(aka. The Invasion & If
England Were Invaded)*



The novel was originally commissioned by Lord Northcliffe as a serial which appeared in the *Daily Mail* in 1906.

The story was rewritten to feature towns and villages with high *Daily Mail* readership which greatly increased the newspaper's circulation and made a small fortune for Le Queux.

It was translated into twenty-seven languages, and over one million copies of the book edition were sold.

The idea for the novel is alleged to have originated from Field Marshal Earl Roberts, who regularly lectured English schoolboys on the need to prepare for war.

An initially successful invasion by Germany is countered by a popular uprising and a resistance movement which causes the Germans to withdraw. However, after the war Germany continues to occupy Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Invasion of 1910 by William Le Queux (1906)

*(aka. The Invasion & If
England Were Invaded)*



Lord Northcliffe launched *The Invasion of 1910* with sandwich men in spiked helmets and Prussian blue uniforms parading down Oxford Street, their boards proclaiming imminent invasion. Each day thereafter, advertisements advised which towns would be invaded the following morning in the *Daily Mail*. Success was overwhelming: newspapers sold out, again and again.

The failure of the British government to prepare for a possible invasion is repeatedly mentioned, as is the phrase “they should have listened to Lord Roberts”, along with many references to Roberts’ patriotism. It is also pointed out that the invasion might have been counteracted more easily if every able-bodied man had had military training. Le Queux himself stated that one of his aims was to “bring home to the British public vividly and forcibly what really would occur were an enemy suddenly to appear in our midst”.

William Le Queux (1864-1927)



Wrote:

- 170 x novels/stories
- 21 x collections of short stories
- 20 x non-fiction books

The most prolific author of Invasion Literature & Spy Literature.

Works include:

- ☐ The Great War in England in 1897 (1894)
- ☐ If England Were Invaded / The Invasion of 1910 / The Invasion (1906)
- ☐ Spies of the Kaiser (1909)
- ☐ The Unknown Tomorrow (1910)
- ☐ The Zeppelin Destroyer (1916)
- ☐ Secrets of the Foreign Office (1920)
- ☐ The Terror of the Air (1920)

He was almost single-handedly responsible for Spy Mania in Britain prior to WW1

J. N. Hampson
Great Britain vs.
France and Russia.
National Review, Vol.
31, June 1898

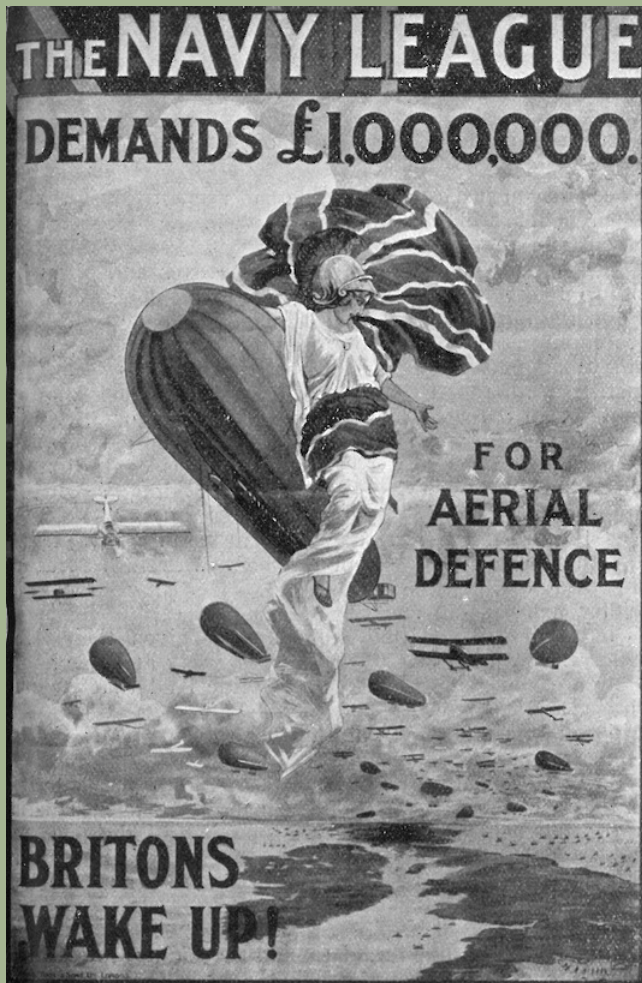


- An award winning essay sponsored by the *National Review* and the **Navy League** to identify Britain's weaknesses in the case of war.
- Impelled by the present "wars and rumours of wars," and actuated by a desire to locate exactly Great Britain's weakness, and thus to prompt wise foresight and provision by her naval authorities, the Navy League and the *National Review* joined in offering a prize of £50 for the best essay or story "*giving a forecast of the probable effect upon the United Kingdom of an indecisive war against two first-class Powers*".

The Navy League

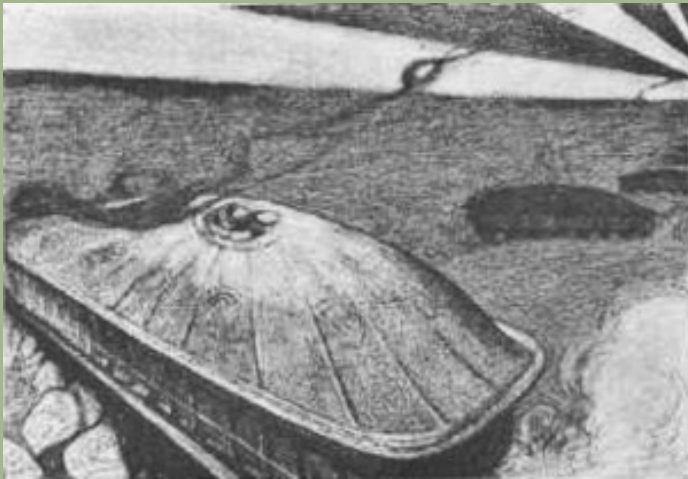
The Navy League was formed in 1895 following public pressure from Spenser Wilkinson, military correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, and with the support of radical Liberals who were concerned about the legacy of Gladstone's apparent unwillingness to increase naval expenditure.

It argued the need for a well-equipped navy as the best way of securing and maintaining peace. With a strong navy it would be possible to avoid military conscription.



1913

***The Land
Ironclads by
H. G. Wells
(Strand Magazine,
1903)***



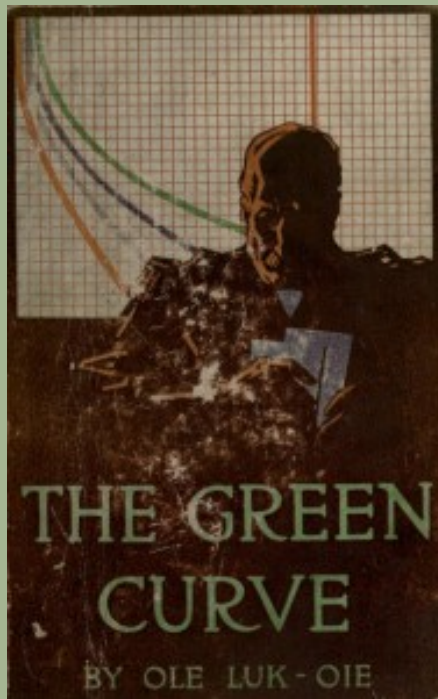
“The Land Ironclads” is a short story by H.G. Wells that originally appeared in the December 1903 issue of the Strand Magazine.

It features “land ironclads,” 100-foot-long machines that are equipped with remote-controlled guns and that carry riflemen, engineers, and a captain.

Riflemen are installed in cabins slung around the main framework and operate automatic rifles.

The story contributed to Wells’s reputation as a “prophet of the future” when tanks first appeared on the battlefield in 1916.

The Green Curve & Other Stories by Sir Ernest Dunlop Swinton (aka. O'le Luk-Oie) (1909)

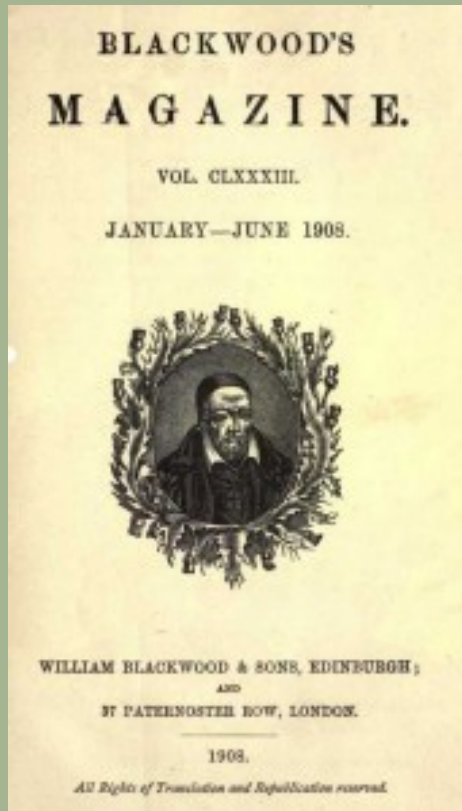


- *Major General Sir Ernest Dunlop Swinton, KBE, CB, DSO, RE (21 October 1868 – 15 January 1951) was a British Army officer who was active in the development and adoption of the tank during World War 1.*
- *He was also a war correspondent and author of several allegorical works of fiction on military themes, including a lastingly influential book on tactics and good practice. He is credited with having coined the word “tank” as a code-name for the first tracked, armoured fighting vehicles.*

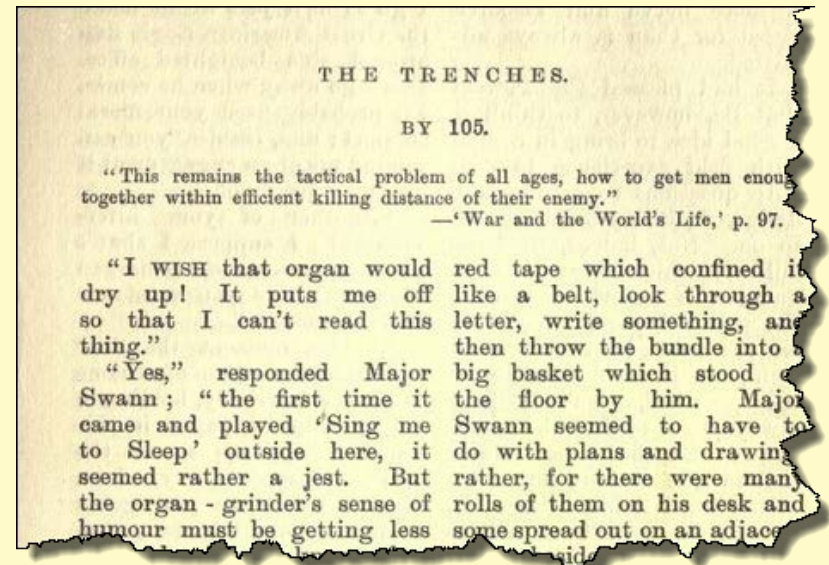


The Strand Magazine, 1917

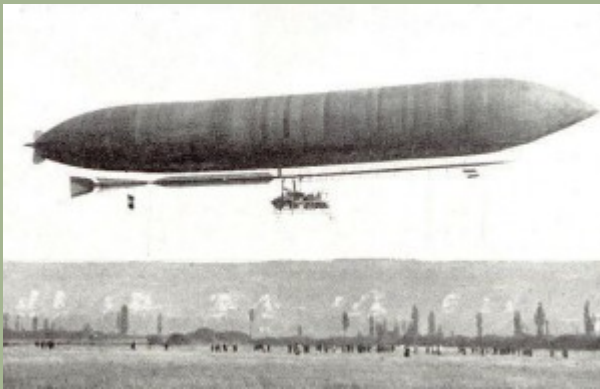
The Trenches **by Capt. C.E.** **Vickers** **(*Blackwood's*** ***Magazine* 1908)**



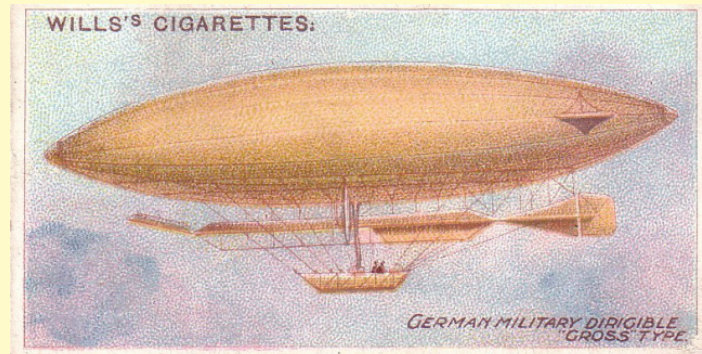
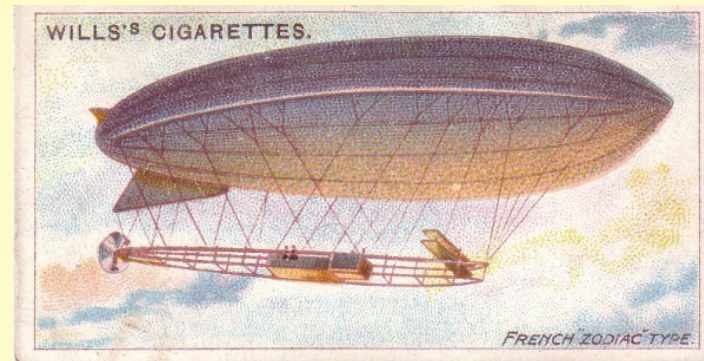
- A machine originally developed for digging irrigation and pipe laying ditches is modified to dig trenches on the battlefield.
- The story describes the siege-like stalemate that trench warfare can get bogged down in.



The Shadow of Glory: A History of the Great War 1910-1911 by Arthur Wellesley Kipling (1910)



- A German invasion and occupation of Britain is countered by the use of British airships attacking the Germans. After France enters the war, on Britain's side, Paris is besieged but is supported by airship.
- Meanwhile, the Japanese use aircraft to attack the American navy.



In 1882 there was a rash of stories about invasion via a Channel Tunnel

Stories of Invasion via a Channel Tunnel

Cassandra (1876) *The Channel Tunnel; or, England's ruin*

Anonymous (1882) *Submarina: or Green Eyes and Blue Glasses*

Berney, T. (1882) *The battle of the channel tunnel and Dover Castle and forts*

Demure One, The (1882) *The Battle of Boulogne: Or How Calais Became English Again*

Grip (1882) *How John Bull Lost London*

Guthrie, T.A. (1882) *The Seizure of the Channel Tunnel*

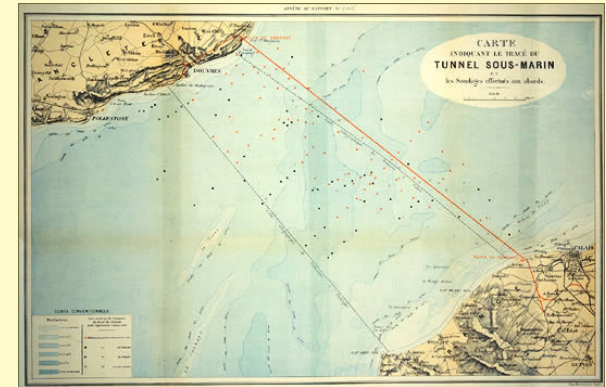
Vindex (1882) *England Crushed*

Forth, C. (1883) *The Surprise of the Channel Tunnel*

Allen, F.M. (1900) *London's Peril*

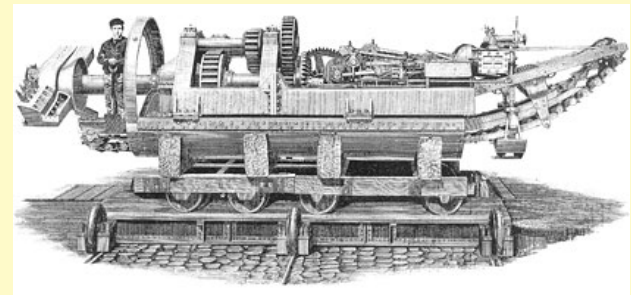
Pemberton, M. (1901) *Pro Patria*

Wood, W. (1907) *The Tunnel Terror*



The scare stories regarding invasion via a Channel Tunnel helped create security concerns over plans for a tunnel.

Work on a tunnel had started in 1880 but in 1882 the Government called a halt.



Espionage

Britain assumed
there was a large
German spy
network in Britain

A climate of spy-hysteria dominated not only public discourse in England in the period 1907-14, but also the counsels of the War Office's German intelligence subsection.

They convinced themselves, on flimsy evidence, that the few genuine German spies in England were only a small part of a vast network doing advance work for the German assault. Their self-delusion fostered public fear and distrust of the Germans.

At the same time
Britain's spying
efforts were trivial

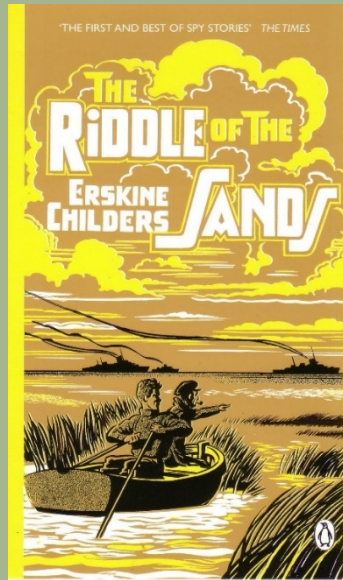
The nearly complete failure of British military intelligence to alert Britain to German preparations for World War I, including the possibility of Germany's invading Great Britain, was due to the extraordinary restraints placed on British spies and intelligence services. They were limited to answering specific questions, which were not often relevant to pertinent information.

***The Spies of the Wight* by Headon Hill [Francis Edward Grainger] (1899)**

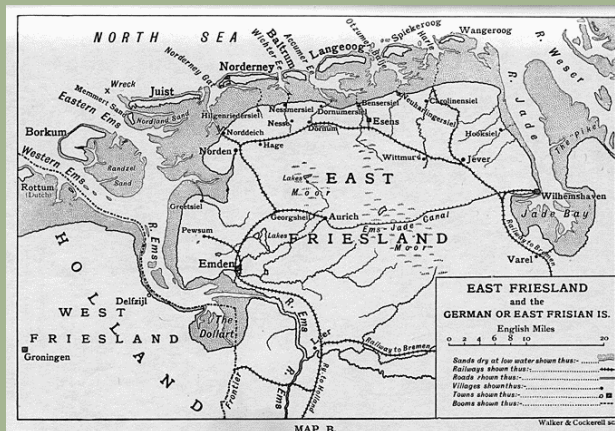


- Headon Hill's *The Spies of the Wight*, was the first full-length account of German agents at work in the United Kingdom and an early indication that Germany had taken the place of France as the enemy in tomorrow's war.
- The notorious Kruger telegram of 3 January 1896 was read as a hostile act against the United Kingdom; and the new German fleet, sanctioned by the Navy Law of April 1898, suggested to many that the two nations had started a collision course.
- Feelings of anger and contempt, once reserved for the French, are now concentrated on 'certain dirty little games of the German Emperor himself', as the hero is briefed for his secret mission.

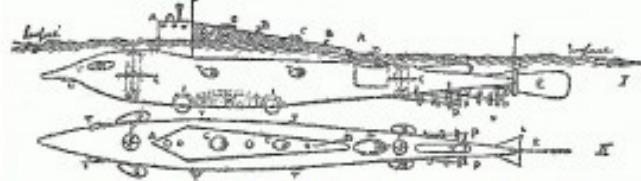
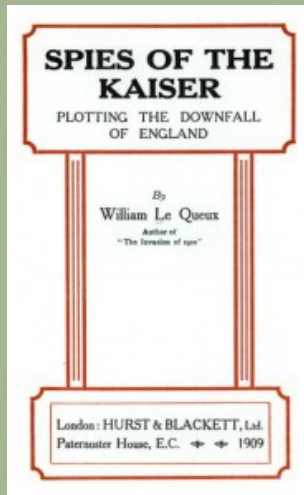
The Riddle of The Sands by Erskine Childers (1903)



- Two British small boat sailors encounter secret German preparations for an invasion of England
- Even though they suspect the Germans of no good, they have ambivalent attitudes to spying



Spies of the Kaiser. Plotting the Downfall of England by William Le Queux (1909)



LEON KARFF'S ROUGH DRAWING OF THE NEW BRITISH SUBMARINE.
The letters refer to the notes which were also found, and which ran as follows: AA, Conning Tower; BB, Telephone Buoys; CC, Hatchways; D, Lifeboat (detachable); E, Rudder; FF, Wells with Horizontal Propellers; GG, Planes; H, Hatch from Diving Chamber; II, Wheels in Recesses; K, Detachable Safety Weight in Recess; L, Tiller; T T T T, Torpedo Tubes; P P P P, Propellers.
I. Side View (in awash position). II. Horizontal position (from above). Scale, 1/2 inch to 12 feet.

Spies of the Kaiser was published in 1909, and raised spy mania to new extremes. Again, Le Queux's fantasies had their popularity massively boosted by the Daily Mail's hype machine. And again the story was presented as non-fiction.

British suspicions of Germany reached its high-water mark upon publication of *Spies of the Kaiser*. Teeming with authentic and, if not evidence, at least well researched incidental detail, *Spies of the Kaiser* chronicled the discovery of all manner of German espionage activities, ranging from surveillance of England's coastal defenses to attempted thefts of plans for advanced battleships, submarines, and airplanes.

To lend further credibility to the narrative, Le Queux noted in the introduction: "As I write, I have before me a file of amazing documents, which plainly show the feverish activity with which this advance guard of our enemy is working."

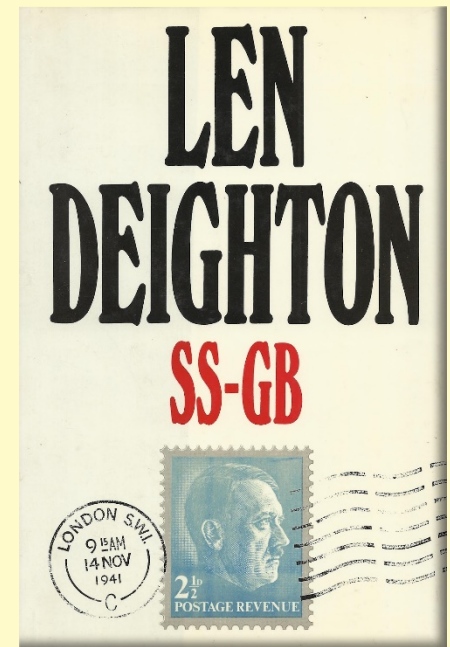
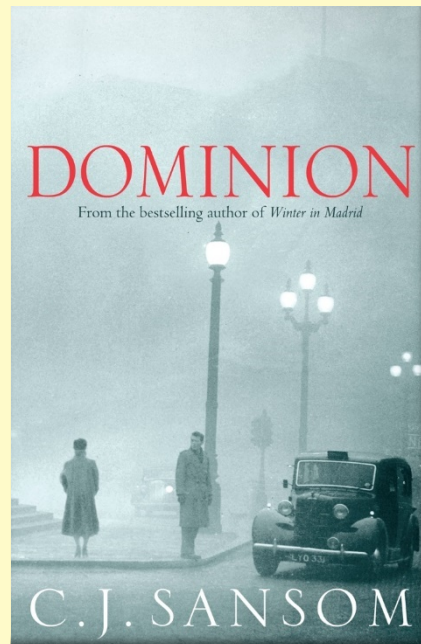
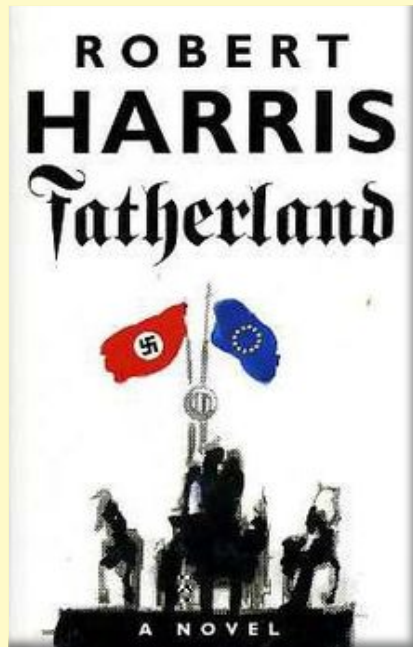
Secret Intelligence Service – MI6

“In the early 1900s, the British government was increasingly concerned about the threat to its Empire posed by Germany’s imperial ambitions. This led to scare stories of German spies and even the Director of Military Operations was convinced that Germany was targeting Britain. These rumours proved to be overblown, but the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, reacted to popular concern. He ordered the Committee of Imperial Defence to look into the matter and they established a Secret Service Bureau in July 1909.”



**SECRET
INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE** MI6

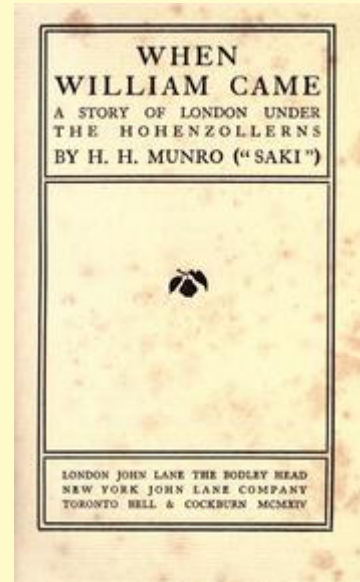
Many of you will be familiar with a German occupation of London in Counter-Factual or Alternative Histories



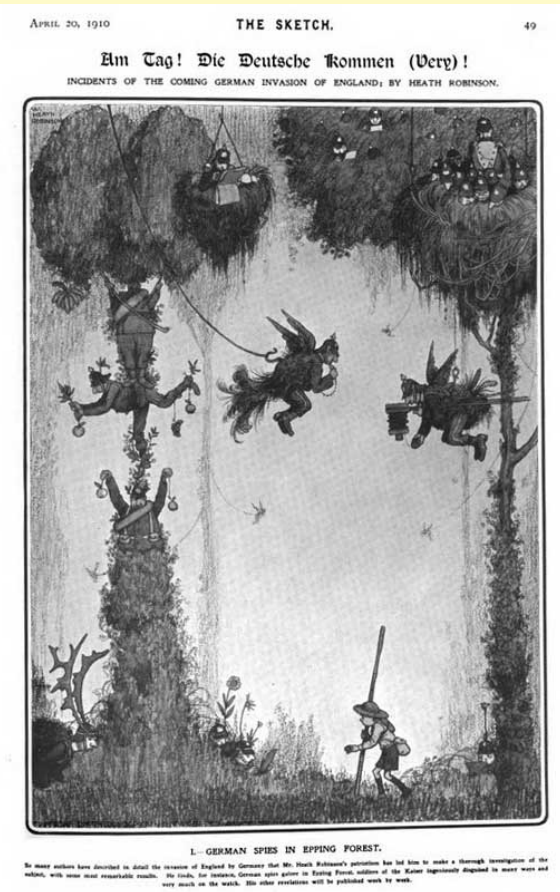
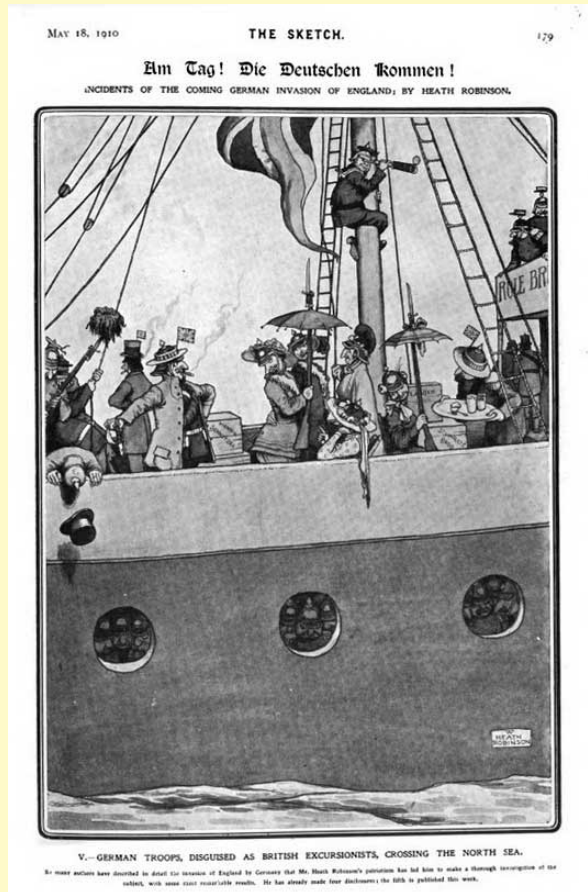
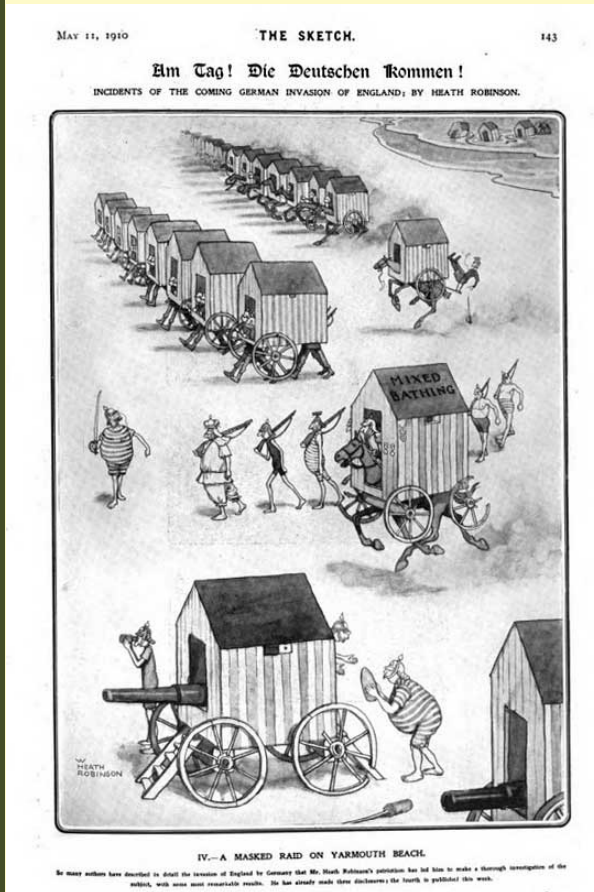
London Social Life under German Occupation

*When William Came:
A Story of London Under
the Hohenzollerns*

by Saki (H.H.Munro)
(1913)



Invasion Literature, like any successful genre, created its own satirical sub-genre

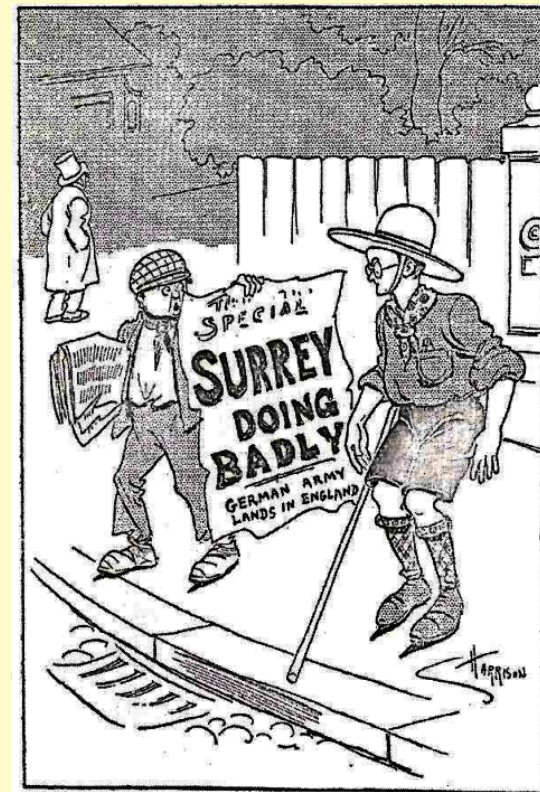


Heath Robinson (1910)

The Swoop or How Clarence Saved England – P.G. Wodehouse (1909)

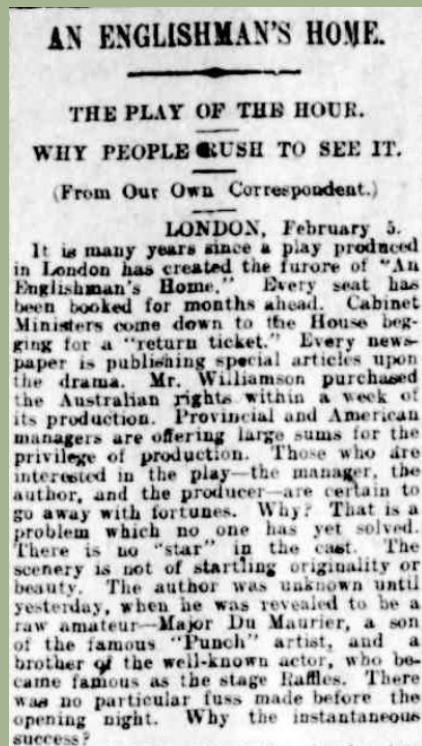


- England is invaded by a mixture of Russians under Grand Duke Vodkakoff, the Germans under Prince Otto of Saxe-Pfennig, the Swiss Navy, the Monegasques, a band of Moroccan brigands under Raisuli, the Young Turks, the Mad Mullah from Somalialand, the Chinese under Prince Ping Pong Pang, and the Bollygollans in war canoes.



Not just literature, but theatre as well

An Englishman's Home by Guy Du Maurier (1909)



‘An Englishman’s Home’ caused a sensation in London when it appeared in 1909. It first played at Wyndham’s Theatre on 27 January and went on to be a long-running success.

The story concerns an attack on England by an unnamed foreign power, generally assumed to represent Germany.

The home of an ordinary middle-class family is besieged by soldiers, and the play climaxes with the father shooting an enemy officer and subsequently being executed. The play stressed Britain’s unpreparedness for attack, and has been credited with boosting recruitment to the Territorial Army in the years immediately before World War I.



A Nation in Arms by B.S. Townroe (1909)

"A NATION IN ARMS" AT THE SAVOY THEATRE.

Yesterday's performance by Miss Flora Campbell-Patterson's company of Mr. B. S. Townroe's play *A Nation in Arms* was marked by a considerable amount of patriotism in various parts of the Savoy Theatre. There was stage patriotism on the stage, patriotic tunes and brazen instruments of music in the orchestra, patriotism rather languidly applauding with kid gloves in the stalls, and shrill-voiced, eager-eyed Boy Scout patriotism in the gallery. And in one of the boxes there was Lord Roberts, the soldierly field-marshal who would fain see the manhood of this country prove that there is something real in its talk of patriotism by the testimony of personal service.

Mr. Townroe's play is frankly propagandist. The interesting fact about it is that it was written with the design of attracting the men of Lancashire and Yorkshire to the subject of universal service, and that it so far succeeded in its mission that they are now far more interested in the question of their share in the defence of their country than used to be the case. Apparently they like their patriotism flavoured with melodrama and comic relief, some of which has the effect of making the experience of a foreign invasion and the conquest of England appear a less terrible affair than it would be in reality. But the Boy Scouts at all events followed the play, in spite of its limitations, with the heartiest enthusiasm. They were a model gallery audience, and cheered every reference to the soldierly duties of the true patriot to the echo. Beyond them there were unfortunately not many possible defenders of the country in the house, so that no great accession to the strength of the Territorials is to be expected as the result of the performance. But whenever it could count upon a more masculine audience the play might doubtless do useful recruiting work.

- Produced on behalf of the National Service League as a counter to *An Englishman's Home*
- It stressed the importance of regular service in the army rather than relying on the Territorial Army.

"A NATION IN ARMS" AT THE SAVOY THEATRE.

Yesterday's performance by Miss Flora Campbell-Patterson's Company of Mr. B. S. Townroe's play *Nation in Arms* was marked by a considerable amount of patriotism in various parts of the Savoy Theatre. There was stage patriotism on the stage, patriotic tunes and brazen instruments of music in the orchestra, patriotism rather languidly applauding with kid gloves in the stalls, and shrill-voiced, eager-eyed Boy Scout patriotism in the gallery. And in one of the boxes there was Lord Roberts, the soldierly field-marshal who would fain see the manhood of this country prove that there is something real in its talk of patriotism by the testimony of personal service.

The Times Friday, Jul 26, 1912

National Service League



- The National Service League was a British pressure group founded in February 1902 to alert the country to the inadequacy of the British Army to fight a major war and to propose the solution of national service.



1909

And Musical Hall –

*Macdermott's
War Song
(aka. By Jingo)
by G.W. Hunt
(1878)*

Often erroneously attributed to the Boer War it actually originated from concerns regarding Russia's intentions towards Turkey

Note: It became popular again during WW1 – with words appropriate to fighting Germany – the Russian Bear being replaced by the German Eagle

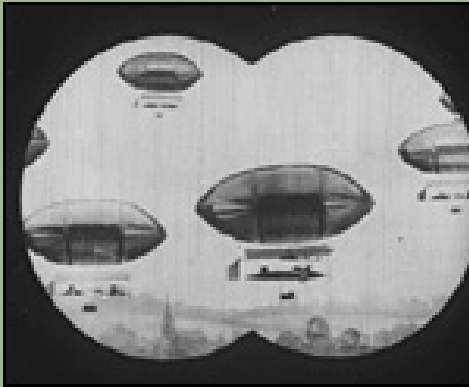
The "Dogs of War" are loose and the
rugged Russian Bear,
All bent on blood and robbery has crawled
out of his lair...
It seems a thrashing now and then, will
never help to tame...
That brute, and so he's out upon the "same
old game"...
The Lion did his best... to find him some
excuse...
To crawl back to his den again. All efforts
were no use...
He hunger'd for his victim. He's pleased
when blood is shed...
But let us hope his crimes may all recoil on
his own head...

Chorus:

We don't want to fight but by jingo if
we do...
We've got the ships, we've got the
men, and got the money too!
We've fought the Bear before... and
while we're Britons true,
The Russians shall not have
Constantinople...

And Cinema –

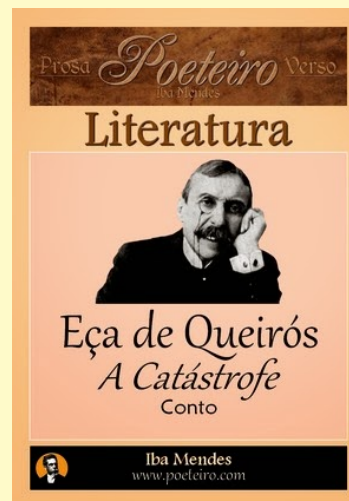
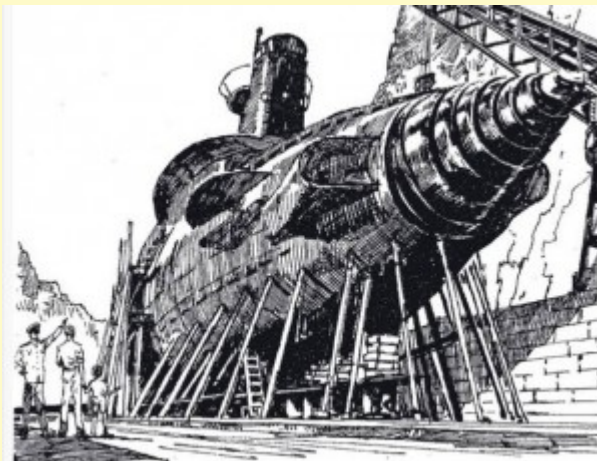
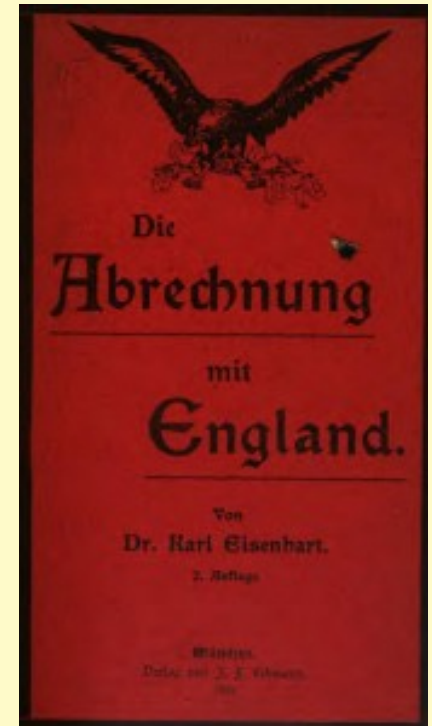
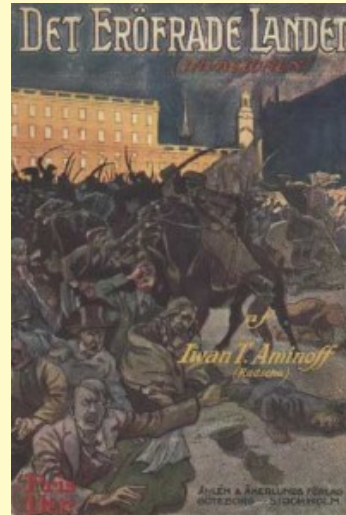
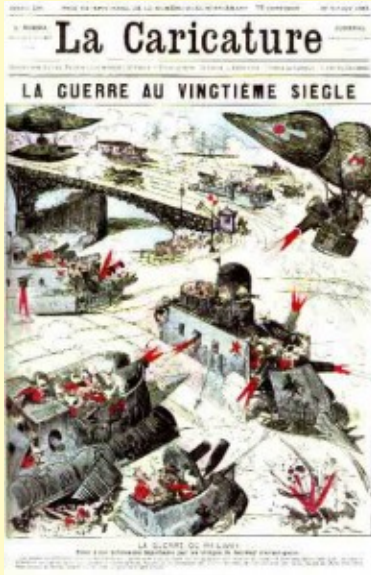
The Airship Destroyer (1909)



A 35mm B&W Silent Film

- *The Airship Destroyer* can be classed as part of the invasion scare stories so popular at the time and includes the futuristic menace of aerial warfare.
- In many ways, it can be described as a science-fiction film, using as it does futuristic inventions such as guided missiles.
- The film was re-released in January 1915, reflecting the then very real fear of aerial attacks from Zeppelins. Indeed, Yarmouth and King's Lynn were bombed in the same month, and London was to experience raids in May 1915.

Invasion Literature was not just a British phenomenon



Sometimes Life imitates Art

■ Dogger Bank Incident

- *In October 1904 the Russian Navy attacked a fleet of British trawlers in the North Sea mistaking them for Japanese warships*



Sometimes Life imitates Art

- On a number of occasions English yachtsmen were arrested as "spies" in Germany (1910-12)

Daily Express
LONDON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1910.

THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS.
OPENING DAY OF THE GREAT "SPY" CASE.
GERMANY'S SECRETS—AMAZING CANDOUR OF THE TWO BRITISH OFFICERS.
NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR OBJECT.

The trial of Captain Trinch, R.N., and Lieutenant Braddock, R.N., the two British officers who are charged with espionage at Berlin and other places on the German North Sea coast, was opened at Leipzig yesterday.

The scene in the court was dramatic. Their pretence was that to make their trial the most public trial in which the British Government had ever been involved. The prosecution wanted to see the British Government in a more favourable position than the accused. The first witness called for the defence was Captain Trinch, who had been in the German North Sea coast for some time. He was asked to give evidence as to the circumstances of his arrest. He stated that he had been arrested by the German authorities and taken to a prison. He was then interrogated and his statements were taken down. He was then released and allowed to return to his home. He was then arrested again and taken to a prison. He was then interrogated and his statements were taken down. He was then released and allowed to return to his home. He was then arrested again and taken to a prison. He was then interrogated and his statements were taken down. He was then released and allowed to return to his home.

The Daily Mirror
THE MORNING JOURNAL WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NET SALE.
No. 2745. SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1912. One Halfpenny.

PHOTOGRAPHS ON WHICH THE GERMANS FOUNDED A CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE: HARMLESS SNAPSOTS BY DR. STONE, ONE OF THE RELEASED "SPIES."

The photographs show a boat on the water, a person on a boat, a person on a boat, and a person on a boat. The first photograph shows a boat on the water. The second photograph shows a person on a boat. The third photograph shows a person on a boat. The fourth photograph shows a person on a boat.

The Daily Mirror
THE MORNING JOURNAL WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NET SALE.
No. 2469. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1911. One Halfpenny.

GERMANY'S ATTACK OF NERVES: ENGLISH ARMY OFFICER ARRESTED AS A SPY AT EMDEN.

The man on the boat is identified as Lieutenant Braddock, one of the two British officers who are charged with espionage at Berlin and other places on the German North Sea coast. He is shown in a small boat, possibly a fishing boat, on the water. The caption below the photograph reads: "Lieutenant Braddock's yacht boat." The text below the photograph states: "Germany should consider a photograph. Her secret system is at the moment very highly strung, and no tourist should carry a camera unless carrying a permit as a spy. The Englishman has been arrested—only released on—London on a charge of espionage."

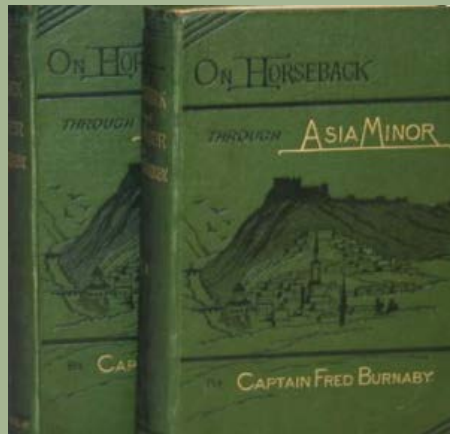
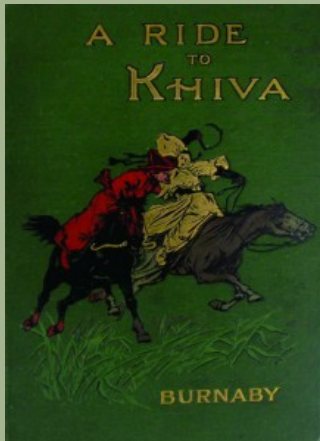
Fact can be Stranger than Fiction

The Fenian Submarine



- The **Fenian Ram** was an early submarine developed by John Holland in the United States for the Fenian Brotherhood for use by the Irish Republican Brotherhood.
- It completed sea trials
- However, a funding dispute broke out between the Fenian Brotherhood and the IRB
- The IRB stole the submarine and took it to New Haven, Connecticut, but discovered that no one knew how to operate it. Holland refused to help. Unable to use or sell the boat, the Brotherhood had the Ram hauled into a shed on the Mill River.
- In 1916, the Fenian Ram was exhibited in Madison Square Garden to raise funds for victims of the Easter Rising.

A Ride to Khiva (1876) & *On Horseback through Asia Minor* (1877) by Fred Burnaby



Fact can exceed Fiction

A real-life 'Kim' - Fred Burnaby

- It is 1875, the time of the 'Great Game', when the British and Russian Empires are vying for power in central Asia.
- A British officer rides for Khiva, a Russian city closed to European travellers. He is on a dangerous mission, to learn if Russia plans to invade India, the 'jewel in the crown' of the British Empire. It might be the plot of a Rudyard Kipling novel; instead it is the true story of Captain Frederick Burnaby (1842–85).
- *On Horseback Through Asia Minor* details how Burnaby set off in the winter of 1876, convinced he could once again outwit the Czar's secret police.

Summary

- Invasion Literature was a significant literary genre that is now all but forgotten
- It was used to alert or shame government into action on security
- Had a very real effect on British government policy on spying
- It reflected changing concerns about:
 - *Britain's enemies*
 - *The invincibility of the British Navy*
 - *Lack of conscription in Britain*
 - *New weapons and types of warfare*