



***Dark Invasion by Howard Blum;
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This is the story of one of the more obscure and unusual campaigns of the Great War: the efforts by German intelligence officers and sympathisers in the then neutral USA to sabotage supplies destined for the Allies. Until America declared war on Germany in April 1917, it was theoretically possible for both the Allies and the Central Powers to purchase war material from that country. However supplies destined for Germany were prevented from arrival by the Royal Navy blockade in the North Atlantic – something seen as most unfair by Berlin.

In an effort to even things up, the Germans decided upon a course of sabotaging supplies destined for the British and French. This included placing incendiary devices on ships leaving New York and even introducing anthrax to horses bought by the British Army. Allied efforts to purchase supplies in the USA were helped by financier John P. Morgan, so there was an attempt on his life (your reviewer takes a fairly dim view of violence directed to persons with Morgan's surname).

The Germans' efforts were a matter of concern to US authorities, and a special unit of the New York Police Department was tasked with investigating the sabotage and apprehending the perpetrators. *Dark Invasion* is the story of the struggle between the police and the German agents behind the campaign, and a thrilling account it is too. I found it most intriguing, indeed it was hard to put down as the police began to close in on their quarry.

If you're looking for an entertaining account of an unfamiliar aspect of the conflict, this is well worth reading. ***Gareth Morgan***