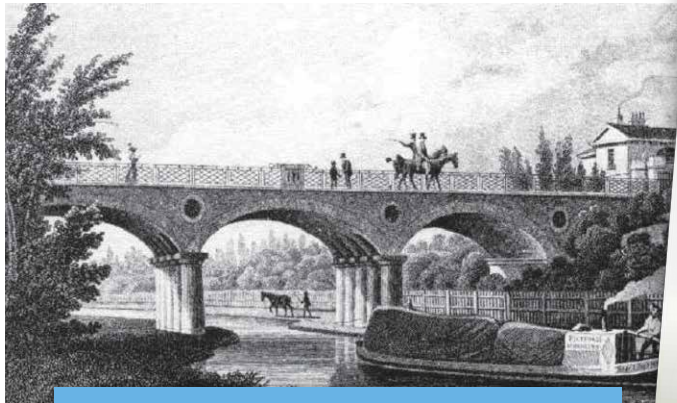


# Places along the Regent's Canal

## Blow-up Bridge

In 1874 a boat carrying gunpowder **exploded** under Macclesfield Bridge in Regent's Park. The explosion was so loud that it was heard all over London.

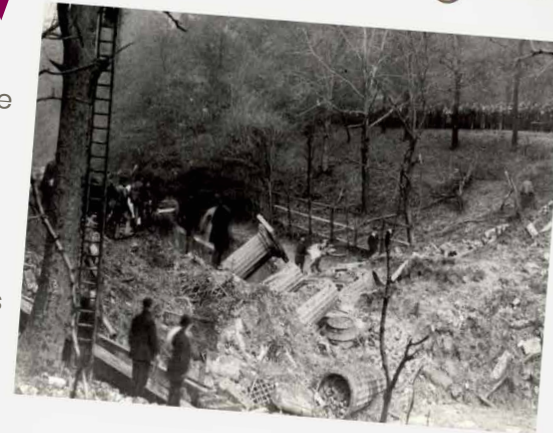
The canal was reopened within five days of the explosion. The bridge was rebuilt using the same heavy cast iron columns. Ever since the explosion Macclesfield Bridge has been called **Blow-Up Bridge**.



The Macclesfield Bridge in the 1820s (before the explosion).

# NEWS

Early in the morning of Friday 2nd October 1874, five boats were being towed by a steam powered tug along the Regent's Canal in Regent's Park. One of the boats, called the Tilbury, was carrying a cargo of about five tons of gunpowder. The boat was on its way to Nottingham where the gunpowder would be used for blasting in the coal mines. Just before 5 o'clock in the morning, when the Tilbury was passing under Macclesfield Bridge, the gunpowder caught fire and there was an enormous explosion. The bridge was



completely demolished and the houses nearby suffered damage to windows, walls, furniture and roofs. The loud explosion woke people up in their houses and they rushed out on to the streets in a panic still in their night clothes. There was thick smoke everywhere and people thought that the end of the world had come. Three of the boatmen died.

A newspaper article about the explosion. Newspapers were very important in the past. How would an accident like this be reported today?