

Macclesfield Bridge

An article by **Bob Stevens**

In 1874 on the Grand Union Canal in London, adjacent to Regents Park and beneath a bridge known as the Macclesfield Bridge, a narrow boat carrying a cargo of Black Powder exploded. The bridge is still known today as “Blow up bridge” and numbers among London’s minor tourist attractions

The only remaining parts of the bridge, the support columns, were saved and reinstalled as part of the replacement bridge. Some were installed the wrong way round i.e. rotated 90 degrees so that the rope grooves worn by horses hauling the boats were on the tow path side while others are rightly on the canal side.

Needless to say, the steerer and the horse did not survive; no other loss of life was reported

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