

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
127 - THE LONDON UNDERGROUND - TOTALLY TUBULAR - AUGUST, 2023



**WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER # 127... TODAY WE
WILL BE LOOKING AT THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND DURING THE
VICTORIAN PERIOD.**



*BY THE TIME YOU AND I TOOK ROOMS IN 221B,
THE BAKER STREET UNDERGROUND STATION HAD
ALREADY BEEN OPEN FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS.*



DESPITE THE PROXIMITY OF ONE THE EARLIEST STATIONS ALMOST AT OUR DOORSTEP, I MENTION RIDING THE RAILWAY IN ONLY THREE ADVENTURES.



IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE,'
WE RIDE IT TO ALDERSGATE... THE OTHER TWO
MENTIONS OCCUR WHEN A CLIENT ARRIVES BY
UNDERGROUND IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BERYL
CORONET,' AND YOU ARE CALLED TO INVESTIGATE
A MURDER WHERE THE CORPSE IS FOUND ON ITS
TRACKS IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BRUCE-
PARTINGTON PLANS.'



PRIOR TO ITS OPERATION IN 1863, THE LONDON UNDERGROUND HAD A RATHER ROCKY BEGINNING... WHILE SOME IDEAS FOR SUBTERRANEAN RAIL LINES DATE BACK AS FAR AS 1837, THE FIRST CREDIBLE PROPOSAL APPEARED IN 1845.





CHARLES PEARSON SUGGESTED A RAILWAY POWERED BY AIR PRESSURE (SUCH AS THAT USED IN PNEUMATIC TUBES—HENCE, THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TERM 'TUBE' TO DESCRIBE THE TRAIN SYSTEM).



HE CONTINUED TO CHAMPION THE IDEA OF AN UNDERGROUND RAIL SYSTEM... HE HAD ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY SPEARHEADED THE CREATION OF THE 'THAMES TUNNEL,' USED FOR FOOT TRAFFIC UNDER THE THAMES RIVER.



THE ROUTE AND FINANCING, HOWEVER, CREATED CONTROVERSY THROUGHOUT THE 1850S, AND DIGGING DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1860.





**EVEN AFTER CONSTRUCTION BEGAN, SEVERAL SCANDALS
PLAGUED THE PROJECT, INCLUDING THE EMBEZZLEMENT
OF MORE THAN £20 MILLION IN TODAY'S CURRENCY BY
LEOPOLD REDPATH.**



CONSTRUCTION ON 'THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY'
USED A 'CUT AND COVER' METHOD. WORKERS DUG A
TRENCH UNDER OR BY AN EXISTING ROADWAY.



TRACKS WERE LAID ALONG THE TRENCH AND THE WALLS WERE LINED WITH BRICKS AND THEN COVERED WITH A ROOF.



*ONCE COMPLETELY COVERED, A NEW ROADWAY
WAS BUILT OVER IT, AND THE LINE WAS
OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1863.*



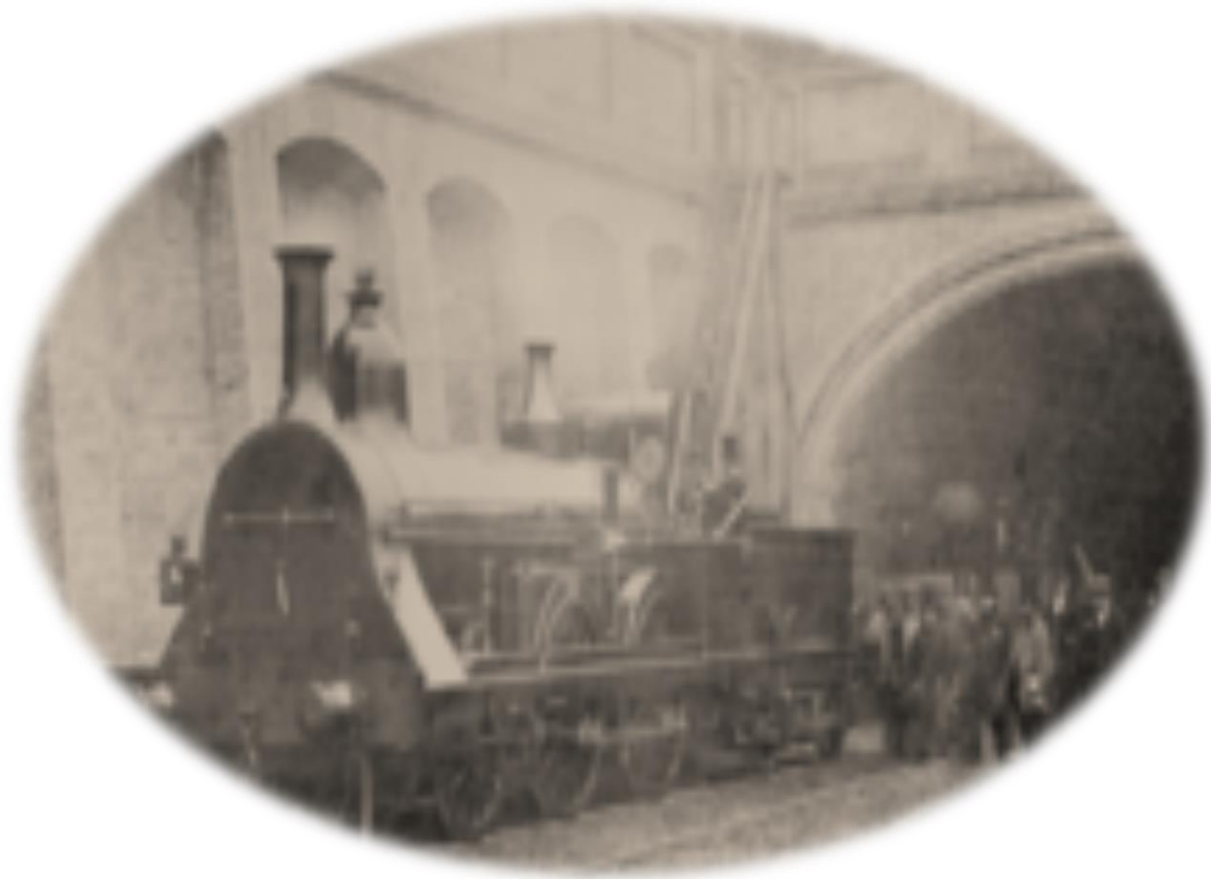
*THE 3.75-MILE LINE CONSISTED OF SEVEN STOPS
BETWEEN PADDINGTON... AT THAT TIME, BISHOP'S
ROAD... AND FARRINGTON STREET... BAKER STREET
WAS THE THIRD STOP FROM PADDINGTON.*



THE SYSTEM USED STEAM ENGINES, FILLING THE TUNNEL WITH SMOKE, STEAM, AND SPARKS, WHICH OFTEN SENT PASSENGERS INTO COUGHING FITS.



ONE PHARMACY EVEN SOLD A 'METROPOLITAN MIXTURE' FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE AIR... THE SMOKE WAS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS FOR THE PASSENGERS, BUT ALSO FOR THE CONDUCTORS, WHO COULD NOT ALWAYS SEE THROUGH THE POLLUTION.



LIGHT AND AIR SHAFTS WERE BORED FROM THE SURFACE INTO THE TUNNELS TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS, AND GAS LIGHTS WERE PROVIDED AT STATIONS.



GRATED 'BLOW HOLES' IN THE ROADWAYS (NOW COVERING THE UNDERGROUND) ALSO ALLOWED STEAM AND SMOKE TO ESCAPE.



DESPITE SUCH INCONVENIENCES, THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL FASTER THAN THROUGH CROWDED ROADWAYS MADE IT POPULAR ENOUGH THAT MORE THAN 9.5 MILLION PEOPLE USED IT IN THE FIRST YEAR ALONE.



THE POPULARITY LED TO EXTENDING THE
LINE OVER TIME TO ITS CURRENT 41 MILES
AND 34 STATIONS.



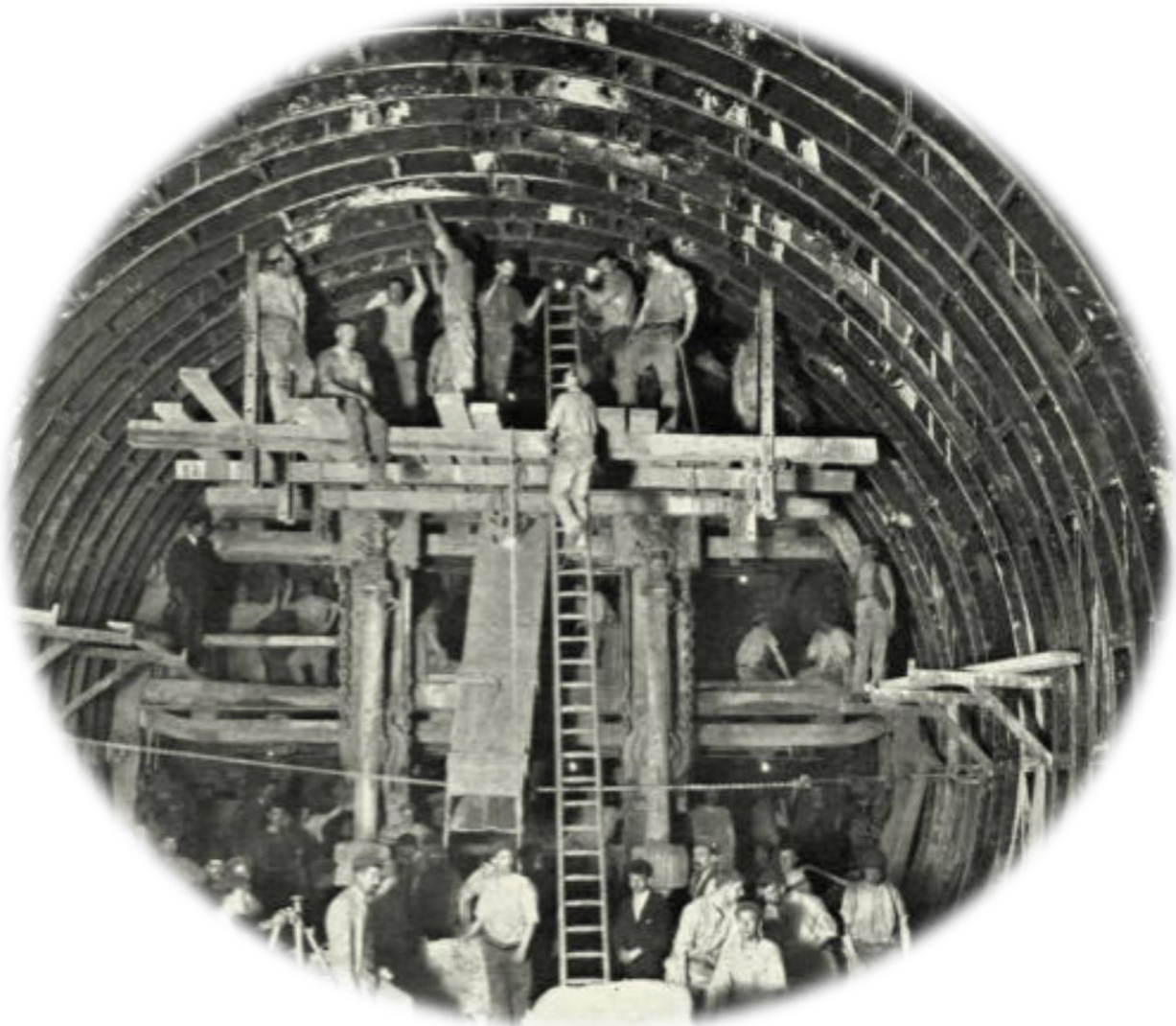
ADDITIONAL LINES WERE ADDED TO THE SYSTEM BY VARIOUS ENTERPRISES, THE SECOND BEING WHAT WAS THEN KNOWN AS THE 'CITY AND SOUTH' LINE.



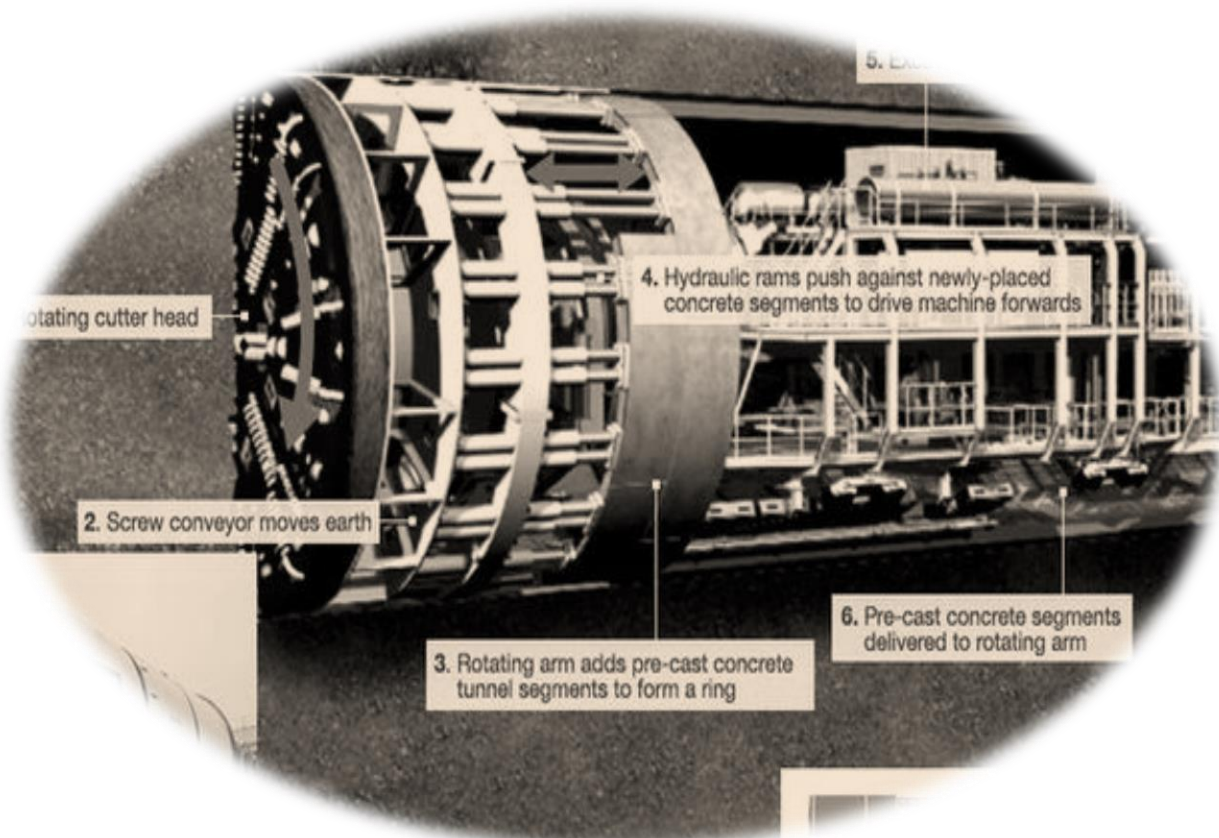
UNLIKE THE 'CUT AND COVER' APPROACH, THIS LINE WAS CRAFTED THROUGH THE SAME METHOD USED FOR THE THAMES TUNNEL—THE TUNNELING SHIELD.



*J.H. GREATHEAD MODIFIED THE DESIGN BY MARC
ISAMBARD BRUNEL TO BURROW A CIRCULAR
CHANNEL INSTEAD OF A RECTANGULAR ONE.*



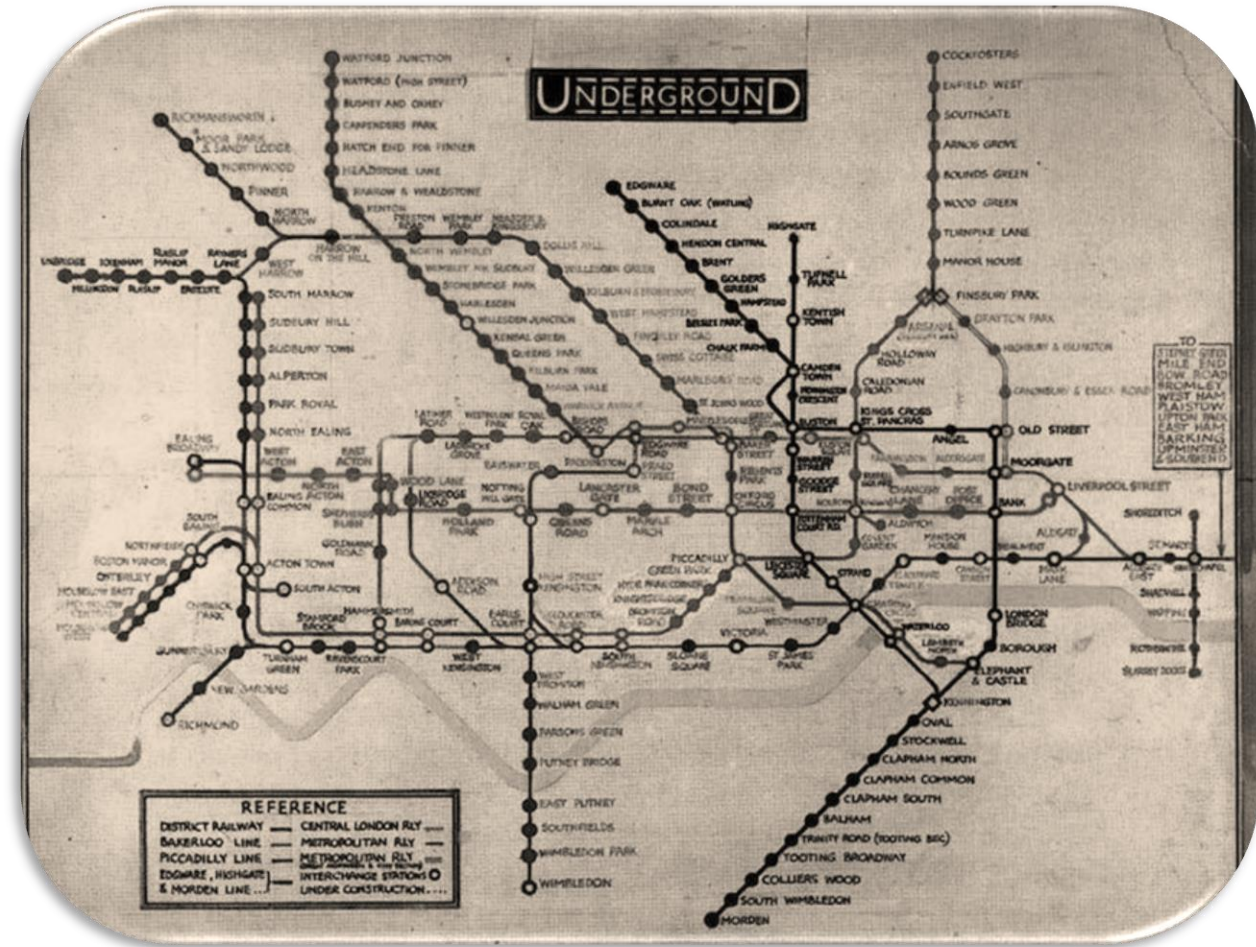
THE DEVICE (ESSENTIALLY THE SAME STILL USED TODAY) BORED A HOLE THROUGH THE EARTH, ALLOWING FOR CAST-IRON REINFORCEMENTS TO BE PLACED ALONG THE SIDES AND ROOF AS IT DID SO.



THIS ROUTE ALSO USED ELECTRIC TRAINS, CUTTING DOWN ON THE POLLUTION WITHIN THE ORIGINAL LINE'S TUNNELS. OPENED TO THE PUBLIC IN DECEMBER 1890, THE FARE FOR THIS LINE WAS A FLAT TWO-PENCE FOR ALL PASSENGERS.



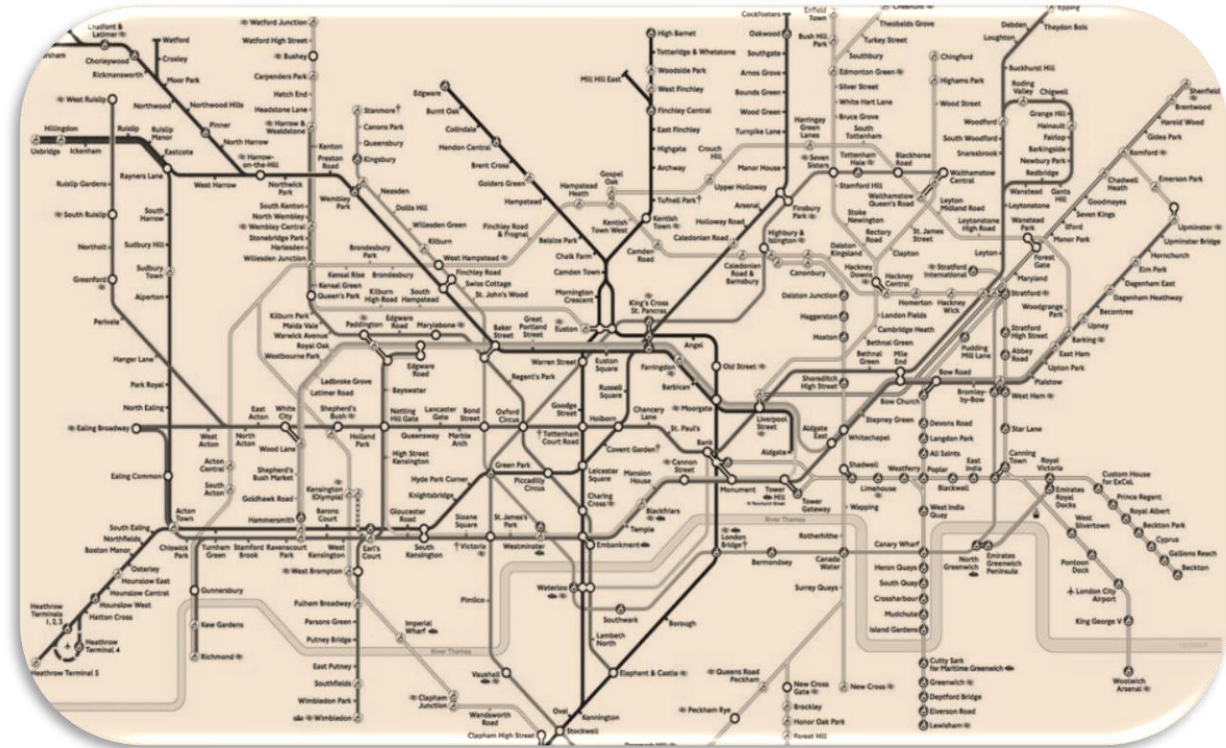
AS THESE LINES APPEARED, SOME EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, AND SOON, ALL BUT THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY WERE MERGED INTO THE UNDERGROUND GROUP.

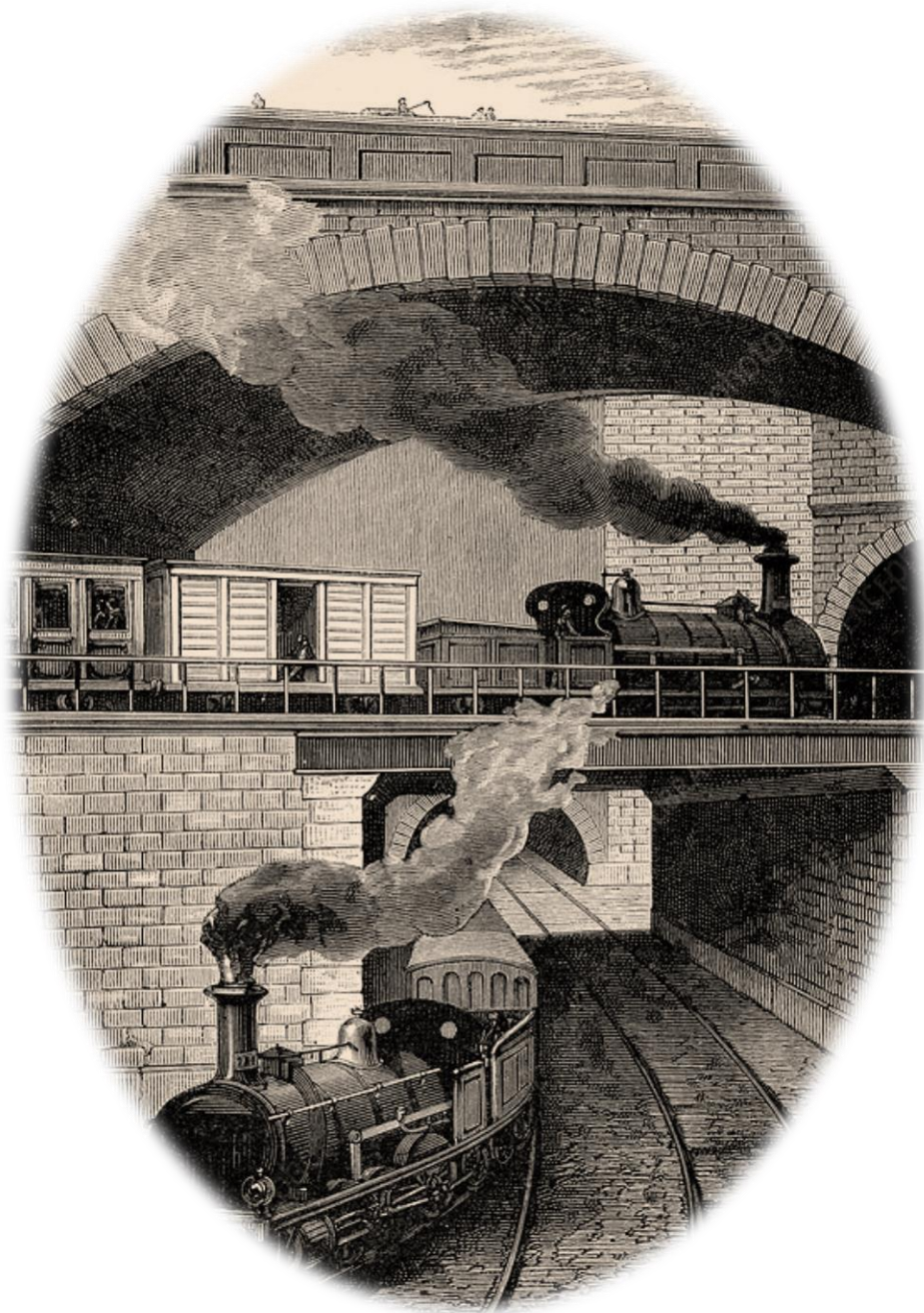


*THIS MERGER ALSO INTRODUCED THE TERM
'UNDERGROUND' AND THE 'ROUNDEL' SYMBOL
THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM.*



LONDON TOOK CONTROL OF ALL THE CITY'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INCLUDING THE UNDERGROUND, IN 1933, AND INTRODUCED THE FIRST DIAGRAM OF THE CURRENT STATIONS.





**THE UNDERGROUND SERVED THE CITY'S
POPULATION IN MORE THAN TRANSPORTATION.**



DURING WWII, THE TUNNELS SERVED AS AIR RAID SHELTERS, A STORAGE FACILITY FOR ITEMS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM, AND EXECUTIVE MEETING QUARTERS... SOMETIMES HOUSING PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL... AT THE UNUSED DOWN STREET STATION.



OTHER TUNNEL OCCUPANTS INCLUDE ABOUT HALF A MILLION MICE AND A MOSQUITO SPECIES, CULEX PIPIENS MOLESTUS, INTRODUCED INTO THE TUNNELS DURING WWII.



WHILE OUR USE OF THE UNDERGROUND OCCURRED ONLY ONCE IN THE CANON, YOU HAD EXPERIENCE RIDING THE TUBE.



IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS,' YOU DESCRIBED RECALLING THE TRAIN FOR THE ALDGATE STATION WAS NOT COVERED AT ALL POINTS IN THE WEST END.



WHILE YOU DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE FIRST
1933 SYSTEM MAP, YOU STILL HAD ENOUGH
KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNDERGROUND IN YOUR BRAIN
ATTIC TO DETERMINE THE SERIES OF EVENTS
LEADING TO POOR ARTHUR CADOGAN WEST'S DEMISE.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 127 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 126, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE HAT FASHIONS DURING
THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TOPIC/LONDON-UNDERGROUND](https://www.britannica.com/topic/london-underground)
- [HTTPS://LONDONIST.COM/2014/11/FIVE-THINGS-YOU-DIDNT-KNOW-ABOUT-THE-FIRST-UNDERGROUND-LINE](https://londonist.com/2014/11/five-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-first-underground-line)
- [HTTPS://WWW.THEHISTORYPRESS.CO.UK/ARTICLES/THE-HISTORY-OF-LONDON-S-UNDERGROUND-RAILWAY/](https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/the-history-of-london-s-underground-railway/)
- [HTTP://TUBE-HISTORY.UK/METROPOLITAN-LINE.PHP#:~:TEXT=THE%20METROPOLITAN%20LINE%20OPENED%20IN,DAY%20AND%20WAS%20QUICKLY%20EXTENDED.](http://tube-history.uk/metropolitan-line.php#:~:text=The%20Metropolitan%20line%20opened%20in,day%20and%20was%20quickly%20extended.)
- STEVEN DOYLE AND DAVID CROWDER, SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES, HOBOKEN, NJ: WILEY PUBLISHING, INC., 2010.
- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TECHNOLOGY/TUNNELING-SHIELD](https://www.britannica.com/technology/tunneling-shield)
- [HTTPS://WWW.NYCSUBWAY.ORG/WIKI/OLDEST_LONDON_TUBE_REOPENED_\(CITY_&_SOUTH_LONDON\)__\(1925\)](https://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/oldest_london_tube_reopened_(city_&_south_london)__(1925))
- [HTTPS://TFL.GOV.UK/CORPORATE/ABOUT-TFL/CULTURE-AND-HERITAGE/LONDONS-TRANSPORT-A-HISTORY/LONDON-UNDERGROUND/A-BRIEF-HISTORY-OF-THE-UNDERGROUND](https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/culture-and-heritage/londons-transport-a-history/london-underground/a-brief-history-of-the-underground)
- [HTTPS://WWW.LTMUSEUM.CO.UK/COLLECTIONS/STORIES/WAR/SECRET-WARTIME-HISTORY-DOWN-STREET-STATION](https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/collections/stories/war/secret-wartime-history-down-street-station)
- [HTTPS://WWW.MYLONDON.NEWS/NEWS/ZONE-1-NEWS/FACTS-MICE-LONDON-UNDERGROUND-TUBE-18097665](https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/facts-mice-london-underground-tube-18097665)



Baker Street *Elementary*

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:
JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
RUSTY MASON &
STEVE MASON

