Below are articles selected from the ILN’s 160 year history - richly illustrated reports on events from across the world in topics as diverse as the Irish famine of the 1840s, the Maori Rugby Tour of 1888 and the building of the Panama Canal.


On January 30, 1847, the paper, on its front page under a heading 'The Famine in Ireland – Funeral in Skibbereen' carried a sketch of two uncoffined corpses being transported to the cemetery on a wagon bed drawn by an emaciated horse. The sketch, by Mr. H. Smith of Cork, helped to bring some sense of the horror of the famine in Ireland and was perhaps for most British readers the first time that the word 'famine' took on a raw, more tangible meaning. The sketch was accompanied by a strong front page editorial calling for greater government action.

**Arrival of Bell Victoria “Big Ben” at the Palace of Westminster**, *Illustrated London News*, 5 June 1858

Warners of Norton near Stockton-on-Tees cast the new bell in August 1856. It was transported by rail and sea to London. On arrival at the Port of London, it was placed on a carriage and pulled across Westminster Bridge by 16 white horses.
The Royal Family Christmas Tree - Illustrated London News, 23 December 1848

The popularity of the Christmas Tree in English homes increased after this image was printed in the *ILN*. It depicts Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their family gathered around the tree. The Christmas tree was a longstanding tradition in Germany.

Franco-Prussian War - Illustrated London News, 17 September 1870

The title of this article reads “Discussing the War in a Paris Café”. The war between France and Prussia excited heated debate on the continent. The complete Prussian and German victory brought about the final unification of Germany under King Wilhelm I of Prussia. It also marked the downfall of Napoleon III and the end of the Second French Empire.
Jack the Ripper – *Illustrated London News*, 13 October 1888

The accompanying article reads: “The repeated horrible murders and mutilations of the dead perpetrated in the dark nooks and corners of a wretched quarter in the vicinity of Whitechapel and Spitalfields with the failure of the police either to detect the criminal or to guard against the commission of these atrocities have excited much alarm... One of our Artists, having accompanied such an exploration of the dismal haunts of a degraded class of the city population, amongst whom it may be charitably hoped, not a few are comparatively innocent of crime or vice, presents Sketches of the figures and groups he has seen...”

Australia’s most famous bushranger Ned Kelly – *Illustrated London News*, 11 September 1880

An iconic figure in Australian history, folklore, literature, art and film. Ned Kelly was an Australian bushranger, and, to some, a folk hero for his defiance of the colonial authorities.
One of the largest and most difficult engineering projects undertaken in the 19th century, the canal had an enormous impact on shipping between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The first attempt to construct a canal began in 1880 under French leadership, but was abandoned after thousands of workers died, largely from disease.

In 1888-89, the ‘New Zealand Natives’ were the first overseas team to tour the Home Nations. One of the New Zealand Natives' greatest legacies was the haka, a traditional Maori posture dance with vigorous movements and stamping of the feet, to the accompaniment of rhythmically shouted words; this was first performed during a match in October 1888 against Surrey. The haka was later adopted by the New Zealand national team, the All Blacks.
Achievements in European Flight 1913 - *Illustrated London News*, 17 January 1914

A graphic displaying the increasing range of flight taking place in Europe in 1913. Flight in Europe had advanced significantly, with flights lasting many hours and hundreds of miles. World War I would be the next major influence on the development of flight theory, airplane construction and the use of the skies.


Londoners labelled the bombing of populated non-military targets during World War I as murder, suggested by the title “Murder of civilians: A Zeppelin Raider”. The report states that “lives (were) lost and damage done without the shadow of military excuse” The menacing zeppelin is shown floating darkly above the roofs and chimney tops of residential houses. The point of the picture was clear- the German enemy was practicing something new, and that something new was deadly and directed at civilians.
Bomber accidentally crashes into Empire State Building - Illustrated London News, 4 August 1945

The accompanying article reads: “Blinded by fog and mist, and flying at a lower height than that prescribed by Army regulations, Lieut.-Colnel W.F. Smith, Junior, flying a Mitchell bomber, crashed into the Empire State Building at its’ seventy-ninth storey, 915 ft above street level at 9.49 am on July 28. in the crash and fire that followed thirteen people were killed and twenty six others injured.”

US troops returning home - Illustrated London News, 4 August 1945

14,000 American soldiers can be seen returning home from Europe at the end of World War II on board the liner ‘Queen Elizabeth’ - then the world's largest and fastestliner.
Book illustrator, Pauline Baynes (1922-2008), discovered by JRR Tolkien who went on to create the drawings for CS Lewis's Narnia books.

Harold William Hailstone was a cartoonist and illustrator who contributed to many magazines during his long career as an illustrator.

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