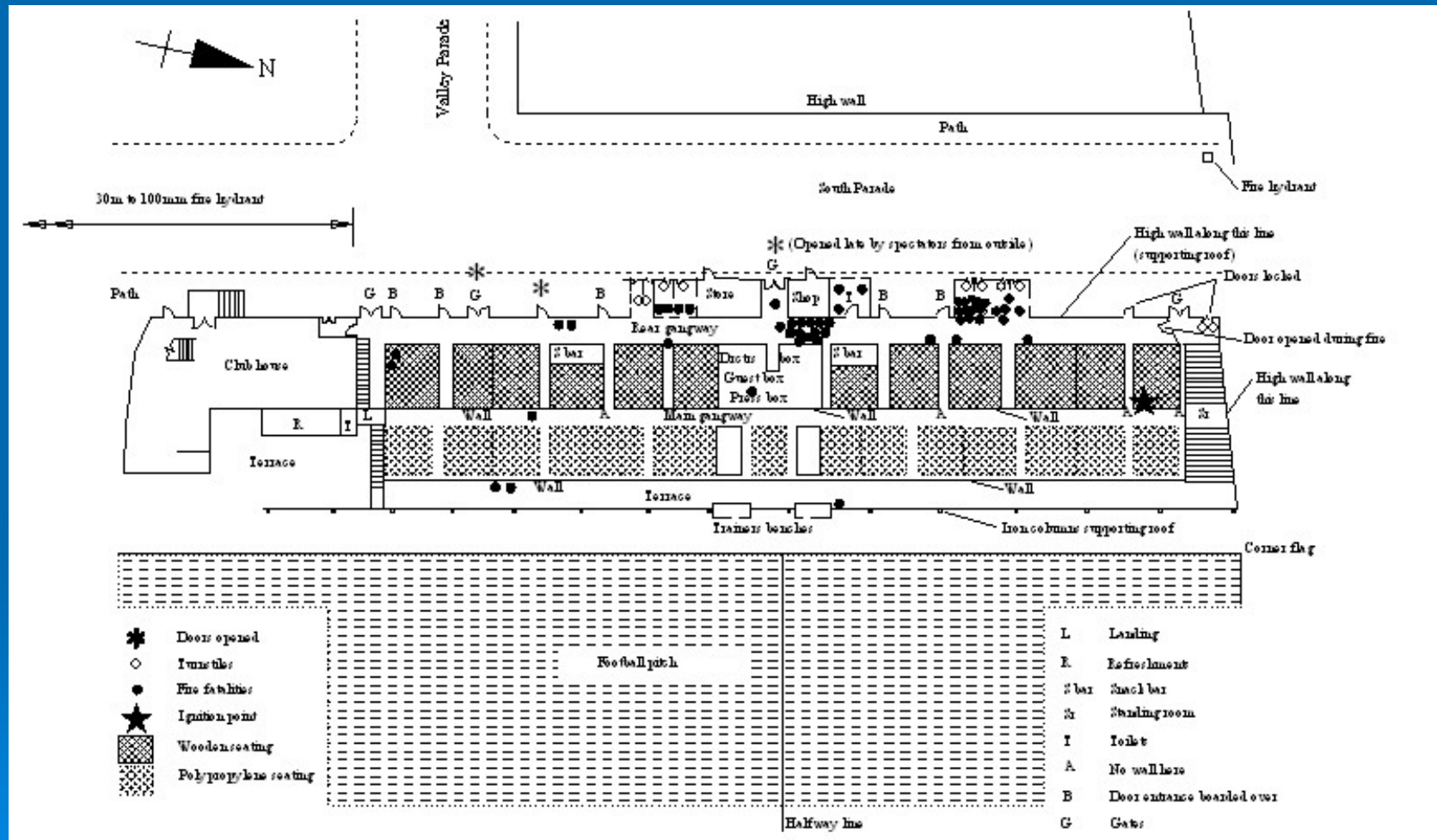


# Bradford City football club, 1985

- On 11 May 1985 the main stand of the Bradford football club, also known to footballers as Valley Parade, caught fire and within 5 minutes the whole of the stand was in flames.
- 56 people lost their lives and 250 were injured.
- The over-70's and under-20's accounted for half the casualties.
- The fire illustrated the dangers of hidden fires in highly combustible debris under well-ventilated wooden stands, feedback radiation from flames under a roof and inadequate escape routes.
- This fire led to the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987



# Bradford – site plan



# Bradford – the stand construction

- The stand was 90 m long and 18 m deep from the tall rear wall to the low wall at the front, and had been originally built in 1908.
- The stand could accommodate 2000 football spectators. In front of the stand was the pitch and at the rear a road, South Parade.
- The roof of the stand was close-boarded-timber covered with roofing felt (bitumen-based) supported by timber purlins and trusses supported by three rows of steel columns.
- The polypropylene seats were along the rear of the stand and were fixed to concrete.



# Bradford – the stand construction

- The timber and polypropylene seats were separated longitudinally by a low timber partition 4 to 5 ft high.
- The void between the timber seats and the ground varied between 9 in and 30 in due to the sloping ground.
- There was a long corridor at the rear of the stand which gave access to the stand from South Parade via a number of turnstiles.
- There was also a small standing area at the front of the stand.



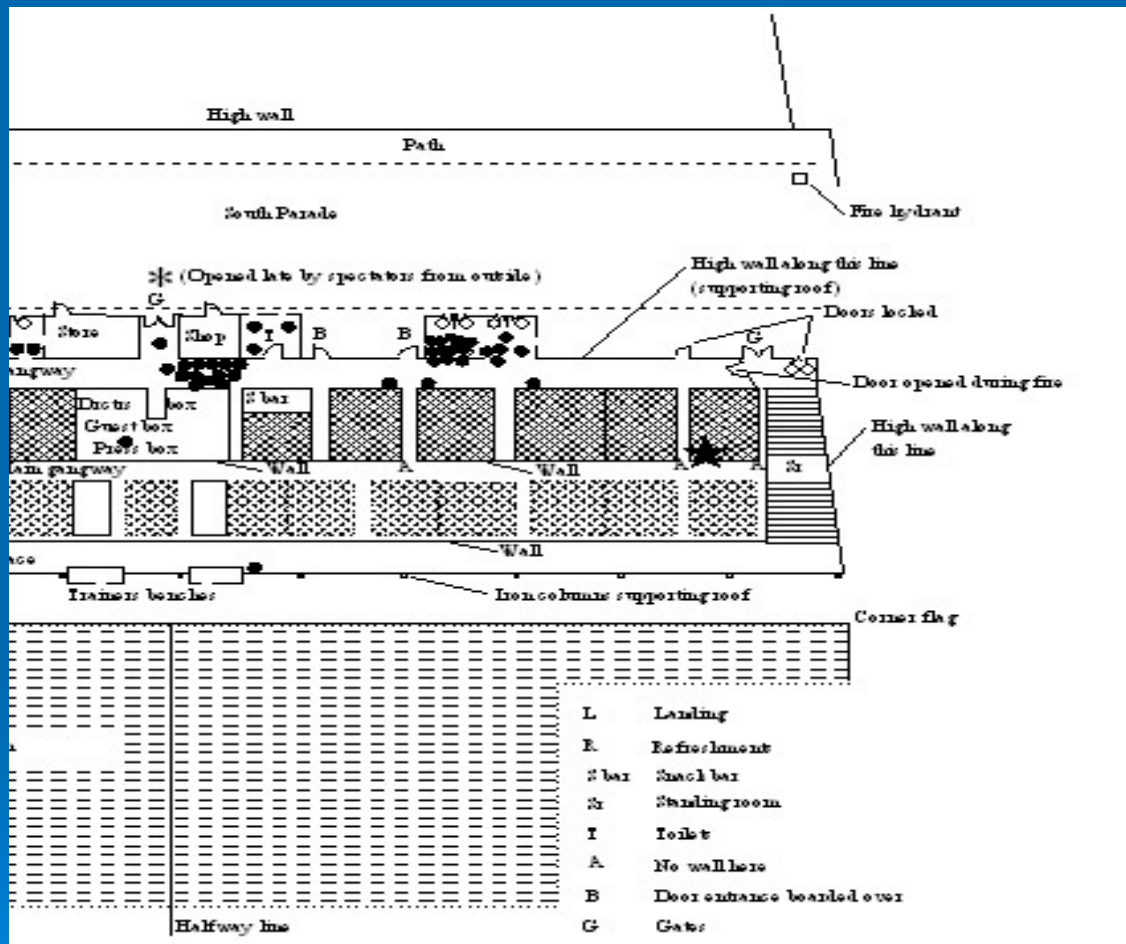
# Bradford – fire fighting facilities

- Fire fighting facilities comprised a public 4”hydrant at the north end of South Parade and another 4”hydrant some 75 ft south of the southern end of the stand in the public road.
- There was a 12” hydrant roughly half a mile away.
- There were no private hydrants and no hose reels..
- Fire extinguishers were kept in the director’s clubhouse sited next to the south end of the stand because extinguishers sited elsewhere might be misused by hooligans.
- Sprinklers were not an option because of their high cost and the actions of hooligans.





# Bradford – other end



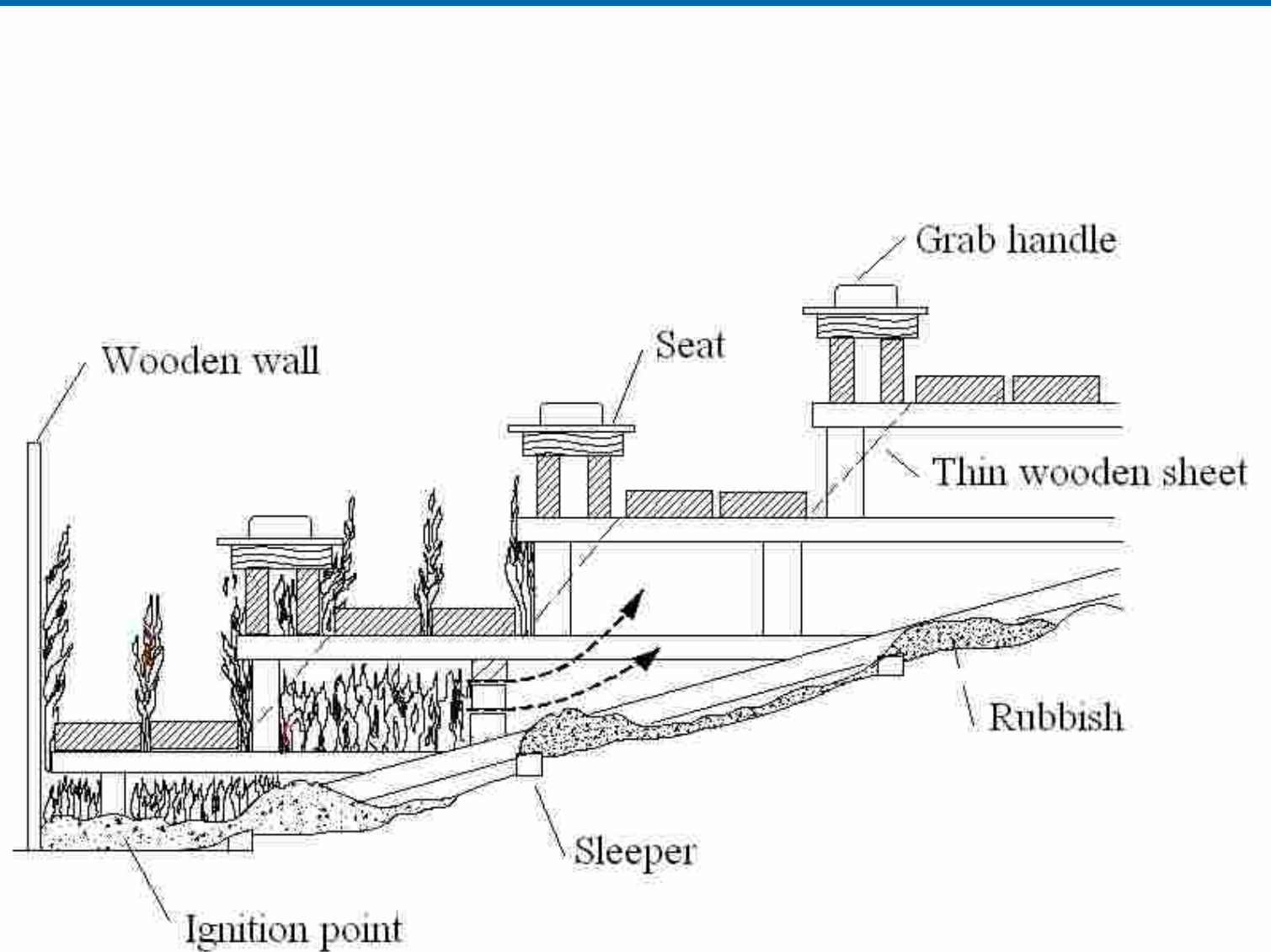
Asterix indicates fire origin

Black circles indicates position of the dead. Note two masses of bodies near rear of stand

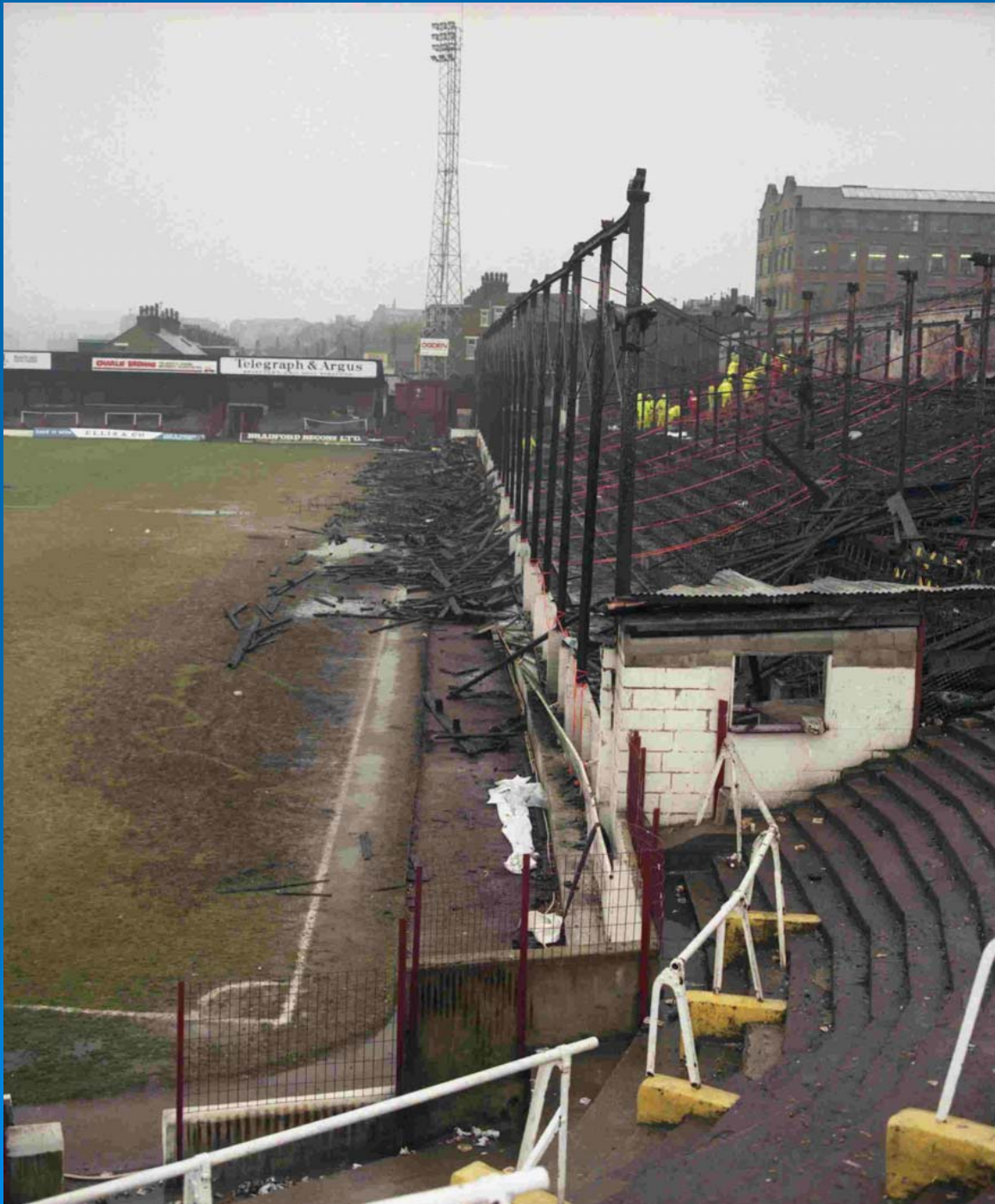


# Bradford - section through stand

Shows fire origin, and direction of fire spread below timber structure







Bradford stand  
after the fire.

Only steel and  
concrete  
construction  
remain.

Note burnt  
grass along  
edge of pitch  
caused by  
radiation.

Whole roof and  
timber/plastic  
seats have  
been  
consumed by  
fire

