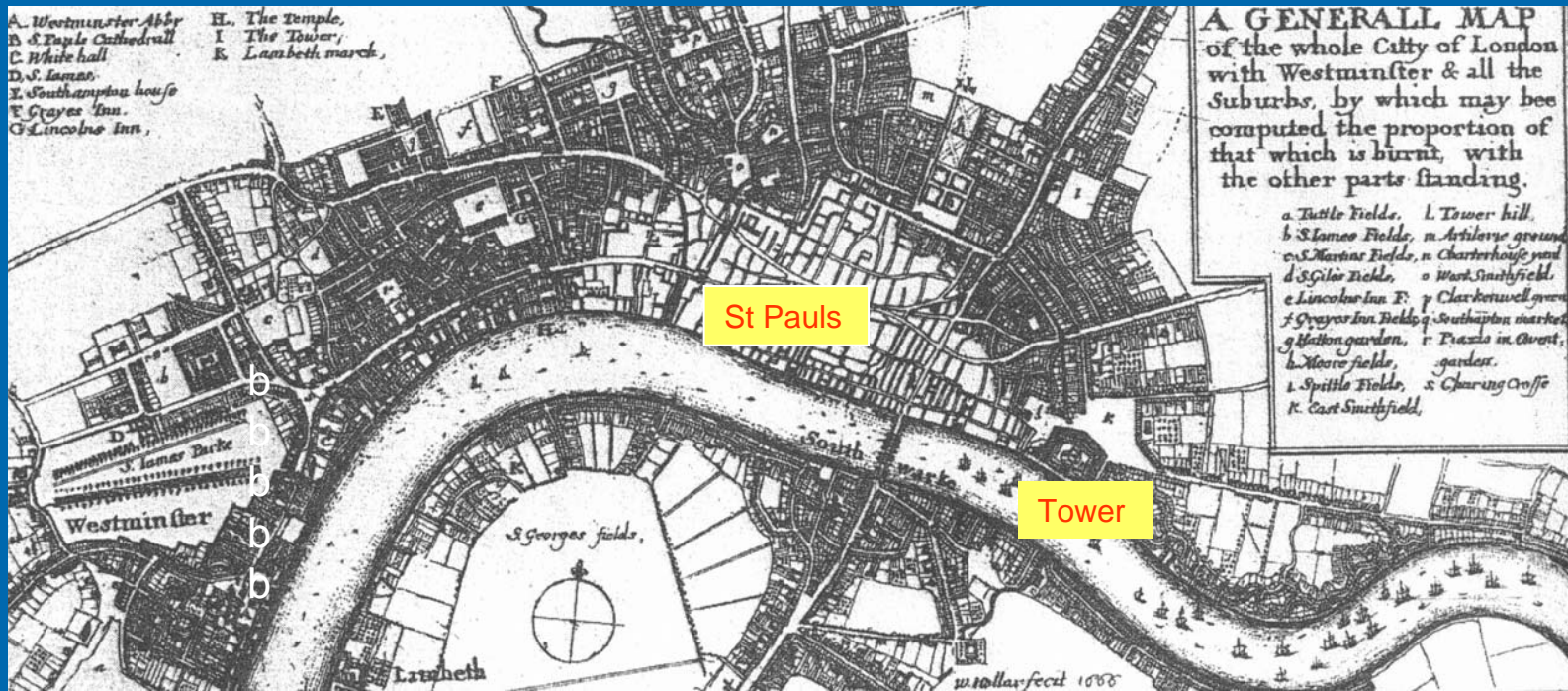


The Great fire of London, September 1666

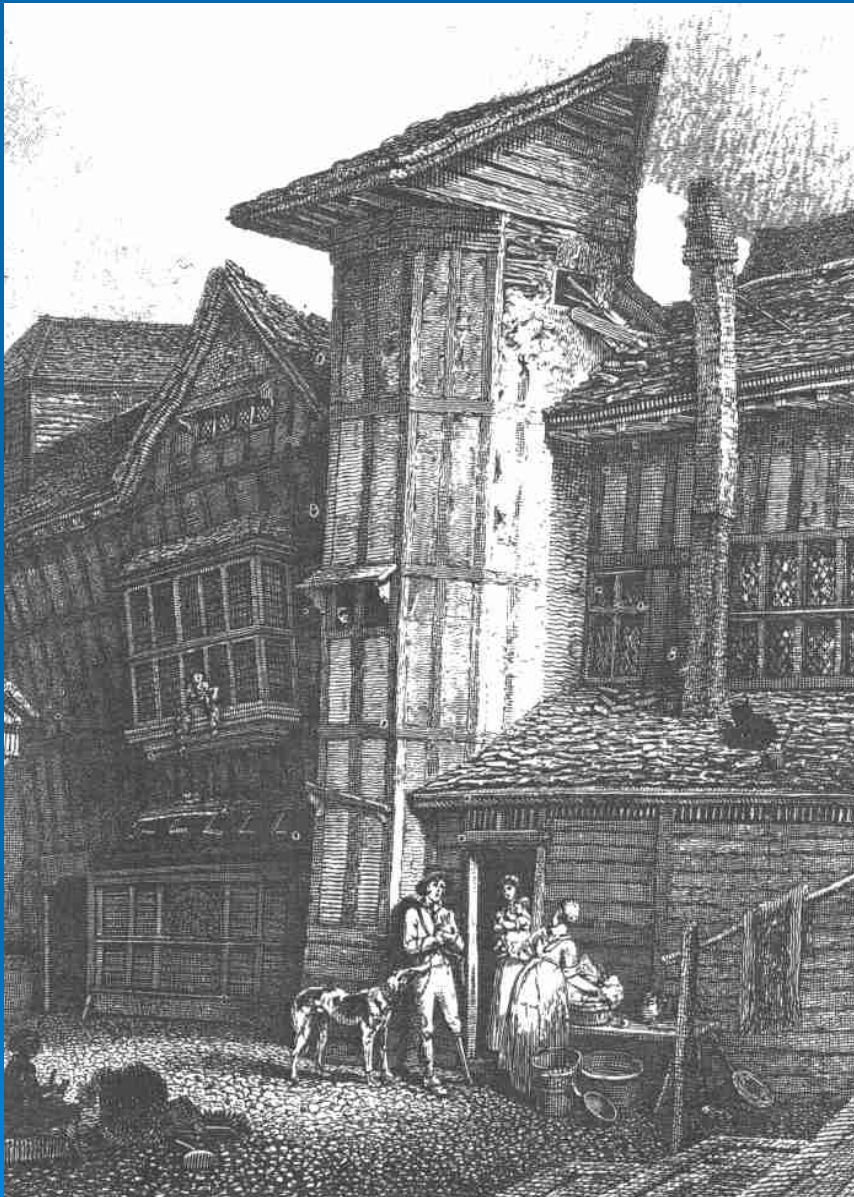
- Fire started in Baker's house in early morning.
- It spread down to the riverside wharfs and, driven by a strong easterly wind, reached as far as Chancery Lane in the 3 day duration.
- One person was known to have died in the incipient fire.





- White area near river is area affected by fire. It consumed about one third of the city including St Pauls church, the Guildhall and old London Bridge.
- It reached westwards to Chancery Lane and eastward to the Tower of London.
- It also spread across the river to Southwark but to an extent unknown. Some 50 churches and 13000 houses were destroyed.
- Much crime was committed. At the time of the fire people were still recovering from The Great Plague of the previous year.
- The number of fatalities is not accurately recorded but thought to be less than half a dozen. But much material damage was done.





- London house construction thought to be typical of the time. Timber frame coated with tar.
- Houses were close together and fire could spread easily.
- Fire fighting was by a human chain of buckets of water and 1m long squirts.
- Squirts were only effective for very small fires.

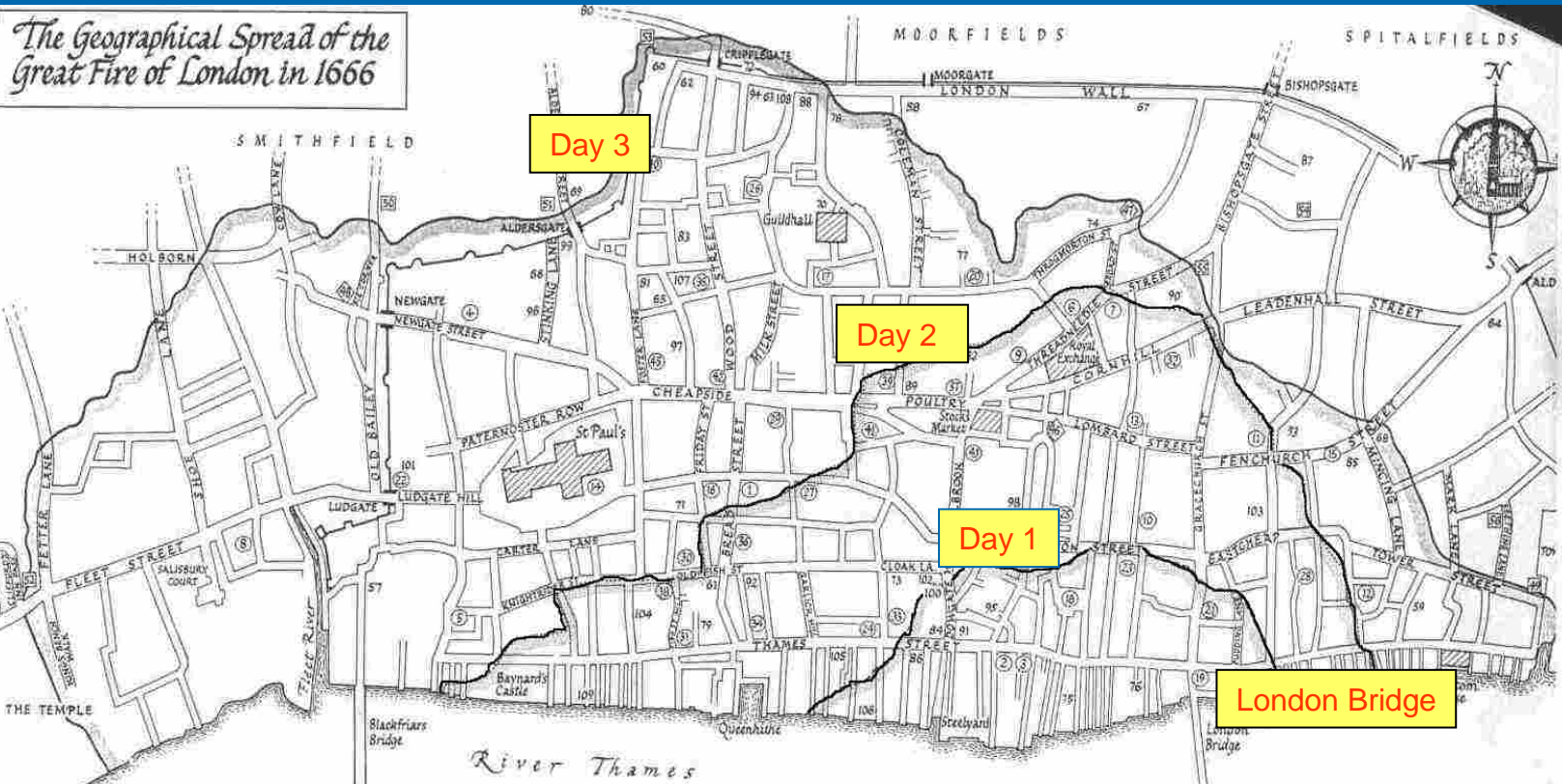


Great Fire of London



➤ London and London Bridge, 1640





- Black boundary lines show speed of spread over three days – it spread against a strong wind by radiation up to the Tower of London
- London bridge was burnt down





- Principles of manual pumpers developed after the Great Fire of London.
- Following the Parish Pumpers Act in 1708, which required the establishment of fire brigades, larger manual pumps were devised which could be pulled along on four wheels and these still relied on the piston and cylinder principle
- The largest pump required 40 men to operate the handles.
- Often these machines had to be abandoned because they were placed too close to the fire and caught fire.
- In Amsterdam 50 ft lengths of leather hose had been developed which could be connected together allowing the hose to be taken inside a building or onto the roof, or enabling the fire engine to be positioned further away from the fire, but hose was not in use in London at the time of the Great Fire

