

April 15, 1989 how the events unfolded

1 8am Liverpool fans leave the city. Roadworks delay the convoy of coaches and cars, some coaches are searched on arrival in Sheffield, causing further hold-ups



2 9am The first of 801 police officers arrive at the ground with 370 stewards, gatemen and turnstile operators. More than 1,100 officers are to be deployed in total

3 10am Police meet in the North Stand for a safety briefing conducted by Chief Supt David Duckenfield, in command at a major football match for the first time

4 11am First Liverpool fans arrive at Sheffield Midland Railway Station. Up to 25,000 are expected, coming by road and rail in the next three-and-half hours

11 3pm Kick-off, but fans are still crowding along the feeder tunnel (below, view from Leppings Lane turnstiles) to pens 3 and 4



Trapped supporters try to climb into the upper tier to escape



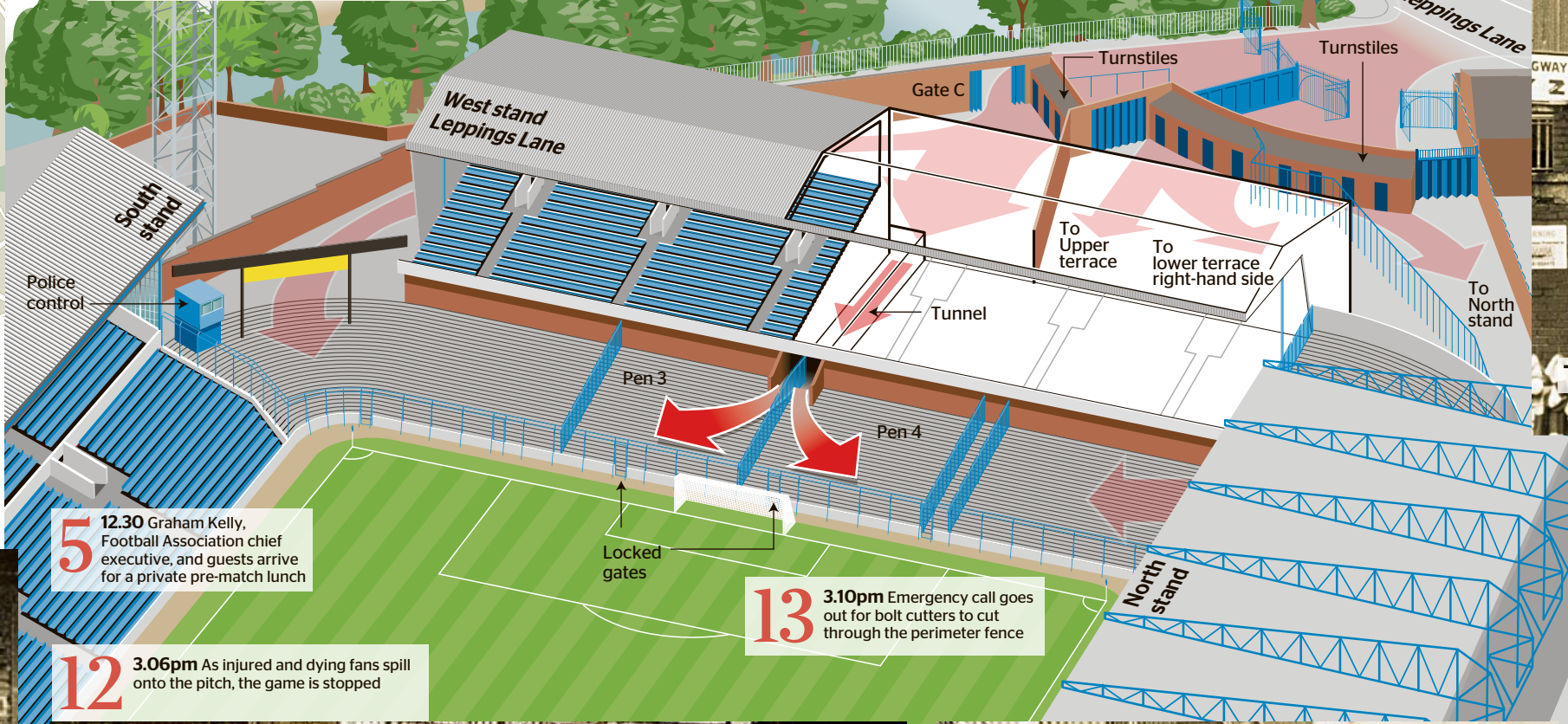
Tunnel



View from Police control box of West stand



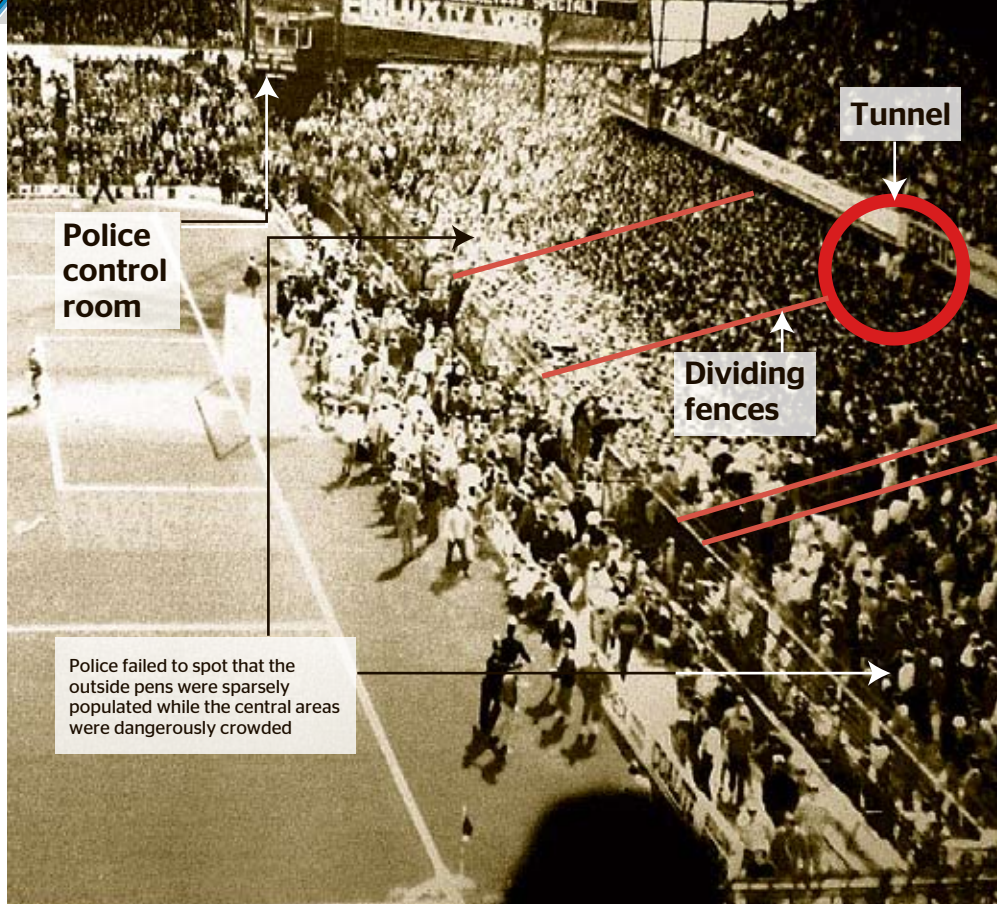
Turnstiles, Leppings Lane



5 12.30 Graham Kelly, Football Association chief executive, and guests arrive for a private pre-match lunch

12 3.06pm As injured and dying fans spill onto the pitch, the game is stopped

13 3.10pm Emergency call goes out for bolt cutters to cut through the perimeter fence



Police control room

Tunnel

Dividing fences

Police failed to spot that the outside pens were sparsely populated while the central areas were dangerously crowded

6 2pm Crowds building up fast, there are just seven turnstiles to process thousands of Liverpool fans heading to the terraces at the Leppings Lane end

8 2.30pm Crowds around the turnstile becoming uncontrollable as pressure to get into the ground becomes frantic. Police radio signals are interrupted

7 2.17pm Order goes out to stop traffic where a bottleneck of fans is turning into a crush

9 2.45pm The latest time fans are advised to be in their places but thousands are still outside

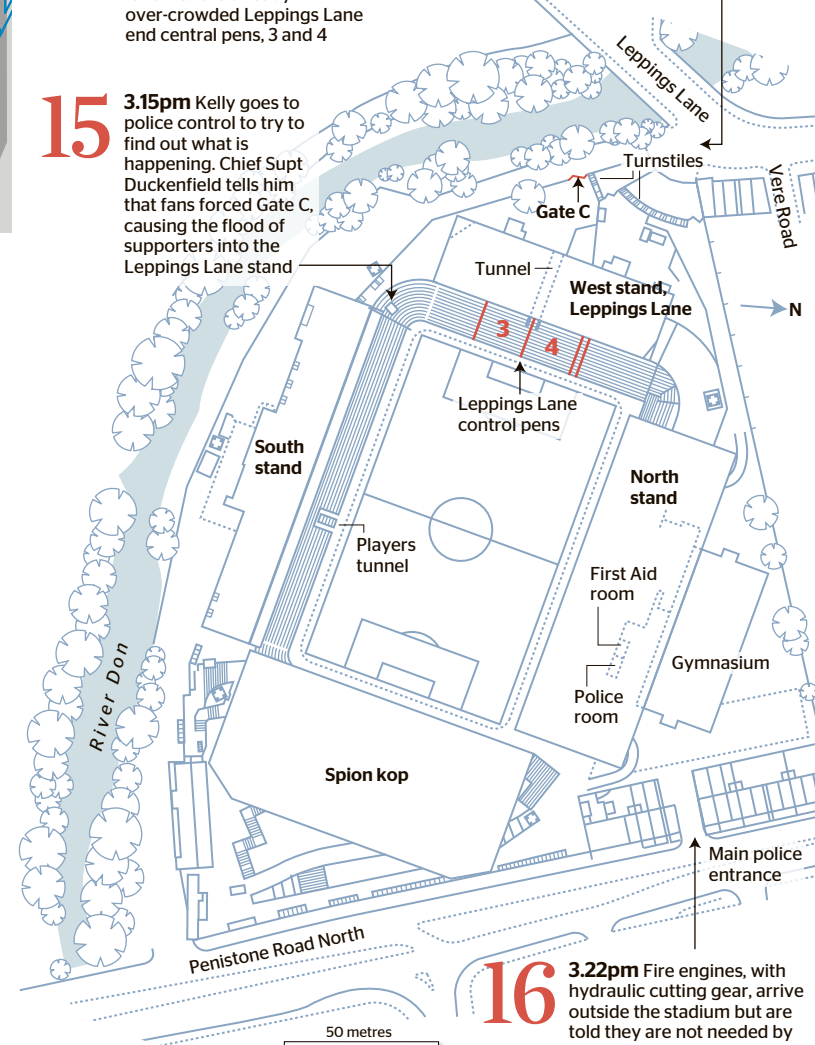


Turnstiles

10 2.52pm Chief Supt Duckenfield orders Gate C to be opened to ease the crush. But it allows a flood of an estimated 2,000 fans into the already over-crowded Leppings Lane end central pens, 3 and 4

14 3.13pm First ambulances arrive at the Leppings Lane end but are unable to get onto the pitch

15 3.15pm Kelly goes to police control to try to find out what is happening. Chief Supt Duckenfield tells him that fans forced Gate C, causing the flood of supporters into the Leppings Lane stand



50 metres



17 3.27pm Rescue efforts at full stretch with stewards and fans using advertising hoardings as stretchers

3.28pm Kevin Williams, 15-years-old, is lifted from the Leppings Lane stand and laid on the pitch. He is still alive but receives no medical attention. Police start taking bodies to the gymnasium. Casualties are also taken to the Sheffield's Northern General and Hallamshire hospitals

4.01pm A Tannoy announcement finally declares the match is officially abandoned

6.45pm Dr Stephen Popper, the coroner, arrives and orders Polaroid pictures be taken of the dead. Their pictures are posted outside the gymnasium for relatives to identify

9.30pm More than five hours after the abandonment of the match, the process of physical identification of the dead begins



10ft high perimeter fence cut open to let fans escape

16 3.22pm Fire engines, with hydraulic cutting gear, arrive outside the stadium but are told they are not needed by police who are ignorant of what is happening inside the ground