

On 27th January 1959 telephone calls were received by staff in offices in Sir Thomas Street, Liverpool - Martins Bank and The Federation of Building Trade Employers. A man with a slightly foreign accent said, "Listen carefully. This is urgent. Leave the building at once. There is a bomb in it." The same call was received by the Police minutes later.

Initially the office staff treated it as a hoax, but one of the people who received the call noticed a brown attaché case on the floor near to the main entrance. She picked it up and placed it on the counter. Inspector Harold Claydon and Inspector Phillips then ran into the building and tore the back off the case. They found a battery from which two wires went into a hollowed out loaf of bread, which contained white powder. Two bottles of petrol were wired in and there was a clockwork mechanism attached which was ticking.

Inspector Claydon defused the bomb by cutting through the wires with a pair of scissors. The apparatus was later forensically examined and the powder was identified as a commercial explosive.

He was commended for this brave action.