In 1921, the original Thorold house burnt down.

The boys were on military parade when one shouted “Fire” as smoked billowed out of the kitchen window in Thorold House. The whole parade broke ranks with the Sergeant-Major blowing his whistle until his face turned blue.

All attempts at a bucket brigade were formed, but with only 2 buckets for over one hundred boys, it was to no avail. All sorts of utensils were then used to douse the fire. There were so many boys, that they began tripping over one another in the excitement of finding some way to help.

The fire brigade finally arrived on bicycles carrying two hand pumped water syringes, which proved to be totally ineffective.

The only casualties of the day were Thorold House and one boy who dropped a bed pan on his face whilst getting it filled with water from the tank, he sustained a black eye!