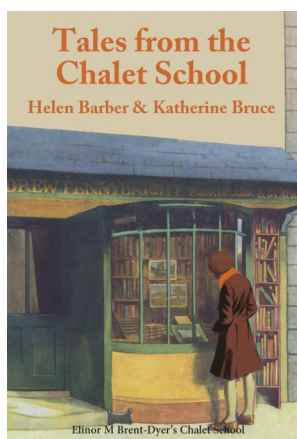


of life in central Europe during that dreadful war is something which I can compare and contrast with life here in Britain at that time. Comfort reading it is not, but as it enlarges my view of a 'world war' it is a good and valuable read for me."



### Tales

**Katharine Blandford-Baker** "Thank you so very much for publishing *Tales from the Chalet School*. I have so enjoyed reading the wonderful stories that I thought I might never have a chance to read, not being able to buy every book I would like to. It has been a real treat and I'm only sorry to have finished the book."

### Head Girl Quiz

**Katharine Blandford-Baker** "John Baxter, I am terribly sorry about one of the answers to the above quiz. I do not know how I managed it, but the last question asking about the identity of the Head Girl when Clare Kennedy was Second Prefect should, of course, be Josette Russell, NOT Maria Marani. I

extend sincere apologies to all the members who have tried to answer the questions."

**Denise Hadlow** "I really enjoyed doing the Head Girls quiz. It got me thinking about other girls who would have made great Head Girls but missed out. There are two that stand out to me, and one in particular, Tom Gay. Tom was a prefect but she would have made a great Head Girl. Friendly, helpful, honest and a definite leader. I love the way she settles into the school after being brought up like a boy, so she was adaptable too. Never one to turn her back on someone who needed help she was a true 'gentleman'. The other is Clem Barras, another girl who was always ready to help others. Look at the way she helped Mary-Lou and her brother Tony. I'm interested to hear what other readers think. What other girls do you think would have made great Head Girls?"

### The Young Traveller

**Susan French** "Another very interesting article by Kay. I'm starting to imagine the *Lavender Laughs* series as an early *Young Traveller* series. I wonder why EBD didn't write one – Austria maybe?"

### Thoughts on Book Titles

**Mark Taha** "I must say that *Does it Again* and *Wins the Trick* do sound rather unimaginative."

**Susan French** "In the discussion of titles, thanks to Susan Barlow for enlightening me that *Wins the Trick* comes from playing Bridge. As a non-player, I would never have known. Actually, in chapter 13 of that book, Joey

worship and meditation amongst the busyness of the tourist crowd.

We sat and had a leisurely snack on the terrace in blazing sunshine, gazing across to the Matterhorn the whole time. I found it impossible to look properly at anything else, despite the other surrounding mountains and scenery. We were so lucky with the weather that day too, not a cloud in sight and once more the blazing white of snow and ice against vivid blue sky. My descriptions of the scenery are very limited I'm sorry, but it literally all felt to me to be beyond adequate human description. Like the Chalet girls I was completely "overawed by the majesty and dignity of the great mountain".

On the train back down, we stopped at Rotenboden and Riffelberg, where Mlle de Lachennais and Miss Ferrars planned



to take some of the group climbing, stepping off the train into snow to take photos. So many photos and I don't think a single one does actual justice to the scenery, but we tried. It's possible to hike up or down between stations. In season a Matterhorn sunrise or sunset experience is on offer.

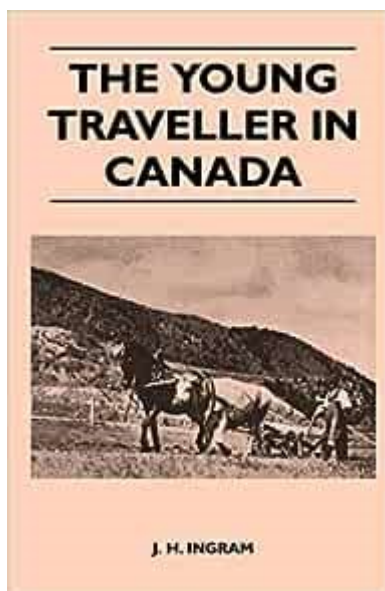
Whilst we were up at the high altitude, we both felt fine but once we returned down to Zermatt we both felt lightheaded and the ground certainly felt to me to be rocking slightly, as if I were on board a boat,

for the next 24 hours. So whilst we didn't suffer as much as some of the Chalet girls did on their trip, we were definitely affected by the altitude we had travelled to.

Wandering through Zermatt that evening, we discovered the old part of the village or *Hinterdorf* almost by accident. This area of barns, stables and original chalet type houses, some of which are over 500 years old, grouped around small, narrow, the steep alleys, gave us an idea of life in Zermatt before the modern world of tourists and ski seasons took over the village.

We also had a traditional cheese fondue that





with Bob all along the 49th parallel, thus avoiding the severe weather conditions of the Yukon, and the North West Territories.

Chalet School girls before Bess have set out on journeys on their own. We think of Grizel Cochrane, setting out on her own, determined to climb the Tiernjoch. Eustacia, unloved and unsettled, running away from the Chalet School to try and return to Oxford and Gay Lambert stealing off, desperate, to see her stepbrother-guardian, Tommy, before he returns to war-time China.

So, Bess is in good company. She must leave the family's Saskatchewan wheat farm where her father is bed-bound after an accident. Bess and Mother work constantly, but that isn't enough. Young brothers, Peter and Stuart, are still too young. Hired man Johnny Somreys helps, but he's not the boss and cannot take the lead. A man is needed to

supervise the grain harvest. An appeal written to Cousin Angus McKinnon in Victoria has been returned "Not known here." So, Bess, on her own, must find him.

Bob Lawson, accompanying his father, is now writing his own articles. He is designated "Young Britain" and is writing articles on "Young Canada", with everything arranged for him, and always with Papa at hand.

Bess' home is 30 miles away from the nearest town, "a small town". She will now be two days and nights on the train which tells readers just how big Canada is, and yet this is only one portion of it. Her travelling companion, Miss Andrews, having nursed both parents and an aunt until they died, is now on her way to visit her married sister, Mrs Pottinger, living on Vancouver Island. Through their conversation we see the dry prairies, and read their discussion of the drying Pacific winds; how the Rockies are beautiful "shadows of palest mauve, purple, blue and indigo"; "the tourists in Banff, fishing and swimming and enjoying the hot spring baths." They see a pine forest with wild flowers that "makes the dandiest patchwork quilt in the world." They gasp at a huge bull moose "with its spread of noble horns."







## Taking *The Susannah Adventure* on Holiday by Gemma Muncy

I've recently been re-reading EBD's *The Susannah Adventure* and I realised that when on holiday in Norfolk we might have an opportunity to visit the scene of one part of the story. Conveniently we had planned to visit the Roman fort, Burgh Castle and this was just the right bit!

You'll recall that Anstace, Humphrey and Tom are the very competent trio who have fallen in with Kenneth and Kennie, who are being chased by some bad sorts. After a thrilling chase, an escape and a day in the fog, the children head in to the Norfolk Broads.

They travel by boat along Breydon Water. Kennie notices the scenery, seeing "a view of land" that is "flat and low-lying". And there is a lovely sunset, the "soft-footed approach of night blurring the outlines of shores and low growing trees". She reflects that she can "scarcely believe that less than three miles away" lies a "busy seaside town at the top of its season".

We felt just the same, when we visited Burgh Castle Roman site, we knew it was that close to the bright lights and shops of Great Yarmouth, and we had driven between ranks of packed holiday villages to get there, but once parked



we were in a quiet refuge from the traffic and (other) tourists!

There's a big car park and a very nice circular route to follow, including a board walk (above) so you can go along right on the water level and really get close to the rushes and the bird and insect life. Then you head up a short hill back up to the ruins of the Roman fort and trading post where we had lovely views of the wide vistas that so captivated Kennie.

