



T H E
B. E. F. T I M E S.

WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED
The Wipers Times, The "New Church" Times,
The Kemmel Times & The Somme-Times.

Monday, March 5th, 1917.



A "B. = E. = F."
ALPHABET.

A is the ARMY, in which he's a veteran
Who's fought for a year from the
Somme up to Meteren,
Finding in Winter each week is a wetter
'un
And passing his days in the trenches.

B for old BLIGHTY, where, so we
hear,
Prices are rising, and food is so dear
That a 'sub' can't afford to even go
near:
It is cheaper to stay in the trenches.

C for the CAVALRY who, (so I've
heard say)
Have not seen their gee-gees for many a
day,
But soon they will mount them and
gallop away,
And we'll all say good-bye to the trenches.

D for the DUCKBOARDS—if placed
end to end
They'd girdle the Earth, and to Heaven
ascend,
But I notice they've caused a peculiar
blend
Of language to thrive in the trenches.

E for the EDITOR, ruddy in hue,
He'd blue-pencil this if I said all I
knew,
So I'll wish him good luck or—between
me and you—
He'll send me exploring Hun trenches.

"B.-E.-F." ALPHABET.

N for the NOMINAL ROLLS we send
 through
 Daily and weekly and monthly to 'Q':
 But we'd do it gladly and much worse
 things too,
 To finish the war in the trenches,

O the OBSERVER, who sees many
 sights,
 Such as stout German generals dancing
 in tights,
 And performing the most inexplicable
 rites,
 From his O-Pip in one of our trenches.

P'S for PEDICULI, horrible pests,
 They make themselves happy in
 trousers and vests;
 Though dear little fellows, they're un-
 welcome guests
 To the P.B.I. in the trenches.

Q? Well its obvious who fills this
 place—
 Princes of paper, the pride of our race—
 Every movement and minute be sure
 they can trace
 And send back to the man in the trenches.

R the RETURNS to be rendered by
 noon
 Of the number of men who have seen a
 blue moon,
 Speak Japanese, or have been to Rangoon,
 Before they came out to the trenches.

S for the SAPPERS, who sin without
 shame,
 And in spite of all efforts will go down
 to fame
 As the men who invented the five-bob
 "A" frame,
 To keep up the sides of our trenches.

T for the TRENCHES themselves (this
 is where
 I must take heed what I write, or I'll
 swear!)
 Which have blackened our souls, and
 have whitened our hair:
 Oh! Life is a dream in the trenches.

U for the UNIVERSE, whose fate 'tis
 plain
 Is now being settled in mud, slush and
 rain,
 By strafing which spreads from Nieuport
 to Lorraine,
 A line which is marked by our trenches.

"B.-E.-F." ALPHABET.

V for the VICES soldiers posses,
 Discovered by those who have been
 more or less
 Claimants to fame through a line in the
 Press,
 But never have shone in the trenches.

W for WHISKEY and WHIZZ-
 BANGS as well :
 Of the former I've almost forgotten the
 smell,
 Whilst the latter contribute to make it
 like Hell
 At various times in the trenches.

X for the unknown—and 'twixt you and
 me
 Fritz is now thinking (and we all agree)
 That, hot as his present, his future will
 be
 Much hotter than e'er in the trenches.

Y for the YARNS that one hears—some
 are true :
 Others—Well ! doubtless, though vivid
 in hue,
 Are spun by those 'back,' who have
 never been through,
 Or stood their whack of the trenches.

Z is for ZERO, the time we go over,
 Most of us wish we were way back
 in Dover,
 Making munitions and living in clover
 And far, far away from the trenches.

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