



# Resource Pack 1



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## Task

**In your group:** Your aim is to create a poster that visually represents the information you have been provided and can easily show this information. Your poster should as visual as possible – you can include as many sketches, diagrams, graphs, maps, numbers, symbols, pictures, graphs, cartoons as you want. However you may only include 15 words. A map has been provided for your information – however, if you would like to include a map in your display then you will have to draw your own. Some photos have also been included – these may be used in your display.

## Your Information

### Geography

The First World War was fought on many fronts spanning a range of geographical regions:

- **The Western Front** - Muslim soldiers fought predominantly in Belgium and France, but there were also some key battles in Italy.
- **The Balkans** - In addition to Greek and Macedonian lands, there were significant battles in Turkey, such as the Gallipoli Campaign, which involves thousands of Muslim soldiers.
- **Egypt** - Egypt played a major part in the war due to its geographical location and loyalty to the British.
- **Africa** - Often forgotten, African countries both on the eastern and western sides of the continent took part in the war, many as French colonies.
- **Asia** - Very significant, particularly at the start of the war, there were numerous battles across Asia, most famously in Mesopotamia and Hejaz, but also in Persia, Aden, and some regions of India.
- Other theatres of war included **Australasia**, **Russia**, and of course, **the ocean**.

### Woking

A newspaper report from 1915, in the Nottingham Evening Post, describes the Eid prayers for its readers. Entitled 'Mohammedan Festival at Woking', the article begins: 'A scene truly oriental in character was enacted at Woking yesterday'. It describes the Eid prayers, the exchanges of greetings, and the food.

## Profile

**Abdur Rashid** | Rank: **Havildar** | Regiment: **Indian Infantry**

In a letter dated 10th November 1915, Abdur Rashid writes to his friend Sheikh Ramzani in Dardanelles about the Eid prayer in Woking. Abdur Rashid was at the Baron Court Hospital in the south of England when he, along with hundreds of other Muslims, was taken to London by rail in order to take part in Eid celebrations.

He describes how there were 900 people at the prayer, and is fascinated that these included 'English converts to Islam'. He reveals that the sermon was also translated into English. Abdur Rashid also details the food on offer, which included pilau rice and puri bread. Upon his return, he describes how his Colonel gave each Muslim soldier a gift, namely: 'a pound of meat, six eggs, a pound of sweets, as much flour and spices as we wanted, and a pint of milk'. He concludes: 'all the Muslims met and enjoyed the feast'.

# MOHAMMEDAN FESTIVAL AT WOKING.

## INDIANS AND THE WAR.

A scene truly Oriental in character was enacted at Woking yesterday, when the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, or the termination of the Fast of Ramadan, was celebrated by Mohammedans resident in England. Between 300 and 400 Mohammedans were present with about a hundred non-Mohammedan visitors. It was the commencement of the tenth Museulman lunar month of Shawwal, which is preceded by the month of Ramadan, when from sunrise to sunset no food or liquid refreshment may be taken, and even smoking is forbidden.

A contingent of 50 Mohammedan soldiers in khaki, with khaki turbans, arrested the greatest interest on the part of the spectators. They were under the command of Staff-Sergeant-Major W. Sheppard, formerly of the Indian Army, but now of the Army Service Corps, Duffadar Ala'uddin, of the 38th Central Indian Horse, and a Jemadar of the 59th Rifles. One wounded Indian, who walked with difficulty by the aid of a stick, came in for a special cheer.

The service was held on the spacious lawn in front of the mosque-house, as the mosque itself was far too small for the number present. The soldiers, in accordance with Muslim practice, divested themselves of their regimentals, which were soiled and dirty, and donned clean white linen garments. The prayers were led by the imam of the mosque, the Maulvie Sadr-ud-din, and he was followed closely in his genuflections and prostrations by the faithful behind him, who, having taken off their boots, knelt on mats, rugs, and tablecloths, which had been brought from the mosque and the mosque-house.

### LOYALTY OF THE INDIANS.

At the close of the Eid-ul-Fitr prayers the Maulvie addressed the English Mohammedans, dwelling on the universality of the festival celebrated, which, he said, was being observed at the moment in all parts of the world wherever Muslims congregated. Then, turning towards the Indian soldiers, he addressed them in Hindustani, emphasising the righteousness of the cause in which they were engaged, and which he urged them always to keep before them, even under the severest fire.

Women and children, several of the latter wearing the fez, joined in the prayers, and at the conclusion of the service each one turned towards his neighbour and gave him a hearty embrace, with the greeting "Salaam aleikoum," to which was returned the response "Aleikoum salaam." Lunch followed, in which curry figured, followed by a dish of vermicelli, called by its Indian name, "Sewayyin" — never omitted on these occasions.

Nottingham Evening Post, 14th August 1915  
(The Woking Muslim Mission)



Theatres of War



Eid Prayers at Woking Mosque, September 1915 (The Woking Muslim Mission)