



## Two tadjahs

The tadjah festival was the largest festival on the nineteenth century estates. In the latter part of the century the tadjahs were made by the Chinese, and the crowds which took part were Indian Muslims, Indian Hindus and African Christians. It is not known exactly why the festival became so popular, because it is a Muslim Shi'a festival, not a Sunni one and most Muslims in the then British Guiana were Sunnis. The tadjahs were intended to represent a tomb and were taken in procession along the road. There were lights, drumming and stick fights, and at the end of the observances the tadjahs were thrown into the sea at high tide.

In the twentieth century, the tadjah festival was opposed by the Christian priests and the Muslim moulvis and eventually it was banned on the grounds of the disorderly behaviour which was associated with it. When tadjahs from different estates met on the road there were fights.



A replica of the Whitby in the Indian Monument Gardens, Camp Street



Muslim Mosque



Hindu Temple