

## **Jaz Oldham - Transcript**

*Audio Quality: Some banging in background from about 20 mins to 27 mins. Also some non-English speaking 43:58-55.18*

*Transcripts from different people largely focusing on working conditions , workplace culture and family. One person describes industrial injury and compensation.*

**4**

**0:00:00**

**LMI:** If I can have your name, please.

**MU:** Mohamed Umar.

**LMI:** Ok, and you said you worked in Bradford Mills. Can I ask which year that was in please?

**MU:** I don't reckon it was... it was in the '80s.

**LMI:** Ok. And which mill was it please?

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**0:00:16**

**MU:** I worked at Alston Scouring, H.A. & Co. and Daniel Illingworth's.

**LMI:** Alston Scouring?

**18**

**0:00:24**

**JO:** Alston.

**LMI:** Alston, thank you. And which area was that, which BD was that please?

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**0:00:30**

**MU:** That's here, Cemetery Road. Cemetery Road, I don't know if....

**LMI:** Cemetery Road. Thank you. No, that's fine. And the second mill?

**MU:** H. A. & Co., that was on Thornton Road, City Road.

**LMI:** H. A. and Counting?

**MU:** And Company. H. A. & Co.

**LMI:** H. A. & Co. Thank you. And that was Thornton Road?

**MU:** Yeah, roughly the same times.

**6**  
**0:00:51**

**LMI:** Ok, and the third one?

**MU:** Daniel Illingworth's.

**LMI:** Daniel?

**MU:** Inglis.

**LMI:** Killing, Illingworth's.

**MU:** Illingworth's. Yeah, [used to be here] on Thornton Road again.

**LMI:** Illingworth's and Thornton Road again.

**7**  
**0:01:00**

**LMI:** Ok, and what was your job title please? Did you change job titles or...?

**MU:** Yes, I did, I did. The first one I was a labourer. That was at Alston Scouring.

**1**  
**0:01:09**

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** In H. A. and Co. I was a jobber.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** And in Daniel Illingworth's I was the... I used to do the calculating of all the yarns. I don't remember the job title, but I used to calculate the yarn.

**4**  
**0:01:30**

**LMI:** Right. Do you have any memory of salaries, from the first one, at Alston? Do you remember how many...the days you worked? Did you work days or nights?

**MU:** Nights. I worked nights. It was quite good money for what I was doing at the time and...

**LMI:** At nights. Were you kind of doing five nights? Six nights?

**MU:** Yeah, five nights.

**LMI:** Five. And what hours were they, please?

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**MU:** I think it was just under 11 hours a night...er... 11 hours.

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** It was long nights.

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**LMI:** And what would a... a good salary in the '80s have looked like?

**MU:** No, because I'd just left school...

**LMI:** Yes.

**MU:** I'd just left school and the money in... mind, was...it was a lot of money to me, but it wasn't a good wage.

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** If you were to run a household, it wouldn't be able to...

**LMI:** I understand. So, for a teenager, it was a good wage.

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**MU:** Oh, for a teenager it was ok, yeah.

**LMI:** And to your second post then. Were you working days or nights then?

**MU:** Days.

**LMI:** Days. And five days or six?

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**MU:** I think it was five days.

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**LMI:** Five days, ok. Do you remember the hours?

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**MU:** No but the same as months or whatever it is.[whatever hers was]

**LMI:** Ok, right. Do you remember your salary at all?

**MU:** Very low, I don't remember it. No, it's too long ago, to be honest with you.

**JO:** 8 till 5, wasn't it?

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0:02:52

**LMI:** 8 to 5?

**MU:** Yeah, long hours

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0:02:55

**LMI:** Thank you. And the third one, you worked here calculating yarns. Was it days?

**MU:** Yes, it was days.

**LMI:** Thank you. Five or six?

**MU:** Five.

**LMI:** Ok. And any idea about your salary?

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0:03:09

**MU:** I don't know that. It was the same place he was working.[his dad?]

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** Yeah.

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**LMI:** Brilliant. Ok. Um, in terms of the jobs, how did you find it? If you start with the first one, um, at Alston Scouring you're working as a labourer.

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**MU:** Mm.

**LMI:** How did you find that?

**MU:** Disgusting.

**LMI:** Why?

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**MU:** It was dirty, smelly, no safety job. Um... the workers were just like.. in and out, in and out. It was a quick turnover of work.

**LMI:** Right, staff.

**MU:** Worker[s]... of staff, yeah. Very quick turnover. And the people who were there, long term, they were all intoxicated while they were working, basically. Well, not all of them, but the vast majority.

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**LMI:** Right. And was there not kind of a safety check? Was there not the overlookers or the managers? Were they aware of it?

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**MU:** Yeah, everyone knew what was going on. You can smell it, so...

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** No matter where, but you can smell it a mile off. All we used to do, to be fair to them, we used to hide the bottle.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** So that the manager couldn't see it, that's it. But he knew everything anyway.

**LMI:** Did it not affect their work?

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0:04:21

**MU:** Of course. Of course it did. Used to have accidents, a lot of accidents, a lot of incidents. And they didn't report them, because they were drunk.

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** You used to get guys falling asleep on the bales. So... it was processing raw wool, so you can imagine how smelly that was.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** Disgusting job.

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**LMI:** How long did you last?

**MU:** Not long, a couple of months, no more than that.

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**LMI:** Did you leave because of the conditions?

**MU:** No. They found out my age.

**LMI:** How old were you supposed to be, to be able to work nights?

**MU:** I think it was 18 or 21. I'm not sure. I was roughly just over 16 at the time.

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**LMI:** Ok.

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**MU:** But they gave me the job.

**LMI:** Did they not ask you your date of birth when they took you on?

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**MU:** They didn't ask me anything. They just said, 'Can you start tonight?' I said, 'Yes.' And they started me. That was it.

**LMI:** Ok.

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0:05:25

**MU:** I think it was through a friend of a friend of a somebody, sort of thing.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**MU:** I think they might have lied about my age, but I certainly didn't.

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**LMI:** Yeah. How did they find out you were younger?

**MU:** When they asked me how old I am. And I told them. Because I didn't know I was supposed to tell them anything different.

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**LMI:** Right. Ok. Any happy memories? Anything good about that time?

**MU:** Um...Hmm...

**LMI:** Not that first one.

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**MU:** I can't say... No, nothing good. I had to get up early in the morning, go to work, work with incompetent people. Oh, it was just horrible. I prefer working with myself. I might be from that.

**JO:** Yeah.

26  
0:06:08

**LMI:** Your second role, you moved on to...Was that any better? What were you doing there?

**MU:** Mum got me a job there. I was doing... It's the same, it's called a jobber.

**LMI:** Jobber.

**MU:** It's just moving carts around with yarn on them. It was a cleaner job. Didn't smell half as much. And Mum was there, so it was a bit better for me. But again, age thing and... [I] got a job at Dad's after that. A couple of weeks.

**LMI:** So as a jobber did you last a couple of weeks then?

**MU:** Well, you know when you've got a managerial system? And you've got a manager and you've got a supervisor and... I don't want to say I was doing a better job than the supervisor, but when they can see that ok, there might be a problem in [the] future...

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** ...they get rid of you quick. They don't like you to be able to think. And they don't like you to ask questions.

**LMI:** So they thought you were too bright?

**MU:** Well, that's what I think. It might be just me blowing my own trumpet, but that's what I personally think.

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** Because they kept giving me the jobs where I'd have to use my brain. They didn't put me on sweeping up, and all this. Because they realised, 'Oh, wasting his time there.' 'Cos I was picking out the faults of the guy who was doing my job. That's why they gave me that job.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**1**

**0:07:23**

**MU:** I said, 'The guy's not calculating stuff right. He's not tearing the weight off, and all this stuff. So he's ripping off the people who were doing the work. And when I made it obvious to the workers, they said, 'Oh no, we want him to do the job.' So I got that job then from them.

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**0:07:38**

**LMI:** So what did you make clear? So you said you were picking faults and the job you were doing was calculating...

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**0:07:45**

**MU:** Yarn. Weights, and carts. So if you don't weigh the cart before you put... If you don't have the tail weight of the cart, you're ripping the person off.



**LMI:** Of course.

**MU:** And that's what was happening.

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**LMI:** Was he doing it deliberately do you think?

**MU:** I don't know.

**LMI:** Do you think he just hadn't thought about it?

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**MU:** He was just the only white guy who was there. And they gave him that job, because he could speak to the supervisors. I don't want to say it, because it sounds like I'm being horrible or anything. But that's how it was. If he was white then you had the job, I mean they were so thick it was unbelievable. But they got them top jobs in that environment. So when they gave me that job, they put him on sweeping.

**LMI:** Oooh.

**MU:** And he didn't like that. So he left shortly after that.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**MU:** And then they got rid of me and they got him back in.

**LMI:** Wow.

**MU:** Friends init? All friends of friends. It's just one of them things.

**1**  
**0:08:40**

**MU:** But I had a problem with getting up in the morning, so I'm not gonna put all the blame on them.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** Even though dad had to get me up and take me to work.

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**0:08:50**

**LMI:** It's more about nepotism those days, wasn't it?

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**MU:** Well...

**LMI:** Well, still probably is...

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0:08:54

**MU:** In that time you could, like I did, walk out of one job, walk into another job.

**LMI:** Yeah.

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0:09:01

**MU:** But it's the quality of the job.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**MU:** It's the quality of life you've got with that job.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**MU:** And for me at that time, it wasn't so long.

**LMI:** Were you often late?

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0:09:18

**MU:** Yeah, yeah. Lazy guy.

**JO:** [Laughs]

**MU:** You have to speak the truth, even if it's against yourself. You've been told this. If you haven't got anything to say, stay quiet, that's how I'm going to stay quiet.

**LMI:** And the third one, the third job that you had?

**MU:** Illingworth's.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** Out of the three jobs that was the best one.

**LMI:** Ok.

**MU:** It was the cleanest out of the three. Doing the same job yeah. This time I wasn't scared of mum catching me out, I was scared of dad catching me out.

**LMI:** Right.

**MU:** So, yeah. Well, I had the run of the mill. I could go anywhere in it! I could go right in the deepest basements, right to the top attics, you know. I used to love it! I used to go and hide upstairs. And there was an old guy in the yarn store, a really old white guy, really he said come on

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**0:10:11**

**MU:** 'Oh, you want a cup of tea, lad?' He'd make me a cup of tea, and we'd sit there for ages just chin wagging, about nothing. And that was their work. I said, 'I want your job, mate.'

**LMI:** And what was his role?

**MU:** He was just in charge of stores. He used to sit there drinking tea and coffee and I used to take carts to him, and he used to say, 'Right, ok.' And tick it off and put it in. That's it.

**4**  
**0:10:39**

**LMI:** In this job did you like the work as well? Did you not like the work, the calculating business?

**MU:** At that age I didn't like work. At that age I didn't want to be in a workplace. I wanted to be out messing about, going to clubs, and doing all the stuff stupid boys want to do. So that's what I was doing.

**JO:** Teenage stuff.

**LMI:** Is there anything else? If, um... if sort of, you know, um... if teenage boys or girls were looking at those days, about people working in the mills, what would you want them to know? What was it like?

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**0:11:17**

**MU:** They should thank God they don't have to do it, for starters. They should be happy that the older generation did it, and built all of this society with that income that they did. And all that hard work that they put into it, building this country back up after the Second World War. That was all done by this generation, the people that they called in to work. So the young generation should remember that. And they should give them some credit where credit's due. It's not just the Asian youngsters either.

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0:11:50

**LMI:** Yeah.

**MU:** The more privileged ones as well, they should be doing it. They should be appreciating our older generation.

**LMI:** Thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

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0:12:04

**MU:** Thank you very much.

**LMI:** Thank you.

**MU:** Oh, your tea's on, by the way.

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**LMI:** Thank you. If I start with yourself, please. If I can have your name?

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**JR:** Jarnail Ram

**LMI:** And, uh, can I ask...? Which year did you start working in the factories? And which was the first factory that you worked in?

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**JR:** I came here in 1960. I start work in 1960.

**GK:** Remember the name?

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**LMI:** And which factory was the first one you started in?

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**JR:** It was called Allerton Combing Company

**JO:** Allerton Combing Company

**LMI:** And what was your job title, please?

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**JR:** Jobber.

**LMI:** Do you remember your salary at that time? Do you remember your wage at that time?

**JR:** I forgot it. [About] £5. £5.50, £5.55. £5, 10 shillings, 15 shillings. Something like that.

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0:13:12

**LMI:** Thank you. Do you remember how many days you worked? Five days or six?

**JR:** Five days, sometimes six days.

**LMI:** And was it days or nights?

**JR:** Oh, it was nights.

**LMI:** Nights. Ok. What was it like working in a mill?

**JR:** What was it like?

**JO:** What was it like, Dad?

**LMI:** How did you find it?

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0:13:42

**JR:** My friend worked there. Actually, my dad's friend worked there.

**LMI:** Yeah.

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0:13:48

**JR:** So they got me a job.

**LMI:** And did you like it? Did you not like it?

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**JR:** I had no choice.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**GK:** I don't know where I am.

**5**  
**0:14:02**

**JR:** When you come here, you have to work.

**LMI:** How old were you then?

**JR:** Hmm?

**LMI:** How old were you?

**JR:** Was 19 and a half.

**LMI:** 19, right.

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**0:14:14**

**JO:** [Whispers] He's slightly deaf.

**LMI:** That's ok. And how far did you study in India before you came? Did you go to...?

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**0:14:24**

**JR:** Doctorate, yes, graduate.

**LMI:** Ok. Right. And in terms of this mill, how many years did you work?

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**0:14:36**

**JR:** I worked there about till May...

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** '61.

**LMI:** Yep.

**JR:** Then I was involved in an accident.

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**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** So, I was off work for about two years.

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**LMI:** Can you tell me about the accident?

**JO:** He can show you!

**JR:** My hand got chopped in the machine.

**LMI:** Oh wow! Right. Can you tell me what happened?

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0:15:00

**JR:** I was doing my job. The operator was on the machine. He knew I was working over there, he told me, 'What's wrong with the machine?' Then, I don't know how, I was cutting a lap on the roller. Then suddenly the machine start rolling

**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** And I got trapped in... and that person stopped the machine.

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0:15:40

**LMI:** And had he turned it off when you were doing your part, cutting the lap?  
Had you turned the machine off?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** At that time machines were not operated on electric...

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** ... running on the engine shafts.

**LMI:** Yes, right.

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0:16:03

**JR:** You want more detail, I've got some details here.

**JO:** He's got all the paperwork.

**LMI:** Right, if you don't mind, I'll take some photographs.

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Thank you. That would be lovely. And it's your right hand. And you've lost two fingers, three fingers.

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**0:16:26**

**JR:** And a quarter of them is as well.

**LMI:** What was the process like in those days? Did things like compensation exist? How long were you in hospital?

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**JR:** I think I was about week or two to hospital in Yerevan.

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**JR:** [?]And after some time, they tried to save this little finger. But they could not. They ...round me. And the woodland orthopedic...

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** ...that's in the dates. They cut it off there.

**6**  
**0:17:22**

**LMI:** In terms of the mill, how did they treat you? Did they pay towards treatment? Did they give.... did they offer any compensation?

**JR:** Well, I got the solicitor. They fought my case on that time. They offered some money, but not a lot. About £1500, on that time. In 1963.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** So...my solicitor advised me to take it, because if I go to the court, 'You can lose it as well.'

**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** He said, 'You can win, you can lose.'

**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** So I did not took the register. So I got at that time £1500.



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0:18:26

**LMI:** Right. The person who pressed the machine and turned it on by mistake, was there any consequences for them? Did they get... did they lose their job? Did they get into trouble? In terms of the other person, was it another Asian man? Was it an English person? Was it a lady?

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**JR:** It was somebody called Abdul Lal. Something like that. I've got a name here.

**JO:** It'll be in the paper.

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0:19:00

**LMI:** Ok. Thank you. And after you recovered did you go back working in the mills?

**JR:** I went back to the same place.

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**LMI:** Ok.

**JR:** But they gave me the heavy job. I could not manage.

**LMI:** Did you go back in 1964 or 5?

**JR:** '63.

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**LMI:** Back in 1963?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Back in '63. And what was the job called?

**JR:** Well, they gave me a job in the warehouse.

**LMI:** Ok. Right. Which you couldn't manage.

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**LMI:** And did you leave, or did they change your job?

**JR:** No, I left there. They told me to leave, [?] so I left.

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**LMI:** Right. They must have had other jobs. Was there any other jobs that you could have done that were easier?

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**JR:** Not really.

**LMI:** Not really? No.

**JR:** On that day, that time, slow, most of them, heavy job, or two-handed job.

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0:20:04

**LMI:** Right. Ok. And where did you work after that?

**JR:** You want all mills name?

**JO:** Oh yes.

**LMI:** Yes, I want the years and the mill's name, please.

**JR:** How long do you have!

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**LMI:** I know you guys did the rounds, didn't you? So I'm in 1963, and... in terms of the project I'm focusing on we're looking at 1970s onwards. So from 1970, which mill were you in?

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**JR:** Well it was.... I think... because of working quite few mills. And I think I worked in Baildon Combing Company in Shipley.

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**LMI:** So Baildon Combing Company.

**JR:** Yeah

**LMI:** And was that 1972?

**JR:** '73.

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**LMI:** Ok, 1970 to '73. And were you working as jobber?

**JR:** No, it was a machine operator.

**LMI:** Machine operator. Ok. In...at Baildon Combing Company...so you worked as a machine operator, which department was it? The combing department?

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**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Yeah, ok.

**JR:** I didn't say which it was called. Called carding department.

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**LMI:** Carding department, ok, thank you. And do you remember your salary, the hours you worked? Was it days or nights?

**JR:** Nights.

**LMI:** Nights. Five days? Six?

**JR:** Five days, five nights.

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0:21:43

**LMI:** And how much did you get paid?

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0:21:44

**JR:** Six pounds. Something like that. Between six and seven.

**LMI:** 1970 to 73, six to seven pounds. Ok. Thank you. And in 1973 where did you move to?

**JR:** I moved to a mill in Thornbury. It's just to... Crabtree Mills.

**JO:** Crabtree.

**LMI:** Thank you. Crabtree Mills in Thornbury. And how many years did you work there?

**JR:** Not many... no years, about three months.

**LMI:** About three months, ok. And what job were you doing there?

**JR:** I was a cart filler.

**LMI:** Ok. Cart filler, yeah. And why did you leave?

**JR:** Because that was the...which one?

**LMI:** It's the one...the one at Crabtree.

**JR:** Yeah.

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**LMI:** Because you said you only stayed three months.

**JR:** Yeah, because you have to pull the wool from the bin, to fill the cart.

**LMI:** Yeah.

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**JR:** It was difficult for me to do it.

**LMI:** Right.

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0:23:00

**JR:** You need to... all the fingers.

**LMI:** All the fingers to be able to hold it together...from the...

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0:23:07

**LMI:** [Writes]...put it into carts... Did they not...When you went for an interview...Did they have interviews in those days? Did they not say, 'This job will not be suitable'? No?

**JR:** No interview.

**LMI:** No interview. Ok. After that, where did you go then?

**JR:** After that?

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0:23:36

**LMI:** Yes. After Crabtree Mills.

**JR:** Then I went to... my miss family house. I worked in the warehouse. I can't remember... I remember[ed] last night.

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0:23:55

**LMI:** It'll come back to you and that's fine.

**JR:** I worked there twice. I worked only three months.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** Army Road. Armoured horse. Armaroyd's Spinning

36  
0:24:11

**JO:** Armourized. Armaroyds [?]

**JR:** In Brighthouse.

26  
0:24:15

**JO:** Dad, you've got fat jobs.

**LMI:** And you worked there twice?

**JR:** Yeah. About three months each time.

**LMI:** And what did your job involve?

**JR:** No, it was spinner.

**LMI:** Spinner. Spinning in the warehouse?

**JR:** No, not...No, not... you are talking about the 11th Company.

**LMI:** I'm talking about...?

**JR:** You're talking about...

**LMI:** Is it Brighthouse? Armaroyds?

**JR:** Yeah, in Brighthouse.

**LMI:** Yes

**JR:** I was spinner.

**LMI:** That was that spinning. Ok. So the warehouses is separate?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Right. In the warehouses, where was this? Was it... in which BD was it? Which Bradford was the warehouses?

**JR:** I think it's Bradford 9.

**LMI:** Thank you. It's ok. I'll just add that as Bradford 9. And the Brighthouse job, you said you worked there as a spinner then?

**JR:** Yeah.

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**0:25:19**

**LMI:** And was that 1974? '75?

**JR:** Yes. Something like that.

**LMI:** 1974/'75.

**JR:** '75? No, no, '64. 1964.

**JO:** [?]

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**0:25:45**

**LMI:** Ok. That's ok. So at Baildon Combing, were you there 1970-73?

**JR:** 1960 to 1961

**LMI:** Ok. I've got my timeline wrong now. [Sneeze?] Bless you. Right, so... so 1960 to '61 you were at Allerton, Allerton Combing?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And then you had your accident in '61?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** You went back to work in '63?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** So Baildon Combing Company, which year were you there?

**JR:** End of '63, '64.

**LMI:** 1963- '64. Ok. And the Crabtree Mills?

**JR:** Yes, that's 1974, three months. I worked there for three months. That's all.

**LMI:** Was that '64 or '74?

**JR:** '64.

**LMI:** '64. Ok. Yep. That's fine.

**JR:** '74 is a long way to go yet.

**LMI:** Ok, that's fine. Yep. I'm altering as I'm going along there. So, you were in the warehouses, then you worked Brighthouse, '64 to '65. Ok. In terms of... And when you were... As a spinner, were you doing days or nights?

**JR:** I was on night.

**LMI:** Nights. In terms of food, what did you do for food?

**JR:** I took the food from home.

**LMI:** What food did you take from home?

**JR:** A lot of vegetables, chapatis.

**LMI:** And...was it not cold by then?

**JR:** Hmm?

**LMI:** How did you warm it?

**JR:** Well, I put it on the machine. It was hot enough, warm enough, to warm the food.

**6**  
**0:27:22**

**LMI:** Ok. And how long was your lunch break at nights?

**JR:** Eh?

**LMI:** And how long was the lunch time? Was it half an hour or one hour?

**JR:** Half an hour.

**LMI:** Half an hour. 30 minutes. Ok. Um...Had you ever joined the union?

**JR:** No.

**LMI:** No. Why?

**JR:** I did not know about it.

**JO/GK** [?]

**6**  
**0:28:03**

**LMI:** Right. Ok. So, we've got as far as 1965. So, in 1965 where did you go?

**JR:** Then I start at...it's called, Wolsey Limited, Bramley.

**LMI:** Help me out please again.

**JR:** Hmm?

**5**  
**0:28:22**

**JO:** K-N-R-C?

**LMI:** So did you say Wolverine?

**GK:** Bramley.

**JR:** Wolsey. W-O-L-S-E-Y.

**JO:** Wolsey.

**LMI:** Thank you. Yes, thank you.



**JR:** It's at Bramley.

**LMI:** Right. And how long did you work there?

**3**

**0:28:33**

**JR:** I worked there from '74 to '73.

**JO:** No, '83...'73.

**LMI:** So '64 to '74? To '73. So about 9 years?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** So '64 to '73, about 9 years. And what was your job title here?

**JR:** Box minder.

**LMI:** Ahh. So you... You changed your jobs a lot! Why?

**JR:** We can't choose the job. It's not a computer things. If you are not there! It's not all there.

**LMI:** Yeah. So you were a box winder. And did you get the same job, box minder, for 9 years?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And could you please tell me, what did you do as a box minder?

**JR:** It makes material for the spinning.

**LMI:** Ok. And did you take it to each of the spinners then? Were you collecting it, putting it in boxes, taking it to the spinners? Is that what box minding meant?

**4**

**0:29:42**

**JR:** Once the machine is on, then the operation complete. This roving, thing is called. It takes about 15-20 minutes. When it stopped... because there is a clock on the machine. When the clock reaches the end, we have to take them off, put them in the cart. I put new one in.

**5**

**0:30:14**

**LMI:** Yep.

**JR:** I tied it on and start again.

**LMI:** And what was your role there? Were you running that machine?

13  
0:30:22

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Ok. Thank you. And... so we've got as far as 1973.

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** So 1973 onwards, where did you work please?

5  
0:30:51

**JR:** Then I went to India.

**LMI:** For how long?

**JR:** About... say, about five months.

**LMI:** Yeah. Ok.

**JR:** Then I come back. Then I found a job in here, Daniel Illingworth.

**LMI:** Ok. So that was... was that 1974?

4  
0:31:09

**JR:** No, '73.

**LMI:** Ok. So you came back 1973. And it was Illingworth?

**JR:** Daniel Illingworth, because there were quite a few Illingworths.

**LMI:** Yes, it seemed like it. So you were at Daniel Illingworth. Was that on Thornton Road or was it...?

**JR:** You can see from here.

**LMI:** Right.

5  
0:31:27

**JR:** Thornton Road. Reckley Mills.

**LMI:** Right. And what was your job title here?

3  
0:31:33

**JR:** A box minder.

**LMI:** So you were a box minder before?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And are you a box manager now?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Or still box minder?

**JR:** Minder.

4  
0:31:41

**LMI:** Minder. Thank you. Ok. And how many years did you work here?

**JR:** I worked there for... till 1992.

**LMI:** Till 1992. Right. And were you working nights again? Or days?

**JR:** I work...in Illingworth I work on days.

**LMI:** Days. Ok. Are you able to remember your salary here? What was it like?

5  
0:32:36

**JR:** Salary was about... when I started, it was about £19/£30, [long after] overtime you can earn more. When I finish it was about a hundred something.

4  
0:32:55

**LMI:** Ok. So when you started you said it was about £30, did you say?

**JR:** Yeah, more or less, yeah.

**LMI:** £30. Ok. Thank you. What was your experience like...? Sorry, is that the last mill...time you worked? '92? Or did you work after that?

**JR:** I work after that, yeah.

**LMI:** Ok. And where did you work after that?

5  
0:33:16

**JR:** '92...? Then I went back to India again.

**LMI:** How long did you stay?

**JR:** I stayed seven weeks. I was with both of us. Then I come back and then I find a job in Joseph Dawson on the East Road.

**LMI:** Right. And what was your job title there?

4  
0:33:40

**JR:** I started as a box minder again.

**LMI:** Right. And how long did you work there?

**JR:** I worked there until...2002.

**LMI:** So you were 10 years there?

5  
0:34:07

**JR:** I was nearly 10 years, yeah. It was not complete, but roughly 10 years.

**LMI:** And what was your salary here? Do you remember?

**JR:** My salary here... I worked 7 days... 7 nights, er...7 days. 6 days, 7 days. Sometimes 5 days.

**LMI:** Right.

**Y:** When I worked seven days, about £350.

6  
0:34:30

**LMI:** 7 days. Ok. Right, thank you.

**JR:** Did I say £350 or £750?

**LMI:** £350.

**JR:** £350, yeah.

**LMI:** £350 for 7 days.

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And did you work after that? After 2002?

**JR:** Yes.

**LMI:** Where did you work then?

**4**  
**0:34:50**

**JR:** Then I worked in security.

**LMI:** Ok. And which company did you work for?

**JR:** I worked for... I did not work for the company. It was...

**LMI:** Self-employed, was it?

**14**  
**0:34:55**

**JR:** No, no. So...outside... they provide the...

**LMI:** Agencies?

**JR:** Yeah, the agency, yes.

**LMI:** Right. And where were you doing security? Which kind of places

**4**  
**0:35:07**

**JR:** Grattan.

**LMI:** Right. Yes.

**JR:** One was on Ingleby Road

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** Now they're building a house over there.

**LMI:** Yes, they are.

**4**  
**0:35:17**

**JR:** One on Lister Hill, Thornton Road.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** Sometime here. Sometime there.

**LMI:** How many years did you work there?

**JR:** I worked there, I think six... six years.

**LMI:** So about 2008?

**JR:** Seven.

**LMI:** 2009 then?

**JR:** Seven. 2007.

**LMI:** 2007. And did you work after that?

**JR:** No.

**10**  
**0:35:41**

**LMI:** So 2007. Right. So security was your last. So, in terms of the mills then, what I want to know, for a young man who's 19, who came from India, did you know what England would be like? Did you know what working in mills would be like?

**JR:** No.

**LMI:** How did you find it? What was your first impressions of the country? And of the factories?

**JR:** Well, when I come here was very cold and snowing. I came in in September.

**LMI:** Yep.

**JR:** You know, the September, very cold. New country.

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** You don't know where to go. So my friend took me to first job, and [when] I come back I lost my way.

**LMI:** How did you get home then?

**3**  
**0:36:31**

**JR:** Well, I got off the bus and... just on the City Road...I was living on the Sunway Road. You may not have seen it, it's called West Grove Street, where I came. You know, there is Joseph Vernon house.

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** It was there. It was not far but I did not know the area. It was all night as well. Dark.

**LMI:** And how did you find it then?

**JR:** Walk round.

**LMI:** How long did it take you?

**5**

**0:37:34**

**JR:** Because I know the road...

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** So... I kept walking... say 20...25 minutes.

**LMI:** Yep, wondered around. Did you not ask anybody? Was there nobody around at night?

**JR:** I can't speak English.

**LMI:** Right. Bless you. Ok. In the all the different mills you worked at, what was the environment like? Were people good? Were they happy? Was it sad? What did it feel like?

**5**

**0:38:13**

**JR:** Well, there were some good, some bad. It can't be all people are good, it can't be all people are bad. All the mix. Some people are helpful, some people not.

**4**

**0:38:29**

**LMI:** In terms of the culture of mills though, was it a happy friendly places to work in mills? What was it like?

**JR:** More or less, yeah.

**6**

**0:38:40**

**LMI:** And in the different mills that you worked, the majority of the people you worked with, was it Asian men? Was it a lot of white ladies? Was it a lot of white men? What was it like?

5  
0:38:55

**JR:** If I worked with the white people, I may have spoken good English! When I came there, I saw people from Kashmir. I didn't know nobody from before.

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** And I found out later on...

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** ...and this is just people are up on it

**LMI:** Yes.

**JR:** So I can't understand what they're saying.

**LMI:** Right.

4  
0:39:25

**JR:** Yes. Mix people. Some people are good, some not.

**LMI:** Yes. Yep. Is there anything funny that you remember that happened ever, in the mills? Anything funny or silly?

**JR:** There's a lot of things that's going on silly [for] long as well. I will not say it.

**LMI:** We would...

**JR:** Hmm?

4  
0:39:52

**LMI:** I said, we would like to know, in those days, what did *you* consider funny or silly?

5  
0:40:05

**JR:** I did not feel anything about it. If the people are bad, they are bad.

**LMI:** Yeah. In terms of jokes though, did you guys play jokes with each other? Was there anything, you know, like that?

**JR:** I worked in a mill, late.... [?] Those people were good. Not...not... Some people were bad apple anyway. But they were good. I don't know [whether] Pakistan, Indian, English. White. They were very helpful from there. Anywhere else. And all the same thing.



5  
0:40:51

**LMI:** What was the name of that place?

**JR:** Wolsey Limited.

**Spk2:** Wolsey.

4  
0:40:57

**LMI:** So they were the most helpful people you found?

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Thank you. You didn't join a union? You said you weren't aware of it?

**JR:** ... Later on, in Illingworth, I joined a union. But er....

6  
0:41:14

**LMI:** Right. But did you ever have to use the union?

**JR:** No, when I got accident, I didn't know what was union.

**LMI:** Yes.

3  
0:41:20

**JR:** When I started in Illingworth it was a long time after that. Thirteen years.

**LMI:** In terms of managers and supervisors, who were they, and what were they like?

5  
0:41:44

**JR:** The supervisors, you know, they want the job done. Then how...how...

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** Yeah, sometimes they're helpful, sometimes... will I say... funny, or rude sometimes.

3  
0:42:02

**LMI:** Are you able to think over time...I suppose when they were rude to you?

**JR:** Well, when the job is not done properly, anybody can be upset. So, anything can be done rightly first time, or whatever. You can be wrong sometimes.

2  
0:42:27

**LMI:** Yes, yep. Sometimes you get into trouble.

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Is there anything else you would like us to know about your time in the mills?

5  
0:42:36

**JR:** Well, if you put it in comparison, *I* feel it's better than back home.

**LMI:** Right.

**JR:** And better than here. You work on the weekend, you got money in your hand.

4  
0:42:59

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** And you know what happened over there. You working all year round...

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JR:** ...they will not pay you a single penny, sometime.

**LMI:** Yeah.

5  
0:43:08

**JR:** Some people like go there as well. Most of them.

**LMI:** Yeah. You struggled.

**JR:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Yeah. Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

6  
0:43:27

**JR:** You are done?

4  
0:43:29

**LMI:** Yes. If you think of something else you want me to know, I'm still here.

**JR:** More or less, that's all.

5  
0:43:35

**JO:** You made friends there.

**JR:** I worked another two or three mills. I can't remember them. One was in Preston Street, and one in Shipley, er... no, not Shipley... Stanningly. I worked there two... about two weeks, three weeks, that's all.

4  
0:43:58

**LMI:** Yep. Thank you. Thank you very much. Are you ready?

**GK:** I am already ready.

3  
0:44:12

**LMI:** Okay, tell me this.

4  
0:44:16

**JR:** If you want anything, I have got these papers.

**LMI:** Thank you. I will take photos of them at the end, if it's ok? Thank you.

**JR:** Took up three days to find them. [?] It's very old. 1963. I kept them for my safety

**LMI:** 'Statement of Claim in the High Court of Justice.' Wow. Jarnail Ram versus Woolcomber's Ltd.

4  
0:44:50

**LMI:** Thank you very much. I'll take some photos of these at the end. Right. You tell me, how old were you when you came to India?

**GK:** I was 15 years old when I came. My mother is also dead.

**JR:** So, [born]1940. She came in 1963.

4  
0:45:05

**LMI:** So, approximately 23 years old.

**GK:** [?]

7  
0:45:15

**JO:** She's quite sarcastic.

**LMI:** Ok.

3  
0:45:19

**GK:** I don't know how old I am. I don't know how old I am.

**LMI:** Ok. When....?

**JR:** '71... '71, '72.

3  
0:45:25

**LMI:** Which mill did you work in?

6  
0:45:27

**GK:** I worked in a mill.

**JR:** Say again?

**LMI:** What was the name of the mill that they worked in?

**JR:** H. A.

**JO:** H. A.

3  
0:45:35

**JR:** Thornton Road.

**JO:** Is it City Road or Thornton Road? It's on the...

3  
0:45:36

**LMI:** [?] And was it just called H. A.? Or did it have a longer name?

**JO:** It was called H. A. & Co, wasn't it? I don't know what the actual name of it was.

**JR:** H. A. Co.

3  
0:46:05

**LMI:** What was your job?

**GK:** I was fly spinning.

**JR:** Fly spinning. Fly spinner.

**LMI:** Fly spinner. Ok

2  
0:46:13

**GK:** I don't remember. I don't remember.

3  
0:46:19

**GK:** It was very light. You used to make a net out of it

**LMI:** Ok.

3  
0:46:25

**JO:** Very fine] If you didn't catch that.

5  
0:46:27

**LMI:** Thank you. Um...How long did you work there?

3  
0:46:33

**GK:** I've been working here for 18 years.

**JR:** 71, 92, 32... 21? 21 years.

4  
0:46:41

**LMI:** 21 years. Ok. And you worked at the same place?

**JO:** Yes.

6  
0:46:47

**GK:** No, no.

7  
0:46:49

**JR:** Later, when I went to India, then after that, she came back.

5  
0:47:17

**LMI:** Ok.

**GK:** She...

**LMI:** How long did she work after that?

11  
0:47:22

**GK:** The light house?

**LMI:** How long did she work after she came back?

**JR:** Uh...

3  
0:47:27

**LMI:** How long did she work at the light house? She worked there. How long did she work at the other place?

6  
0:47:34

**JR:** No idea. But she worked there. Then...mill... closet, closed down.

**LMI:** Right.

5  
0:47:45

**JR:** Then she worked in the White Hat Mills of... Bradford 3 or 4. Something like that.

**LMI:** And how long was that for? A few years or...?

5  
0:47:57

**JR:** She worked there about... two years, something.

6  
0:48:04

**LMI:** Ok. And was she working as a fly spinner there as well?

5  
0:48:09

**JO or GK?:** yes, she was working there

6  
0:48:11

**JR:** Roving. Roving.

26  
0:48:13

**LMI:** Ok. Do you remember your salary? What was the salary of a fly spinner?

8  
0:48:18

**GK:** I don't know. I don't know how much they gave me.

**LMI:** Was it piece rate or was it a wage?

**JR:** When she started work, it was £7-8. Once she finished, it was £80-85. Something like that.

**LMI:** And when you went to the Whitehead Mills later?

**JO:** Oh yeah, that was the '90s.

2  
0:48:55

**LMI:** That was the '90s. Tell me, when you went to the mills for the first time, how did you like it?

3  
0:49:01

**GK:** It was good, the tamil was good. But it was bad. The tamil was bad.

**LMI:** How many hours a day did you work?

**GK:** I would go at 8 and come back at 5.

3  
0:49:18

**GK:** I would go at 8, and come back at 5. 15. Hours break, and then 8 hours.

**LMI:** How was the working environment?

6  
0:49:39

**GK:** It was good. There was no work.

**LMI:** Who else worked with you?

3  
0:49:46

**GK:** My family.

**LMI:** Who were your Asians and English?

10  
0:49:53

**GK:** I don't know. I don't know.

**JR:** No Asians

**JO:** Asian ladies.

**JO:** Josie and Lindsey.

[?]



2  
0:50:21

**GK:** I missed all the old ladies.

**LMI:** Tell us a story about your working days.

25  
0:50:27

**GK:** What should I tell?

**LMI:** Something you remember.

6  
0:50:30

**GK:** I remember going to work in the morning and coming back in the afternoon. I would come home, make roti and feed my elders.

**LMI:** What time did you come home?

**GK:** At 12.

**LMI:** For how long?

**JR:** 45 minutes.

**GK:** We had a half-hour break. We stayed for 15 minutes. Then we would go and make roti. Dad would come and give it to us.

2  
0:51:07

**JO:** We lived in a really... Bilton Place

**LMI:** Who was at home? Who did you cook for?

**GK:** There was no one at home.

**LMI:** Who did you cook for?

**GK:** My father. My mother came after him.

**LMI:** Was he at home or did you cook for him?

**GK:** He was at work. He was gone. He retired.

4  
0:51:39

**LMI:** Ok.

?: Retired. Okay.

3  
0:51:43

**GK:** Oh my God, I remember. Earlier, when I used to go to work, I would make roti. I had a problem with my knee. I would come to the school and get it fixed.

2  
0:51:56

?: They also helped me.

4  
0:51:58

**JO:** They also worked in the mills for the ground power. My grandparents.

**LMI:** Your grandads as well. You can let us know about that. And what was your routine after 5 in the evening?

3  
0:52:05

**GK:** We didn't have to do all the work. We had to stay together for a couple of days. We would meet up with a couple of other people. We would keep a few of them with us. I don't want to get any work from them. I don't want to get anything from them. I want to help them a lot. I don't want to take any money from them. I want to keep it at home.

3  
0:52:34

**LMI:** What good memories do you have of your workdays?

**GK:** I have made good memories. I have worked all my life. And it's Christmas party. Christmas party, put it away.

23  
0:52:54

**JO:** It was the Christmas party.

**LMI:** I suppose if the kids want to tell their story, how they used to work, what would you tell them?

**GK:** I will tell my story. I know there are many stories. You know my story. You know my story.

**3**  
**0:53:08**

**GK?:** I have a lot of work to do. You can take care of it. Yes. Understood?

**LMI:** Yes.

**GK:** First, my father...

**LMI:** Yes.

**GK:** He knows what a bed is. Huh?

**3**  
**0:53:23**

**GK:** He knows what a bed is. A bed is a jungle.

**LMI:** Yes.

**GK:** You know, there are a lot of jungles.

**LMI:** Yes.

**GK:** They call it a jungle.

**LMI:** Ok.

**GK:** I was a kid.

**3**  
**0:53:37**

**GK:** I was a kid. I was a kid. I did all the work that other people did. I did my work here. I was going there.

**4**  
**0:54:22**

**JO:** I think in comparison it was easier working here.

**GK?:** Do you know how much.

3  
0:54:31

**GK:** This is for us.

**LMI:** Yes. Thank you. Now it's time to rest. Did you enjoy?

18  
0:54:41

**GK:** A lot.

**GK:** Even now I feel so much better. I don't do it, I go to the loo.

**LMI:** It's a routine. Yes.

3  
0:54:56

**GK:** I do it little by little.

**JO:** She is always doing something.

6  
0:55:00

**LMI:** Thank you. Thank you very much.

3  
0:55:04

**GK:** She is a good girl. She has her own needs. She is doing a good job. She is doing a good job.

**LMI:** Yes.

**GK:** Thank you. Thank you very much for my children. I'm okay.

**LMI:** Yes. Yes, you do.

3  
0:55:18

**JR:** If I could just have a cup of tea.

4  
0:55:21

**JO:** Yes.

**LMI:** May Jai Sahib lead people. Thank you. Thank you very much for my tea.

**JO:** Do you want me to warm it up for you?

**LMI:** I'm ok. If I could move on to yourself, please.

**JO:** Yes.

**LMI:** So what I want to know is, I suppose your memories of the mills. Did you ever go into any of them?

**JO:** Um... Well, we never went in to see...to go into them, as such, when mum and dad worked there. I think we sometimes used to meet mum from the gate, at her mill. I worked in S. R. Gents, the sewing factory. That's not really classed as a mill, though.

**LMI:** Well, it's textile, isn't it?

**21**

**0:56:11**

**JO:** Yeah.

**LMI:** I suppose. What was it called, please?

**JO:** Was it called S. R. Gents, Dad?

**JR:** Mm-hmm? S. R. Gents.

**2**

**0:56:16**

**JO:** Yeah, S. R. Gents. And what I did was, when I left school, I went and worked there for a few months before I went to college. So it was like a gap filler.

**3**

**0:56:31**

**LMI:** Right. And there was a sewing sort of thing?

**JO:** Yes, sewing, yeah. Sewing, manufacturing.

**LMI:** And where was that based?

**2**

**0:56:40**

**JO:** That was just on...off Thornton Road. It's behind...

**JR:** Riverfield.

**JO:** It's just up this road here, I don't know what it's called.

5  
0:56:48

**JR:** Like Hockney?

**JO:** Holling....?

**JR:** Hockney.

**JO:** It's on this estate.

**JR:** Industrial.

2  
0:56:52

**JO:** In on the industrial estate there.

**LMI:** Thank you.

**JO:** Yeah.

**LMI:** And which years was that?

2  
0:56:58

**JO:** That will have been... in the 1980s. I'm trying to think when it would have been.

**?:** Gosh I wish I knew that.

**JO:** That was in the '80s.

**LMI:** That's fine.

**JO:** Before I went off to college.

**LMI:** Right. And you said you worked a couple of weeks?

**JO:** No, a few... I worked through the summer. Through the summer holidays before I... I think I might have done a bit longer than that. Because I applied to college, and then I went to...the year after, I think, to that. So yeah, I worked there for quite a few months, I think.

4  
0:57:32

**LMI:** And how did you find it? What was it like?

**JO:** Well, noisy, was the one thing.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** And erm...I enjoyed it because there's lots of camaraderie and friendships between the women. It was a mainly women-led workforce and... mainly the men were male supervisors. Although there were some lady supervisors there, as well. And I think there was...you could see that there was a lot of friendship...Even though I knew I wasn't going to stay there very long, there were people who had...very clearly had very good friendships there. You know, it's like... getting gossip at lunchtime over the tea breaks, and...You had things like timed tea breaks. And you had, you know, they'd come round and time how many pieces...It was piecework, so you've got, you know, how many pieces you could get done. And they come and time you. And I remember once, I got a needle in my thumb, in my finger, when I was doing sewing.

**LMI:** Oh, bless you. Was that the machine?

**JO:** The machine, yeah.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** I can't even remember filling any kind of...

**LMI:** No accident forms.

**JO:** ...accident forms in those days.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** But I just remember it's a really friendly sort of...just very friendly place. And people were working to feed their families. And... a lot of young girls worked there, as well. Young ladies.

**LMI:** Yeah.

**JO:** So I think that was a sort of work that, in a city probably, that that's the sort of work that there was.

**LMI:** In terms of the community, was it mixed communities? Was the majority just Asian?

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**JO:** Oh no, no, definitely mixed, mixed community there.

**LMI:** And you said mixed age range as well?

**JO:** Yeah, mixed age range. And you know, things like... everyone... but generally speaking, I would say from what I saw, people just got on with each other. And everybody was interested in your food and... you know.

**LMI:** In terms of lunches, did you take food from home as well?

**JO:** Yes, sometimes from home, and there was a canteen there. That was quite a good canteen as well.

**LMI:** And are you able to remember your salary at all?

**JO:** Sorry?

**LMI:** Are you able to remember your salary at all?

**JO:** No. I can't. I don't think it was that much... I would say, you know, it's less than £100 a week.

**LMI:** And do you remember the hours you worked?

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**JO:** I think it was 8 till 5 again, but there was a break. There was a break... there were more breaks though than mum and dad got. I think there was a morning break, a lunch break, and there was an afternoon break, I think, as well.

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**LMI:** Yeah. In terms of your experience of Bradford Mills, how do you feel about them? What do you remember? What do you think?

**JO:** Oh, well, I mean, we were surrounded by them because we grew up on Bilton Place.

**LMI:** Where is that, please?

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**JO:** It's, you know, City Road?

**LMI:** Yes.



**JO:** It's off City Road, opposite what used to be Narang's Mill.

**LMI:** Thank you.

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**JO:** There's only one half of the street now because our side got knocked down.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** Because it was a council, the council bought the houses and we had to move. And it is the street that Ian Beazley photographed, in his photographs. Which has got... yeah, we think one of the photographs... Well, one of the photographs is definitely of our grandma's house. It's the lady with the curlers in her hair, she's talking to another lady across the road. And we think that's our mum on the photograph, she's talking to. She had a white coat. But, yeah, you could see the mills from there. You could see Globe Warehouse out the back. There was an aluminium mill, which used to have like a little cave underneath. And we used to go and play there, in the little cave. There was some water there. And then when that aluminium mill... factory closed, I know it wasn't a textile mill, but it was a mill, and it was there.

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**JO:** We actually used to go in there [lowers voice] and we used to jump out of windows, and we used to play in there. I don't know if mum and dad really knew that we did that. And all up there by the side of where... up behind there by where Globe Warehouse is... I think that might be in a different location now... We just used to play there, there was just like, we'd just go and play on a bit of land that was there. Just doing what kids do... handstands, playing a bit of football, playing a bit of... And they were just constant, the mills were just there. And, you know, we would just play around them.

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1:02:22

**LMI:** In terms of your parents, who both worked in mills, did you get the impression that the salary or the earnings was enough?

**JO:** It was fine.

**LMI:** Did you feel like, you know, because there were two people working, you were well off? What did it feel like to belong to families of mill workers?

**JO:** I don't think we were really aware of the monetary side of it at all. Well, we knew they worked there, and they were long hours. I think when we got older, we realised they were longer hours.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** Because obviously then when you're getting older, especially as a girl, you're doing the cooking and the helping out with that kind of thing. But our mum would be gone, dad would be gone in the morning before we went to school. We were latchkey kids. So they'd be gone in the morning,

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**1:03:04**

**JO:** They'd be gone when we came home from school. We'd come in and get some food for ourselves, we got ourselves ready. I remember once I was really poorly and at home. No one knew how ill I was until they came home from work. The others all went to school and left me, and I went to bed.

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**1:03:21**

**LMI:** But they were kids, weren't they?

**JO:** Yeah. And apparently I was, my grandma told me afterward that I was really, really poorly. I remember when they all had chicken pox and Mum had to have some time off work. Because I had to go to school by myself and you lot all had chicken pox and I didn't.

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**LMI:** Did you have aunts and uncles and other people who checked in on you? Was it that kind of thing? Or were you guys quite isolated?

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**JO:** The street that we lived on, from my memory, was... our grandma lived across the street, my grandma and grandad... my mum and dad's... my mum's parents... lived across the road. So we used to go in and out of there all the time. And then... and we played with everybody on the street. And I think everybody looked out for everybody, really. It was very, very community focused. Our neighbours were Pakistani neighbours. We were really good friends with them. And they looked out for us as well. We were such a mix on our street. Of Asian, Irish, Italian. Oh gosh, all sorts.

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**1:04:26**

**LMI:** Yep.

**JO:** West Indian.

**LMI:** The joy you'll be.

**JO:** I remember it very happily. Very fondly.

**LMI:** Is there anything else you'd like me to know?

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**JO:** Um, no, I just think...you know...when you say we did live amid the mills, amidst them, we were right in the middle of it all. I remember the sun used to set at the back of our house. And my dad had a camera, and er...I don't know how many people had cameras in those days, but I took a lot of photos of sunsets over the mill.

**LMI:** Wow.

**JO:** Unfortunately, when we moved house from...we moved house from there up to Whites Terrace...and then we moved...my mum and Dad moved down here, and in the move, they lost...I think a lot of those photographs were lost. So yeah, so they are a really big part...especially the mill that we could see from our house, the big sign was H. A.'s where Mum worked. We could see it from the back of our house, the big square blue thing. You can still see it now, it's still there. And the sun used to set there. And I used to take pictures of sunsets from my house. Which is all...I don't know... strange. But we didn't know any different, that's where we grew up. And a lot of people we knew worked in the mills, our friends' families... parents worked in the mills. I think Dad might still have some friends that worked from the mills, that he's still friends with now. So, it was just part of the fabric of our lives, really.

**LMI:** As they started finishing, and the mills started ending and closing down, were you guys part of any of them being redundant? Or them closing down? Because you lived around them, how does it feel? How *did* it feel?

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**JO:** Yeah, I think, again, probably because we were too young to really notice the impact of it on the society around us. The thing we noticed is, that they became empty. That's what we noticed. And, you know, we went and played in them. And other children from other areas must have gone to other... parts of them. I think gradually we were probably getting to be teenagers. And so we were probably progressing with different things in our lives. And we probably didn't notice that, them being lost. I think they quietly got lost, you know, almost in a way. And now we look back on it and we think, 'Oh yeah, all these mills and now the landscape is so different now.' You can see so much more of Bradford now, and the chimneys out there.

**LMI:** Right.

**JO:** Mum and Dad will say it used to be really smoky and smoggy when they first came. Mum said you could never even... she said it hardly got light sometimes.

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**JR:** No daylight.

**JO:** Yeah, no daylight. I think they did have fun in the factories. I know you were trying to allude to that. Yeah. Maybe because they're a bit older than the camera.

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**LMI:** Yeah. And plus when you get to a certain stage and you're looking back, like your mum is, and she's focused on the amount of work that she's had to do, all the lighthearted stuff kind of eludes you.

**JO:** Yeah, yeah.

**LMI:** I'm talking about the heaviness of it, and you need to understand. And er...yeah. So it's where the emphasis is. And it's reminded her of a lot, hasn't it? So...

**JO:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Like you said she started working long before she even started in the mills. So...

**JO:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**LMI:** And hard labour.

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**JO:** Oh, yeah. So I think about some of the mill work was like a walk in the park compared to some of the stuff that she'd already done.

**LMI:** Yeah, yeah.

**JO:** And you were getting paid for it.

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**LMI:** Yeah. Right thank you so much for everything. It's been a joy, Jazz. And we're grateful for you coming over.

**JO:** I hope you got some...