

Mohammed Iqbal
Interviewed for the LMGM project
On the 23rd of August 2023
By Nabeela Ahmed

I came to England in 1962 and for one year worked in a mill doing night shifts from 8pm to 7am. A lot of the staff were Asian. I took roti and salan (chapatti and curry) for my dinner. I didn't mind the work, I had come to this country for work and I got paid, so it was fine. The people here were very efficient and friendly.

Salary

My first salary was £7 or £8. I sent it to my family.

Mangers

They said nothing if you didn't misbehave

Union

I was always a member, for protection. If you needed them, they came straight away.

In 1963 I went to Pakistan. I had my family there.

In 1964 I came back and worked in a steel factory with my brother. In those days there was so much industry in Bradford. There were so many mills.

After that I worked as a bus conductor for some time and then I moved to Pakistan and had my own shop in the bazaar for several years.

I worked at three or four mills. The last mill I worked in was BBH in Cleckheaton. I was a weaver for three years. I earned £200 per week. I was astounded at their work. They worked with nylon. When I went to Pakistan and returned, they gave me my job back. The supervisor said to me, 'Mr Iqbal you call me from the airport when you return and I will have a job ready for you.' I paid good attention to my work and they preferred me over other workers.

I didn't do overtime. I valued my health and didn't want to exhaust myself.

I retired from there.

PS: Mr Iqbal is at least in his 90s and could not remember the names of any mills and gave different dates and ages as he talked about things again, so I have not included those in above.