

Members of Punjabi community groups including the UK Punjab Heritage Association, Muslim Women's Welfare Association, Sangat Group, Cartwright Hall Young Ambassadors and the North Hertfordshire Sikh Education Council participated in reminiscence and creative workshops to provide their interpretation of photographs of the Punjab and their reflections on their own lives in relation to the items they were seeing. A selection of quotes from the groups is provided below:

### The Archive Collection

**"This is my journey; searching myself, my pains, my mothers and fathers wounds, the broken families, the violence, the tension...who we are... where we are from...I think that is why archives like this are vital."**

Member from the Sangat Group

### The Army of British India

**"Many Punjabi's enrolled in the British army; we were the right hand of the British. With all the fighting in the Punjab in the mid 1800's, the British saw that we were very feisty... agriculture was difficult so many joined the army to earn a living. It was our tradition then to join the army and it is now in the blood."**

Member from the UK Punjab Heritage Association - Veterans Group

**"Thousands of Punjabi's died in the First World War; I think that is one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th Century."**

Member from the Sangat Group

**"When there were celebrations of the end of the Second World War they did not mention anything about the Indian army...although at the time many ex servicemen were here. We didn't know how many Indians took part in the First or Second World War but we knew it was a big army."**

Member from the UK Punjab Heritage Association - Veterans Group

### Partition

**“We weren’t given much information... we couldn’t take part in the politics. But we heard things on the news. Until the end in February/March 1947 we were absolutely fine, Muslims and Sikhs. There used to be Sikh and Muslim companies and we often met. We were all friends.”**

Member from the UK Punjab Heritage Association - Veterans Group

**“Once the decision was made, they ordered the army to make their decision on who wanted to join which army, Pakistan or India. We had to fill out forms, although it was automatically defaulted, if you were Hindu or Sikh you would go to India, and the Muslims had to go to Pakistan. Some of our people said they wanted to go to Pakistan, and some Muslims said they wanted to go to India, but they ignored these requests.”**

Member from the UK Punjab Heritage Association - Veterans Group

**“Well before this project I didn’t think that much about Pakistan, India and Partition or anything like that, it was just somewhere I called home. It just really hit home that people had to leave everything behind and start afresh, no idea where they were going, and make a huge sacrifice.”**

Member of the Cartwright Hall Young Ambassadors Group

### Migration

**“We’d been in the army and had seen other countries. We knew that people who had moved had done well. All the people who came over here (UK), came with the thought that we’ll work over here for 10 years, earn some money, educate the children, do this and do that and go back.”**

Member from the UK Punjab Heritage Association - Veterans Group

**“We have spent a lifetime just travelling around. Nearly 25 years from one place to another. Living five years here, eight years there, seven years somewhere else. Our life has gone by like this. You would never imagine how disrupting it has been.”**

Member from the Muslim Women’s Welfare Association