

Project 11: Mapping 1857, a Film as a Journey through the Kamla Nehru Ridge

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Brief Description: Mutiny Memorial, now rechristened as Jeetgarh, was originally built by the British in 1863. As one of the plaques says, this monument was constructed “in memory of the officers and soldiers, British and Native of the Delhi Field Force, who were killed in action or died of wounds or disease between 30th May and 20th September 1857. Built in the early 19th century by a British officer called William Fraser, Bara Hindu Rao, now known among the masses as Hindu Rao Hospital, boasts of a rich legacy. Khuni Jheel (The Bloody Lake) is a water body situated in the Kamla Nehru Ridge. It is known by this name because bodies of British killed by the rebels, and later the rebels killed by the British, were dumped here; and the water remained bloody for many days. If rumours are to be believed, the lake is haunted and if one is in luck (or perhaps if one is unfortunate!), one can see the ghost of a young girl clad in a tattered white frock and a headless British officer riding his horse!

This project will explore the stories that these monuments have borne witness to, and reclaim a space for the heroic tales of sacrifices and bravery of our freedom fighters in public consciousness. This will be documented by making a short film.

