"There once was a man
This man came into the European war
Germany captured this man
He wishes to return to India
If God has mercy, he will make peace soon
This man will go away from here"

The Halfmoon Files

With filmmaker
Philip Scheffner
in person

Saturday, October 31
6:00 & 8:30pm

Sunday, November 1
5:15pm

Anthology Film Archives
32 Second Ave
New York, NY 10003
www.anthologyfilmarchives.org

Tickets
$9 General Admission
$7 for Students/Seniors
$6 Members

The crackling words of Mall Singh, an Indian POW, are heard as he spoke into the phonographic funnel on 11th December 1916 in the city of Wünsdorf, near Berlin.

90 years later, Singh is a number on an old Shellac record in an archive – one amongst hundreds of voices of colonial soldiers of the First World War.

Such recordings were produced as the result of an unique alliance between the military, the scientific community and the entertainment industry.

Philip Scheffner follows the traces of these voices to the origin of their recording.

Like a memory game, which remains incomplete right until the end, he uncovers pictures and sounds that revive the ghosts of the past.

This film transforms a previously obscure episode in Indo-German history into a compelling meditation on the recorded voice, the archive and cultural memory.