

HINDU SERVES IN 106TH DIVISION

Moti Lal Hopes to Return to
India as an American
Soldier.

Camp Atterbury, July 6 (Special)—One foreign-born soldier in the 106th Division who wants to return to his native land as an American soldier is Pvt. Moti Lal, a native of India, now a member of Headquarters Battery, 590th Field Artillery battalion.

Lal has made application for the Ordnance Officer Candidate school, and hopes to earn a commission and then be assigned to the American forces in India.

"I feel that I could be more useful there than anywhere else," he reveals, "and I believe India will be one of the greatest theaters of operation before this war is done."

Moti Lal (the name means "Red Pearl") was born in Goa, a Portuguese settlement on the western coast of India, June 15, 1914. At the age of one year, his family moved to Bombay, where he grew up and attended the English schools. He was graduated from St. Xavier high school there in 1930.

Family Imprisoned.

During his schooldays Lal was interested in the Indian Nationalist movement for the liberation of the people of India. Most of his family were imprisoned because of the part they took in this movement.

After graduation from high school, the 16-year-old Nationalist had a desire to visit the United States to discover what kind of democracy he wanted to have in his native land. The wish was easily satisfied, and he worked his way to this country as an able seaman on the S. S. Steel Engineer.

On the ship Lal encountered American people, American ways, and American food for the first time. At the age of 16, he tasted meat for the first time in his life.

After reaching the United States, Lal tried to continue his studies, but lacked the funds for it, so he found employment with a color chemist, and soon became a master of that trade.

At the time of his entrance into the U. S. the naturalization laws discriminated against the Hindus, but since his induction into the Army, Lal has been able to become a full-fledged American citizen.

"I am a staunch believer in democracy and freedom," the dark-skinned artilleryman says proudly, "and look to America, as my fellow countrymen do, as one of the most democratic and progressive countries in the world."

Lal and his wife are excellent dancers and frequently gave rhumba exhibitions in New York.

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Wed, May 10, 2017