HINDU SERVES IN 106TH DIVISION

Motl 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. Motl Lal, a native of India, now a machine gunner of Headquarters Battery, 30th Field Artillery.

Lal has made application for the Officers 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.

Motl Lal (the name means "Red Pearl") was born in Coa, a Portuguese settlement on the west coast of India, June 18, 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 1935.

Family Imprisoned.

During the student movement Lal was imprisoned by the Government for "incitement 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 India. He came to America in 1939 and was employed in a steel mill in Chicago, but the Hindu Nationalists had him dismissed and he worked his way across the country as an assistant on the S. S. Steel Engine.

On the ship Lal encountered American people, American ways, and American food for the first time. At the age of 16, he trusted most for the first time the American people.

After reaching the United States, Lal went to Ohio State University, but lacked the funds for 10th, so he found employment with a coal company, and soon became a member of that trade.

At the time of his entrance into the 106th, the naturalization laws discriminated against the Hindu, 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.