

FEB 24 1999

Matthew Linder
HBO
1100 Avenue of the Americas (H 07-36B)
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Linder:

This is in response to your inquiry of February 16, 1999, concerning the military record of Howard W. Cosell, who also served as Howard W. Cohen.

The record needed to answer your inquiry is not in our files. If the record were here on July 12, 1973, it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on that date and may have been destroyed. The fire destroyed the major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 through 1959. There are alternate records sources that contain information which can be used to reconstruct some service record data lost in the fire. Unfortunately, we cannot reconstruct complete records.

The Privacy Act of 1974 provides for the release of information with the written consent (signature) of the individual to whom the records pertain. The Privacy Act does not apply to the records of deceased individuals; however, Department of Defense instructions indicate that in such cases we must have the written consent of the next of kin. For purpose of release, the next of kin is defined as any of the following: unremarried widow or widower, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister. The Department of Defense has determined that, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), certain items of information may be released without an unwarranted invasion of the individual's privacy. The following items of information, obtained from alternate records sources, regarding Mr. Cosell are released under FOIA.

Mr. Cosell enlisted in the Army on February 2, 1942, under the name Howard W. Cohen, service number 12 057 393. He was discharged on February 1, 1943, in the rank of Technical Sergeant. The unit he was assigned to at the time of this discharge was Company B (Provisional) Officer Candidate Battalion (Provisional) AAS, State College, Mississippi. He accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army on February 2, 1943, with officer service number 01 944 643. He was relieved from active duty on May 28, 1946, in the rank of Major, at the Separation Center, Fort Dix, New Jersey. Prior to his relief from active duty, he was assigned to Headquarters, New York Port of Embarkation, as a member of the Transportation Corps. The available records show that Mr. Cosell's assigned Military Occupational Specialties as an officer were Procedures Control Officer and Personnel Staff Officer.

We regret that we are unable to reconstruct a complete list of all of Mr. Cosell's assignments and the dates he was assigned to each unit. The units shown above are all of the information available. The available records show that he did not serve outside the continental United States.

Alternate records sources show that the date of his last promotion, to the rank of Major, was April 10, 1945. The official military records available on file at this Center show Mr. Cosell's date of birth as March 25, 1918; however, biographical information from other sources show his date of birth as March 25, 1920. We have no way of knowing if he was the youngest Major in the Army during World War II.

We hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Marcia R. Haley

CLIFFORD G. AMSLER, JR.
Assistant Director
for Military Records

cc: NRP
NRPM
NRPM (reading file)
NRPMF (reading file)
✓ NRPMF (official file)

NRPMF:J.MCKIDDY:jm:02/18/99

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

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To	MATTHEW LINDER	From	NPRC
Dept./Agency	HBO	Phone #	
Fax #	(212) 512-5335	Fax #	

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



February 16, 1999

Sent Via Fax

From: Matthew Linder
HBO
1100 Avenue of the Americas (H 07-36B)
New York, NY 10036
Fax: (212) 512-5335

To: National Archives and Records Administration
Fax: (314) 538-4005

To whom it may concern:

I write to you on behalf of Home Box Office of Time-Warner Communications to request information pertaining to a former member of the United States Army Service Forces named Howard Cosell. We at HBO are currently in production of a documentary focusing on the life of the ABC sportscaster. According to our research, Howard, then known as Howard William Cohen, joined the Army in 1942. Shortly after he joined, Howard attended Officer Candidate School at Mississippi State. Howard finished Officer Candidate School with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, and was transferred to the New York Port of Embarkation where he served as Manpower Control Officer. After 2 1/2 years, Howard was promoted to the rank of Major making him the youngest Major in the Army Service Forces during WWII. Howard then separated from the Army in 1946.

We need someone to verify this information. In particular, we want to know where Howard William Cohen was officially stationed. We also require verification of his official entry rank and discharge rank. Most importantly, we need to determine whether Howard was drafted or whether he enlisted.

So I write to you with the sincere hope that you might verify our research. Unfortunately, I need this information as soon as possible. I don't mean immediately, but within the next month or so. I pray that one or two months are enough time to obtain this specific information. If there are any questions, I can be reached at (212) 512-5689 or via e-mail at Matthew.Linder@HBO.com. I can not thank you enough for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Linder
Assistant to the Producer