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GAO

United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

Office of
General Counsel

In Reply
Refer to: B-196055

October 25, 1979

Do not make available to public reading room

Mr. William A. Moye
720 Viola Street
Wilson, North Carolina 27893

Dear Mr. Moye:

Reference is made to your letter postmarked August 16, 1979, in which you question the basis upon which our Claims Division, by action dated June 12, 1979, disallowed your claim for travel and transportation expenses incurred by you incident to your separation from the Army in 1972.

In that correspondence you were advised that this Office had been informed by the United States Army Finance and Accounting Center that the records upon which the validity and non-payment of your claim could be predicated had been destroyed pursuant to law. Further, that in the absence of those records there was no basis upon which your claim could be allowed.

You indicate that you filed your initial claim with the Finance Center in July 1972 and that you sent follow-ups to the Finance Center at least every four months thereafter and made numerous telephone calls concerning the matter. You say that you eventually received correspondence from the Finance Center stating that two checks in payment were supposedly sent to you in 1973. However, you claim that you never received them and that as late as 1978 they had never been returned to the Finance Center. You also indicate that you were advised that since the checks were still outstanding, they could not be replaced until a report had been received on the whereabouts of the checks.

This Office neither maintains military service records nor lists of checks drawn on the Treasury of the United States in payment to members of the military service. While under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 71, all claims and demands by and against the Federal Government shall be adjusted and settled in the General Accounting Office, our ability to act is dependent on information received from the reporting agencies, e.g., the Department of the Army, as well as claiming individuals and non-Government organizations.

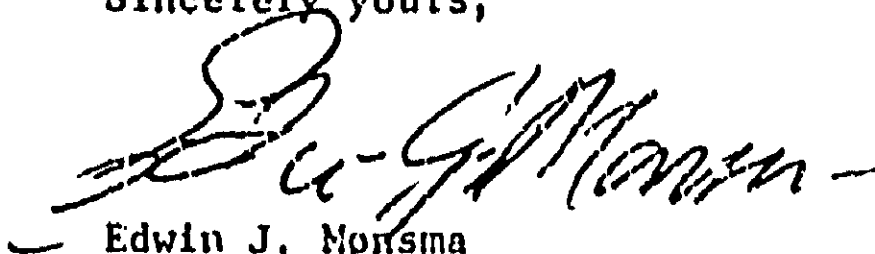


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The only report which we received from the United States Army Finance Center concerning your claim was dated April 13, 1979, which advised that records relating to your claim had been destroyed. As a result there was no way of verifying the facts involved in your case. We have again checked with the Finance Center and have been advised that they have no records regarding your claim.

In the absence of official records or information from you which would establish the facts of your case, there is no basis on which a payment to you may be authorized.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin J. Monsma".

Edwin J. Monsma
Assistant General Counsel