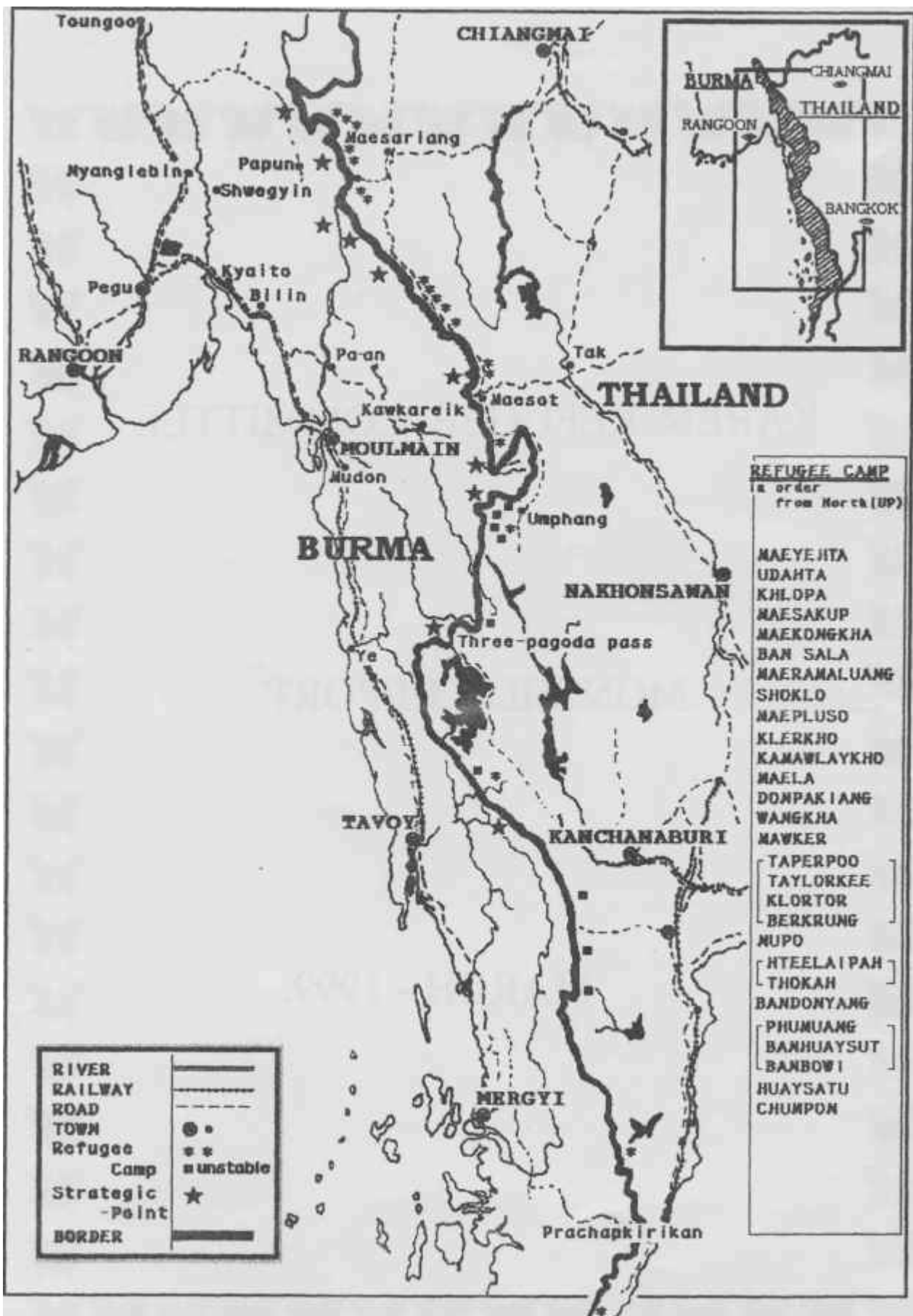


KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH - 1999.



RIVER	
RAILWAY	
ROAD	
TOWN	
Refugee Camp	
Strategic Point	
BORDER	
	unstable

REFUGEE CAMP
in order
from North (UP)

MAEYEHTA
UDAHTA
KHELOPA
MAESAKUP
MAEKONGKHA
BAN SALA
MAERAMALUANG
SHOKLO
MAEPLUSO
KLERKHO
KAMAWLAYKHO
MAELA
DONPAKIANG
WANGKHA
MAWKER
TAPERPOO
TAYLORKEE
KLORTOR
BERKRUNG
MUPO
HTEELAPAH
THOKAH
BANDONYANG
PHUMUANG
BANHUAYSUT
BANBOWI
HUAYSATU
CHUMPON

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.
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In March 1962, the Military in Burma took over Power with the avowed intention of doing great things for the country. That it failed dismally is evidenced by the fact that the country, from being one of the richest in South East Asia was reduced to an LDC (Least Developed Country) in a matter of two decades. 1988 was a repeat of the cycle that began in 1962.

This 27th of March being celebrated by the Military as the 54th Army Day amidst great pomp and fanfare and with columns of Troops marching to the Tunes of World War II Japanese Martial Songs. But sad to say, these celebrations coincide with the death of one good friend of Burma. Which shows that there is great deterioration in Human values these days where the strong feel they can always be strong.

For us Refugees, in this Region, this March is the anniversary of Cross-Border attacks and burning of Wang Kha and Maw Ker Camps. Anniversaries are occasions to remember and this March, for us is remembrance with fear and worry of what had happened and of what's going to happen.

A year has gone by and the Camps are still in the same place, though with somewhat stepped up security. Although there have been talks of relocation throughout the year, there is as yet no sign for relocation.

This year's fear of attacks is being compounded by the shortage of water in camps and the freak wind storm which hit Wang Kha Camp last month destroying 94 buildings and killing one person. It seems that Refugees are getting the harsh treatment not only from Man, but from Nature as well.

Around the world, Ethnic conflicts are still big issues as in Serbia, Central Africa and elsewhere, and there are more than enough of people ready to maim and kill in the name of Ethnicity. And Burma is attempting to become the strongest Military Power in South East Asia. To all appearances, Burma has no external enemy, and it is not fighting any war with its neighbor, or any country for that matter. For such buildup one can only ask who and where the enemy is.

But, all things aside, we Refugees are agreed on one thing. That we, as one, commiserate with the "Lady," who, in her great loss and bereavement, has, as ever, shown great courage and strength to go on with her work for the good of the common people in Burma.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS MARCH. 1999.

MAE SOT	CAMP	No.of Families	Over-12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8-Yr»		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1,754	3,290	3,013	479	475	1088	1065	9410
AREA	Mae La.	5105	10765	9856	2400	2225	3399	3058	31983
	Maw Ker	1391	2995	2608	394	361	1100	1063	8521
		8250	17050	15477	3273	3061	5587	5186	49914
NOR- TH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1257	2719	2199	524	496	824	791	7553
	Mae Kha &c Sa La	1781	3838	3219	712	659	1221	1206	10855
		3038	6557	5418	1236	1155	2045	1997	18408
S O U T	Noh Po	1534	2913	2373	747	693	917	913	8556
	Ban Don Yang	352	472	513	103	94	296	284	1762
	Tham Him	1654	2339	2381	1037	1017	680	745	8199
	Kho Thay Lu	69	63	83	7	6	52	64	275
H		3609	5787	5350	1894	0810	1945	2006	18792
	Grand Total.	14897	29394	26245	6403	6026	9577	9189	87114

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

FROM	Rice 100 Kg Sacks	Salt Kilos	F-Paste 16kg Tins	Yellow Bean Kilos '	Blanket	Quill	Swe- ater	Mat	Mosquito Net Pes.	Chiiies Kilos	Cooking Oil-13.75 Liter tins	Cooking Fuel-Kg.
BBC	7584	20250	1692	71100		681	341			6345	47724	314700
COERR	350											

This is the school holiday season.

ICS, ZOA, COERR and TOPS will be helping with the coming school term for High, Middle, Primary schools in Camps.

School buildings were being renovated in Camps with the exception of school buildings at Maw Ker and Wang Kha as there are talks of these camps being about to be relocated to another site in some months.