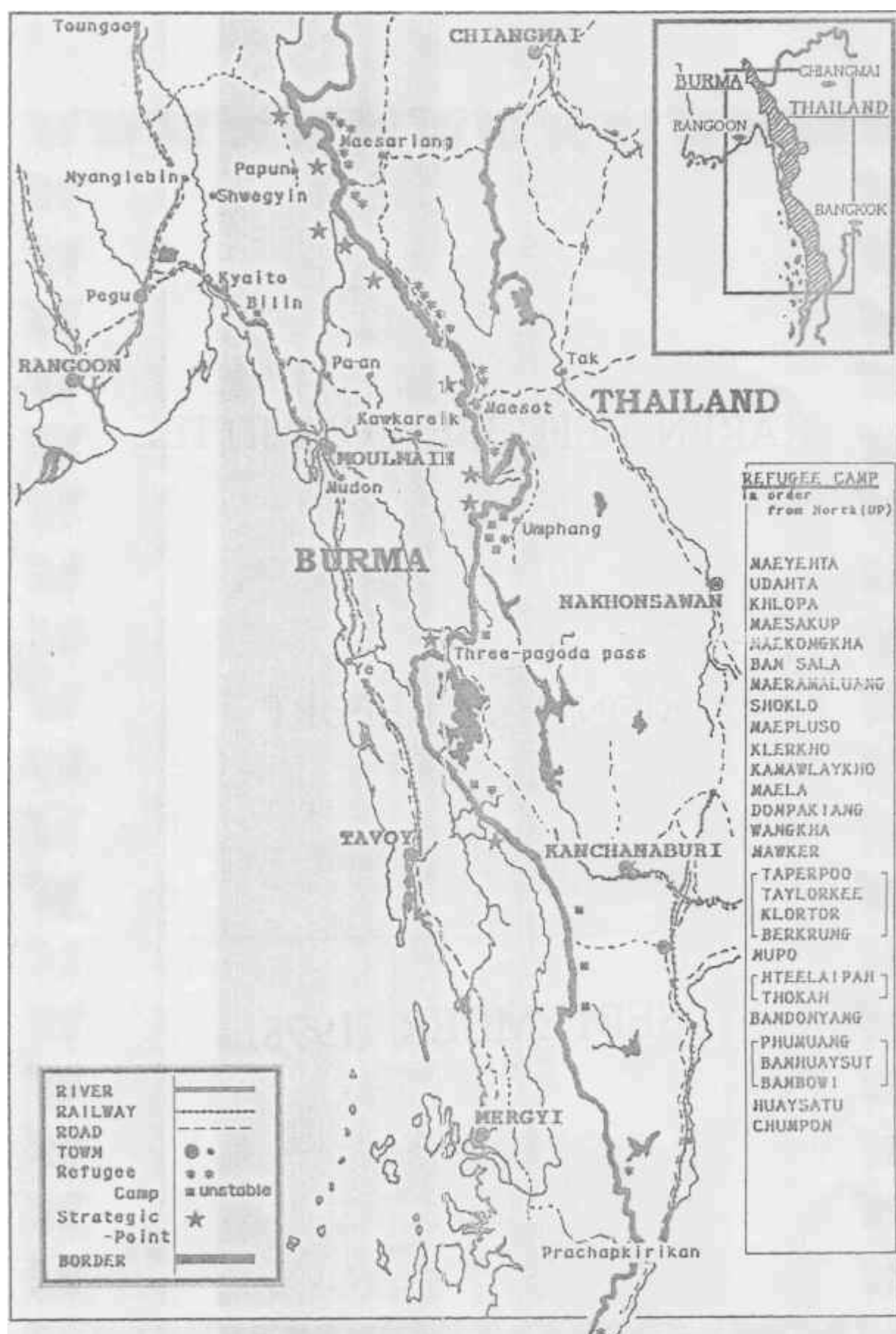




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1998.



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September is the time when people tend to carry out their decisions, with far reaching consequences.

In September of 1939, Hitler carried out his decision to launch the attack on Poland. Poland was totally crushed and occupied. But it ushered in World War Two, when in response, Britain and France declared War on Germany.

World War Two brought death, destruction, suffering and misery on a scale never before encountered. It showed what Man will do to Man, given the opportunity.

September of 1942 - the German Army launched the great offensive to crush Russia. The combined efforts of the Russian People and "Mother Winter" put a stop to the German Army and inflicted heavy defeat on Hitler's Army from which it never recovered. The battle of Stalingrad which began in September 1942 was the beginning of the end for the German Army. Hitler, it seemed didn't learn from Napoleon. It showed that Man need a lot more to overcome Nature.

For Refugees from Burma, September is the month that will be hard to forget. The Military crack-down and taking over power in September of 1998 resulted in hundreds of thousands of displaced people seeking refuge in neighboring countries. And in this September of 1998, after 10 years, the Military is still in power with the same repressive measures, showing no sign for democratic change.

This month of September has brought in more refugees to the Thai side of the border. Over 1660 refugees from nine villages of Hlaing Bwe Township have arrived in Mae Oo Su and Nong Bua areas of Tha Song Yang District, due to mopping up operations by the combined DKBA and SPDC troops. Some villages were burnt and mines were planted around the villages. These refugees were given temporary refuge by the Thai authorities concerned and the different NGOs working along the border supported them with relief items. These newly arrived refugees plan to go back once the situation in their areas return to normal.

In the second week of this month, representatives from UNHCR visited KRC to get more information on refugees and the camps latest situation. KRC explained that the refugees in all camps especially Wang Kha had to live in fear being constantly threatened by elements from the other side. Many refugees leave the camp after dark to come back in the morning.

The refugees on their part have strong desire to move to a more suitable place, especially from Wang Kha camp, far away from the border. The concerned authorities surveyed the new place but no time-frame has been laid down for the relocation. After the established of the UNHCR Office in Mae Sot, the lot of the Karen refugees might change for the better.

In the third week of September, BBC sponsored a training course for the KRC members and some camp representatives. The training course was meant to upgrade the knowledge of the KRC members and camp representatives in Management, Planning and Organizing. This has come as a blessing in disguise and will enhance the future performance of the KRC.

We, Refugees feel that we are not wanted here. But the Truth is that, to a Man, all refugees do want to return home and "Safe Return" is our most cherished dream. Our fervent hope is towards a change for the better in the situation. However, we have much to thank for the patience, generosity and understanding of the Thai People and the Royal Thai Government for allowing us safe haven. We are indebted to the NGOs who would go to any length to provide us with support and help. We also thank Individuals and groups who have shown great sympathy, compassion and care.

Karen Refugee Committee.
Mae Sot.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	Nc.of families	Over 12 YRS		5- 12 YRS		Under 5 YRS		Total
			M	r	M	F	M	F	
	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1625	2949	2780	918	803	480	510	8440
	Mae La	4943	10185	9291	4473	4109	1491	1576	31125
	Mae La T.B (Clinic) Prosthesis Workshop								
	Maw Ker	1349	3037	2612	799	715	651	636	8450
		7917	16171	14683	6190	5627	2622	2722	48015
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1216	2478	2146	937	752	521	521	7355 ⁺
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1951	3914	3556	1390	1355	749	831	11795
		3167	6392	5702	2327	2107	1270	1352	19150
SOUTH	Noh Po	1679	3224	2693	1182	1143	610	616	9468
	Ban Don Yang	350	465	499	272	234	102	88	1660
	Tham Him	1672	2335	2379	1037	1017	703	767	8238
	Kho Thay Lu	70	77	85	22	16	36	44	280
		3771	6101	5656	2513	2410	1451	1515	19646,
	Grand Total	14855	28664	26041	11030	10144	5343	5589	86811

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

FROM	RICE 100 Kg sacks.	Salt Kilos.	F-Paste 16 Kg tins.	Yellow Bean Kilos.	Mosquito Net Pcs.	Blanket Pcs.	Plastic Mat Pcs.	Plastic sheeting Pcs.	Cooking Oil liters bottles.	Cooking Fuel Kg.
BBC	7541	19750	3300	69300	951	1118	776	200	46536	286110
COERR	350				-	-		-		-

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED.

CAMP	Items									
	RICE	Sail	F-Pasle	Yellow Bean	Mosquilo Net	Blanket	Plastic Mat	Plastic sheeting	Cooking Oil	Cooking Fuel
Wang Kha	1321	3350	562	11800		4480	-	-	7920	48750
Mae La	5210	13000	2168	45550	-	16480	-	-	30576	178890
Maw Ker	1340	3350	526	11800	-	4480		-	7920	40470
Noh Poe	-	-	-	-	+200	-		-	-	-
KRC/MSF	20	50	8	180	*150	*460	*180	-	120	-
					#610	#658	#596	#200		

+ Umphang area - Mosquito Net (200) already issued for distribution in Thai-Karen villages Provided by

* MSF in Mae La camp for emergency use.

For displaced people who crossed in to Thai territory (In Noe Boh village Tha Song Yang District.)
(Including other commodities like kitchen, utensils, clothing's, sandals by other NGOs and Aid group.)