



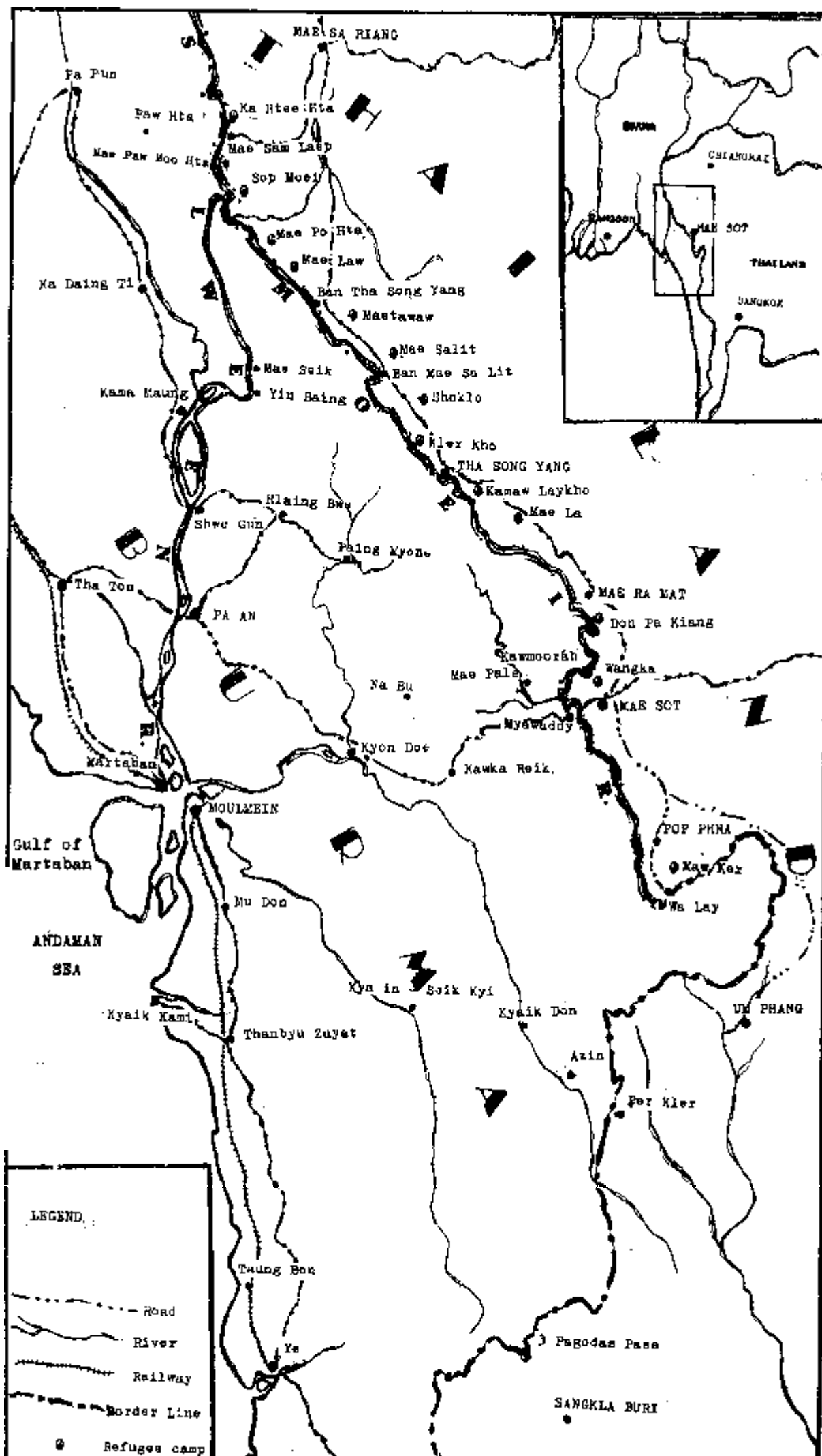
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY

REPORT

APRIL

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While the situation along the Thai-Burma border remains quiet, we note with a feeling of uneasiness the steady influx for two consecutive months now, of Karen civilians into several of the refugee camps. Quite alarming is the fact that, according to these new arrivals, many more civilians in the area are sure to follow them to the border to the refugee camps in Thailand.

The majority of these new arrivals are villagers from the rural area of Hlaing Bwe township. The rest are from Thaton, Karaamaung and Kadaingti area further inside Burma on the western side of the Salween river.

For close to a decade, they had been going through very difficult times but, until of late, they found the situation to be still relatively tolerable. The situation, however, has now become too unbearable that they left everything behind and fled to the border. It is reported that, in certain villages more than half of the villagers had now fled to the border.

Port<WlJ9< and porter-related obligations forced on them are the main reasons behind the exodus. Whereas formerly only men were affected by these problems, nowadays people of all ages and both sexes are severely affected. The villagers no longer have the will nor the strength to labour as porters. Atrocities and persecution of innocent civilians prevails.

To make matters worse, the cost of living has sky-rocketed and the villagers now find it impossible to survive. In some areas, a basket of rice (approximately 32 kilograms) now costs 600 kyat, which is the equivalent of more than 2000 Bant according to official exchange rate.

The Karen Refugee Committee has every reason to be convinced that these villagers had done their utmost to adapt themselves to the situation and survive in their own locality. It has now become totally impossible for them to go on living there. It is most touching to see and hear these villagers speak emotionally about the perils and hardships that they had gone through before they finally decided to flee to the border.

Of those who had already left their villages, many are still stranded in various places on their way to the border. They are expected to be in the refugee camps before rain sets in.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS

CAMP:	No. of families	Over-12 Yrs. M	Yrs. P	5 - 12 Yrs. ~ M	Yrs. F	Under-5 M	Yrs. F	TOTAL
WANG KA	715	1070	1405	444	405	266	243	3833
DON PA KIANG	483	910	821	286	271	175	212	2675
MAE LA	1071	1247	1804	654	699	271	314	4989
KAMAW LAY KHO	628	1075	1108	343	308	256	253	3343
KLER KHO	488	945	911	315	299	209	247	2926
SHO KLO	1384	2148	2766	956	890	441	506	7707
MAE SA LIT	584	1029	1175	394	402	143	160	3303
MAE TA WAW	708	1190	1367	632	642	303	315	4449
MAW KER	868	1778	1618	379	308	526	558	5167
KLER THAY LU	132	228	249	65	58	39	48	687
MAE PO HTA	206	380	390	117	111	39	29	1066
MAE PAW MOO HTA	354	664	745	258	246	160	173	2246
KA HTEE HTA	390	557	673	314	329	129	170	2172
	8011	13221	15032	5157	4969	2957	3228	44563
<u>SOUTHERN CAMPS</u>								
PER KLER	566	952	1043	459	409	221	206	3290
PANG SA NOK	511	768	782	312	283	206	195	2546
NAT IN DAUNG	173	377	415	123	133	93	90	1231
TOTAL:-	9261	15318	17272	6051	5793	3477	3719	51630

RICE RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

FROMs-

-BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (3BC)	...	5100 sacks
-CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REFUGEES (COERR)	...	350 "
»MR/ SERI SAB TAB	...	10 «
-MRS. S.C. DUN & MRS. SCHULLP PEARL	...	7 "
		5467 sacks
-BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (BBC) (To northern camps for 6 months MAY to OCTOBER 1993)	...	5180 sacks

OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED

FROM:-

-BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (BBC)		
Salt	...	382 bags (22kg./bag)
Fish Paste	...	2017 tins (16kg./tin)
-BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (BBC) (for northern camps)		
Salt	...	100 bags (22kg./bag)
	...	735 bags (8kg./bag)
Fish Paste	...	515 tins (16kg./tin)
	...	1085 tins (22kg./tin)

DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS RECEIVED

<u>CAMP:</u>	<u>RICE</u>	<u>SALT</u>	<u>P. PASTE</u>
WANG KA	560	38	203
DON PA KIANG	382	27	142
MAE LA	712	50	265
KAMAW LAY KHO	478	34	178
KLER KHO	412	29	154
SHO KLO	1094	76	400
MAE SA LIT	472	33	176
MAE TA WAW	621	43	225
MAW KER	736	52	274
	5467	382	2017

NORTHERN CAMPS FOR 6 MONTHS - MAY TO OCTOBER 1993

<u>CAMP:</u>	<u>RICE</u>	<u>SALT</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>PASTE</u>
KLER THAY LU	460	35	(22kg./bag)	170 (16kg./tin)
MAE PO HTA	935	65		345
MAE PAW MOO HTA	1925	375	(8kg./bag)	575 (22kg./tin)
KA HTEE HTA	1860	360		510

The Karen Refugee Committee tenders its sincere gratitude to the authorities and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand for the kindness and goodwill they have expressed in granting refuge to the Karens and other displaced people from Burma who are in trouble and need. These deeds of kindness will always be remembered by the Karens of Burma

The Karen Refugee Committee is also sincerely grateful to the individuals and agencies concerned, for the help and support they have given. Without these help and support, the refugees will never be able to survive.

We are greatly encouraged by the fact that the world is following the Burma situation more closely now. A lull in the fighting along the border and certain measures undertaken by the military rulers of Burma could possibly persuade the world to believe that the country is moving back on the pathway to peace. The world needs to know, the world needs to remember that, Karen civilians in the jungles and hilly regions of south eastern Burma are constantly living in fear and misery. They are oppressed and persecuted. The exodus of Karen civilians from these areas during the last few summer months should serve as a grim reminder that the situation in Burma and especially, the situation for the Karens in Burma has not improved. It is as bleak as ever.

We hope and pray that through the sincere and earnest endeavour of every peace loving people around the world, the Burma problem will be resolved and peace will come back to the land.

Yours faithfully,



Robert Htwe
Chairman
Karen Refugee Committee