

# JUMPING ROPE ON THE FRONT LINE

CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS  
OF THE KACHIN STATE

NORTHERN BURMA



Project Maje

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## INTRODUCTION

This report contains thirty-six brief interviews with children and teenagers of the Kachin State, in northern Burma. The Kachin State is one of the most isolated areas of Asia, for political and geographic reasons. Burma's central government has banned overseas visitors from entering the Kachin State, since the 1960s. The terrain is mountainous, and the road system has fallen into disrepair, rendering transport and communications extremely difficult. Outside contact is generally limited to some cross-border trade with neighboring regions of China, Tibet and India. The purpose of this report is to begin to cast some light on the future of the Kachin State, by revealing a few basic facts about the lives of the children and teenagers who live there.

The interviews were conducted in six different locations in rebel-held territory along the China border. An anti-government force, the Kachin Independence Organization has been in existence in the Kachin State since 1961. Its military is called the Kachin Independence Army and has an estimated 10,000 troops. This group controls considerable territory in the rural areas of the Kachin State, and serves as its administration, enforcing laws and providing civilian infrastructure such as schools and health care. In the rebel-held areas, almost all primary and middle school education is financed and supervised by the KIO. Most children there receive at least primary education, but schooling is often disrupted due to military campaigns. Burmese government tactics involve forced relocation of rural villages to areas near towns and army bases; this and human rights abuse committed by the government troops, create a constant flow of refugees to the rebel held areas. Villages with schools have been destroyed by the government troops; and schools were destroyed by a flash flood which swept through the China border area on June 22, 1991.

Burma has become one of the world's ten poorest countries, due to the policies of military dictator Ne Win and the present junta, the SLORC. The Kachin State is notably under-developed, particularly in rural areas such as the rebel zones. Although the Kachin State's forest environment has largely been preserved, families dependent on subsistence farming live on a very thin margin of survival. Malnutrition is common, mitigated only by the local people's knowledge of the food value of wild plants. Malaria is rife, particularly affecting children, who become infected and fevered year after year. Only ten of the interviewees had not ever had malaria; they lived in cool, mountain areas where it is somewhat less common. Having malaria is such a standard rite of passage for a Kachin State child that many didn't mention it at first when asked if they ever got sick. They would say they were healthy..."except for some malaria." Other prevalent diseases include chest infections, colds and tuberculosis (increased by smokey cooking fires inside houses); hepatitis and gastrointestinal disease; and complaints such as headaches and nosebleeds. The Kachin State now has a substantial AIDS infection rate, which will doubtless lead to HIV-positive babies being born to infected mothers in the future.

The Kachin State is inhabited by a number of different ethnic groups. These include the Kachins (a tribal grouping comprised of the Jingpaw, Maru, Lisu, Lishi, Rawang, Azi, and Nung peoples); Shans (related to the people of Thailand and Laos); Burmese (Burma's largest ethnic group); Gurkhas (descendants of British Army soldiers from Nepal); Chinese; and tribespeople such as the Palaungs, Nagas, and Chins. The Kachin Independence Organization is largely Kachin, but includes members from all the other ethnic groups and its stated goal is regional autonomy with equality for all ethnic groups, and democracy. Over the past few decades, ethnic minority civilians have constantly been the victims of abuse by the Burmese-dominated government army. This has led to a common perception among ethnic minority peoples that their very existence is threatened. There are only an estimated 1.2 million Kachins (out of Burma's total 40 million population). Their sense of themselves as an endangered people is one explanation for lack of interest in family planning; the average rural Kachin family appears to have at least five children. The Kachins are mostly Christian (Baptist or Roman Catholic); other inhabitants of the Kachin State are Buddhist, Christian, Moslem, or Animist.

Although tribal tradition had treated females as second-class citizens, boys and girls are given equal education in the KIO schools, and express similar wishes for future study and future careers. The KIA obtains its soldiers by conscription and from volunteers. Since the 1988 pro-democracy uprising was suppressed in Burma, more young people have been joining voluntarily. Teenagers as young as 12 are accepted into the KIA; the draft extends to about age 13. Both boys and girls are drafted. The younger soldiers (ages 12 to 17) are most often used in non-combat capacities: as runners (messengers), for sewing uniforms, or entered in a study program for training as medics/nurses/doctors.

Warfare is a constant influence on the lives of the children and teenagers of the rebel territory. In many cases, their families had abandoned their homes more than once, fleeing Burmese Army occupation. Although most of the refugee children had been very young at the time of such events and couldn't remember them clearly, they had in common a pervasive fear of the "Masala" (central Burmese government). The guerilla soldiers of the KIA, ubiquitous in the region, were considered heroes by the children; and yet the most admired role-models were school-teachers and doctors (who are themselves KIO personnel serving in a civilian capacity). As is the case everywhere in Burma, education is highly valued, and the furthering of one's studies is the fondest hope for village children and young soldiers alike. At present such options are almost non-existent. Some middle-school graduates are sent to stay with relatives in government-controlled cities, for access to higher education, but this is at present highly risky. The possibility of going to China, Thailand, or overseas for university study, is very limited.

The Kachin Women's Association has been active in founding village kindergartens, which provide day-care and "head-start" education for children age six and below. The KWA also sponsors community health programs such as pre-natal care, nutrition education, baby weight monitoring, and the promotion of oral rehydration therapy. This is done with few outside donations, so the KWA budget is stretched to the breaking point. The primary and middle schools are badly affected by a shortage of adequate textbooks and other teaching materials for all subjects.



## A NOTE ON THE DRAWINGS

Drawings by schoolchildren of the rebel-held territory of Kachin State illustrate this report. They were selected from a collection of pictures drawn by middle school students (ages 9 to 12) in a large refugee village. They were given a choice of five topics (some illustrated all five, or combined them).

. "My Village": The students drew detailed map-pictures of their village, surrounded by mountains, with bamboo and thatch houses, domestic animals, and people at work. The Kachin culture is very plant-oriented (farming and gathering wild medicinal herbs) and the children draw plants with great attention to detail. The village is seen as a safe, quiet place, marred only by the intrusion of malaria-carrying mosquitos in some of the drawings.

. "Kachin Tradition": The majority of the refugee village's inhabitants are Kachins, with some Shan, Chinese and Gurkha residents. They have been displaced by war from other parts of the Kachin State to this area which is still on the Burma side of the border (the Chinese authorities do not permit refugee settlements on their soil). Kachin traditions were most often illustrated as dance performances or wedding type portraits of people in traditional Kachin dress (including the distinctive women's costume with its silver ornaments and embroidered sarong). The practice of leaving a jar of drinking water for passers-by was also featured.

. "Democracy": As an abstract concept, this was hard to illustrate, and few chose to try. Those who did showed friendly-looking people in groups, or unarmed demonstrators being shot by "Burma soldiers."

. "War": The students' war pictures were either battle scenes (drawn with a definite familiarity with all the weaponry from rocket launchers to lead-pipe grenades) or scenes of porters being forced to carry supplies by the Burmese government soldiers. The porters are shown being beaten and abused. Serving in this type of forced labor is an extremely common experience in Burma, often a lethal one, as porters are used as human mine-detectors and shields for the government troops, and are abandoned or killed if they fall ill. Most children from civilian families have one or more relatives who have had to serve as porters. In the drawings, Burmese government soldiers are distinguished by their brimmed hats (in some, the hats themselves play the role of villain, dropping bombs onto villages); the KIA troops wear caps. Airplanes are feared, they belong to the Burmese military. Some drawings depict KIA soldiers firing down on airplanes from mountaintops.

. "Malaria": In the refugee village, malaria is so ubiquitous that its iconography is consistent in the children's drawings: a shapeless body shivering in blankets; a hospital bed with an intravenous drip; a victim suffering the chills by a fire; and gigantic, bat-like anopheles mosquitos. One drawing even shows a huge mosquito biting a bed-ridden malaria patient on his exposed foot.

"Asak" means "age"; "Tsang" means "standard".

Questions

- . How old are you? [Age]
- . Do you go to school? [School]
- . What school standard (grade) are you in? [Standard]
- . What work do your parents do? [Parents]
- . Did you live in another place before? [From other place]
- . Did Tatmadaw (Burmese government) soldiers ever come to your village? [Tatmadaw]
- . From which ethnic group are you? [Ethnic]
- . How many brothers and sisters do you have? [Siblings]
- . What do you want to do when you grow up? [When grow up]
- . How many times a day do you eat rice? [# rice]
- . What do you eat with your rice? [With rice]
- . Do you ever get sick; ever have malaria? [Sick/malaria]
- . What do you like to do for fun? [Fun]
- . When did you join Kachin Independence Army? [Joined when]
- . Why did you join Kachin Independence Army? [Joined why]
- . What kind of work do you do in the Army? [Army work]
- . What do you want to do after Liberation? [After Lib.]

The KIO schools use the Burma system of "standards": Primary school for age 5 to 6; then First standard at about age seven, going up to Tenth standard (about age 16), when a matriculation exam is given and students would have the option of pursuing higher education.

Rice is the staple food in the Kachin State; a dish of rice constitutes a meal, usually with some vegetables or meat added to it.

"After Liberation" means after the democracy/autonomy goals of the KIA are achieved; the fact that most of the young soldiers planned to study indicates that they believe Liberation might not be very far in the future. Such a belief has, of course, been common to a previous two generations who grew up fighting in Burma's Frontier War.

Location 1: a hillside forest village

Boy. [Age] 12.

[School] Yes.

[Parents] Rice farmers.

[Tatmadaw] "Yes, they came here one time. They shot our pigs and took our chickens."

[Ethnic] Lisu. [Siblings] 5.

[When grow up] "I'll choose after I'm educated."

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables, meat, wild game.

[Sick] No. [Malaria] Sometimes.

[Fun] "I play games with my friends."

Location 2: a small village (refugees)

Boy. [Age] 11.

[School] Yes. [Standard] 1st.

[Parents] Rice farmers.

[Tatmadaw] "Yes. I am afraid of them."

[Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] 3.

[When grow up] A schoolteacher.

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] "Vegetables and some meat."

[Sick] "Only malaria."

[Fun] Singing.

Boy. [Age] 6.

[School] Yes. [Standard] Primary.

[Parents] Farmers.

[Tatmadaw] "Yes, but I don't remember it."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.

[When grow up] "Business."

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Vegetables.

[Sick] Malaria and colds.

[Fun] "Feeding the pigs and chickens."

Location 3: village partially destroyed by flood

Girl. [Age] 11.

[School] "I stopped because the school was flooded away." [Standard] Primary.

[Parents] Farmers.

[Tatmadaw] "I'm not sure."

[Storm] "We stayed here and I felt very afraid in the storm."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.

[When grow up] A schoolteacher.

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] "Various things."

[Sick] "I'm healthy but I had malaria every year."

[Fun] "Helping my mother carry firewood."

Girl. [Age] 7.

[School] Yes, but stopped because of flood.

[Parents] "Not sure."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 4.

[# rice] Twice.

[Sick] "I'm well now, but I've had malaria."

Location 4: a large village (mainly refugees)

Boy. [Age] 14.

[Standard] Fifth.

[Parents] Farmers.

[From other place] "We came from a village near the railway. Because my father was in the KIA."

[Tatmadaw] "I can't recall."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 4.

[When grow up] A mechanic.

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Chilis and vegetables.

[Sick] "Yes, coughing." [Malaria] Yes.

[Fun] Football.



Boy. [Age] 14.  
 [Standard] Fifth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [From other place] "We came here from our village because we were afraid of the Masala."  
 [Tatmadaw] Not sure.  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 2.  
 [When grow up] A doctor.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables.  
 [Sick] "Sometimes malaria."  
 [Fun] "Football and other games."

Boy. [Age] 12.  
 [Standard] Fifth.  
 [Parents] Father is a KIA administration official.  
 [From other place] "We lived elsewhere and came here because we feared the Masala."  
 [Tatmadaw] "I didn't see them."  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 7.  
 [When grow up] A doctor.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables.  
 [Sick] Malaria.  
 [Fun] "Running races."

Boy. [Age] 14.  
 [Standard] Sixth.  
 [Parents] Father is a KIA soldier.  
 [From other place] "We lived elsewhere and my father was transferred here."  
 [Tatmadaw] "Yes, they came where we lived before. The Burmese soldiers arrived and we fled away."  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.  
 [When grow up] A doctor.  
 [# rice] Three times. [With rice] "Vegetables from our garden."  
 [Sick] "Yes, with malaria."  
 [Fun] Volleyball.

Boy. [Age] 14.

[Standard] Fifth.

[Parents] Farmers.

[From other place] "I lived in another village but the Masala came there."

[Tatmadaw] "They are there now. There is a battle."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 7.

[When grow up] A teacher.

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Vegetables.

[Sick] "Stomach troubles. And sometimes malaria."

[Fun] Volleyball.

Girl. [Age] 13.

[Standard] Seventh.

[Parents] Father is a teacher.

[From other place] "Yes, in 1988 the Masala came there, so we changed to here."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 7.

[When grow up] "I want to go to Bible school and do religious work."

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables.

[Sick] "I have nosebleeds, and malaria."

[Fun] Volleyball.

Girl. [Age] 11.

[Standard] Fourth.

[Parents] Farmers.

[From other place]. "Yes, we came from another village, we were afraid of the Masala."

[Tatmadaw] "Yes, they came, but I don't remember what happened."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] "Nine, but two died."

[When grow up] A teacher.

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables.

[Sick] Yes, malaria.

[Fun] Volleyball.

Girl. [Age] 12.

[Standard] Fourth.

[Parents] Farmers.

[From other place] "Yes. Masala soldiers came into our village."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] Three.

[When grow up] "I want to go to Bible school"

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Vegetables.

[Sick] Yes, malaria.

[Fun] Volleyball.

Location 5: a village near Kachin Independence Army headquarters

Boy. [Age] 10.

[Standard] Second.

[Parents] "In the KIA."

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.

[When grow up] A pilot.

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Meat.

[Sick] "Never." [Malaria] "Never."

[Fun] High-jumping.

Boy [Age] 10.

[Standard] Second.

[Parents] Rice farmers.

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.

[When grow up] "I want to be a freedom fighter and then take a rest."

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Potatos.

[Sick] "Seldom. Malaria sometimes."

[Fun] "Kicking a ball."

Girl. [Age] 10.  
[Standard] Fourth.  
[Parents] "In the KIA."  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 6.  
[When grow up] A teacher.  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Potatos.  
[Sick] "Often. Malaria."  
[Fun] "Jumping rope with a rope made out of rubber bands."

Girl. [Age] 9.  
[Standard] Second.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Lishi. [Siblings] 4.  
[When grow up] A teacher.  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] "Khao soi." (Noodles, generally eaten instead of rice.)  
[Sick] No. [Malaria] No.  
[Fun] Jumping rope.

Girl. [Age] 10.  
[Standard] Fifth.  
[Parents] "My father is an official in the KIA."  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.  
[When grow up] A teacher.  
[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Cabbage and cauliflower.  
[Sick] "Not often." [Malaria] No.  
[Fun] Jumping rope.

Girl. [Age] 9.  
 [Standard] Second.  
 [Parents] "In the KIA."  
 [Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] 3.  
 [When grow up] A nurse.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Cabbage.  
 [Sick] "Yes, often having a headache." [Malaria] No.  
 [Fun] Jumping rope.

Location 6: Kachin Independence Army headquarters

(all interviewees in Location 6 were soldiers in the KIA)

Boy. [Age] 15.  
 [Standard finished] Fourth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Shan. [Siblings] "Six but four died."  
 [# rice] Three times. [With rice] Fish.  
 [Sick] "Yes, sometimes malaria."  
 [Joined when] 1989. [Joined why] Conscripted.  
 [Army work] Runner.  
 [After Lib.] "Business."  
 [Fun] Football.

Boy. [Age] 17.  
 [Standard finished] Fourth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] "Five died, four are alive."  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] "Anything!"  
 [Sick] "Seldom." [Malaria] "Never."  
 [Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] Conscripted.  
 [Army work] Runner.  
 [After Lib.] "I want to study."  
 [Fun] Football.

Boy. [Age] 15.  
[Standard finished] Third.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Potatos.  
[Sick] "Yes, malaria."  
[Joined when] 1989. [Joined why] "I decided to try my best for the revolution."  
[Army work] Runner.  
[After Lib.] "Studying."  
[Fun] "Some farming."

Boy. [Age] 16.  
[Standard finished] First.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] "Five, now only three left alive."  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Potatos.  
[Sick] "Yes, some malaria."  
[Joined when] 1987. [Joined why] "I didn't want to live in my area."  
[Army work] Runner.  
[After Lib.] "I want to study."  
[Fun] Football.

Boy. [Age] 17.  
[Standard finished] Fifth.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 10.  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Rice soup.  
[Sick] Sometimes malaria.  
[Joined when] 1987. [Joined why] "I was in school, but that summer holiday I joined the KIA to fight for democracy."  
[Army work] Studying for medical work.  
[After Lib.] "A car driver."  
[Fun] Reading.

Boy [Age] 17.  
 [Standard finished] Fifth.  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 2.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Rice soup.  
 [Sick] "Never." [Malaria] No.  
 [Joined when] 1986. [Joined why] "To fight for my country."  
 [Army work] Studying for medical work.  
 [After Lib.] Study medicine.  
 [Fun] Reading.

Boy. [Age] 17.  
 [Standard finished] Sixth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Chin. [Siblings] 5.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Rice soup.  
 [Sick] Sometimes malaria.  
 [Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] "To fight for democracy."  
 [Army work] Studying for medical work.  
 [After Lib.] Study medicine.  
 [Fun] Football.

Boy. [Age] 15.  
 [Standard finished] First.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] 6.  
 [# rice] Three times. [With rice] Potatos.  
 [Sick] "Yes, malaria."  
 [Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] Conscripted.  
 [Army work] "I'm in the Infantry, I came here to GHQ from First Brigade to get supplies."  
 [After Lib.] A jade merchant.  
 [Fun] Football.

Boy. [Age] 15.

[Standard finished] Third.

[Parents] Farmers.

[Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] None.

[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Eggs.

[Sick] "I had polio when I was very young. But now I never get sick."

[Malaria] No.

[Joined when] 1987. [Joined why] "To fight the Masala."

[Army work] "I'm a runner with the Second Brigade."

[After Lib.] A farmer.

[Fun] Reading and tennis.

Boy. [Age] 16.

[Standard finished] None.

[Parents] Farmers.

[Ethnic] Palaung. [Siblings] 3.

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Mustard greens.

[Sick] "Yes, chest pains and some malaria."

[Joined when] 1987. [Joined why] "I joined on my own."

[Army work] Runner.

[After Lib.] "Trading."

[Fun] Playing games with friends.

Girl. [Age] 16.

[Standard finished] Fourth.

[Parents] Farmers.

[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 3.

[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Pork.

[Sick] No. [Malaria] Sometimes.

[Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] Conscripted.

[Army work] "I help in the clinic."

[After Lib.] "I want to study."

[Fun] Singing.



Girl. [Age] 15.  
[Standard finished] Fourth.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 2.  
[# rice] Three times. [With rice] Meat.  
[Sick] No. [Malaria] No.  
[Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] "It was my desire to join. In my village the people were oppressed and tortured by the Tatmadaw."  
[Army work] "Fatigue" (manual labor).  
[After Lib.] Study.  
[Fun] Volleyball.

Girl. [Age] 15.  
[Standard finished] Sixth.  
[Parents] Farmers.  
[Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] 5.  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Indian peas.  
[Sick] "Only some headaches." [Malaria] "Sometimes."  
[Joined when] 1989. [Joined why] "I wanted democracy."  
[Army work] Studying for medical work.  
[After Lib.] "I want to continue as an Army nurse."  
[Fun] Reading.

Girl. [Age] 17.  
[Standard finished] Seventh.  
[Parents] "They are retired KIA soldiers."  
[Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 6 (she is the only one in KIA).  
[# rice] Twice. [With rice] Cabbage.  
[Sick] Colds. [Malaria] No.  
[Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] "I decided to serve as a soldier."  
[Army work] Studying for medical work.  
[After Lib.] "I want to study overseas, then continue as a nurse in military service."  
[Fun] Reading.

Girl. [Age] 16.  
 [Standard finished] Seventh.  
 [Parents] Teachers.  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 5.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Cabbage.  
 [Sick] "Sometimes colds." [Malaria] No.  
 [Joined when] 1990. [Joined why] "I decided to. In my village, people were  
 tortured by the Tatmadaw, so I wanted to be a KIA soldier."  
 [Army work] Sewing.  
 [After Lib.] "I will live with my parents and study."  
 [Fun] Volleyball.

Girl. [Age] 16.  
 [Standard finished] Sixth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Maru. [Siblings] 5.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Rice soup.  
 [Sick] "Some malaria."  
 [Joined when] 1991. [Joined why] "I want to get democracy."  
 [Army work] Studying for medical work.  
 [After Lib.] "I want to continue studying. I want to study English."  
 [Fun] Reading.

Girl. [Age] 17.  
 [Standard finished] Fifth.  
 [Parents] Farmers.  
 [Ethnic] Jingpaw. [Siblings] 2.  
 [# rice] Twice. [With rice] Indian peas.  
 [Sick] "Yes, malaria."  
 [Joined when] 1990.  
 [Joined why] "To get victory."  
 [Army work] Studying for medical work.  
 [After Lib.] "I'll keep serving as a medical worker."  
 [Fun] "Studying and reading medical books."

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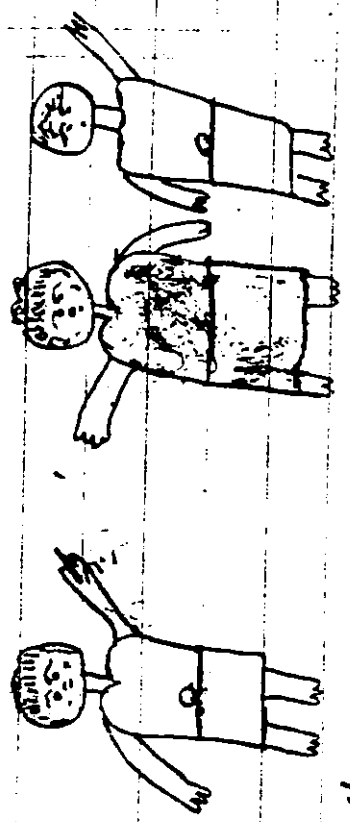
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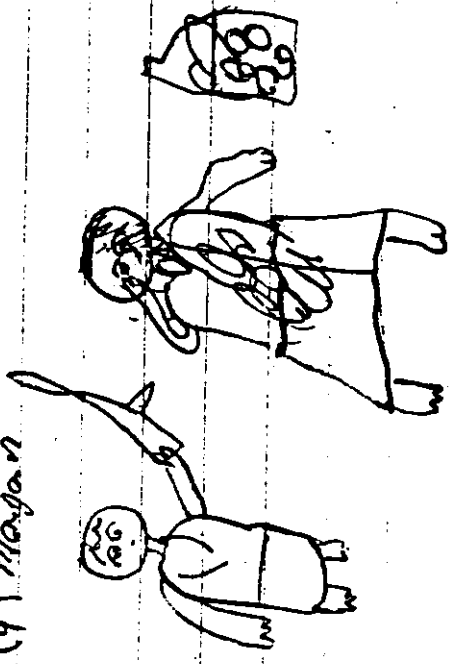
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"MY VILLAGE"

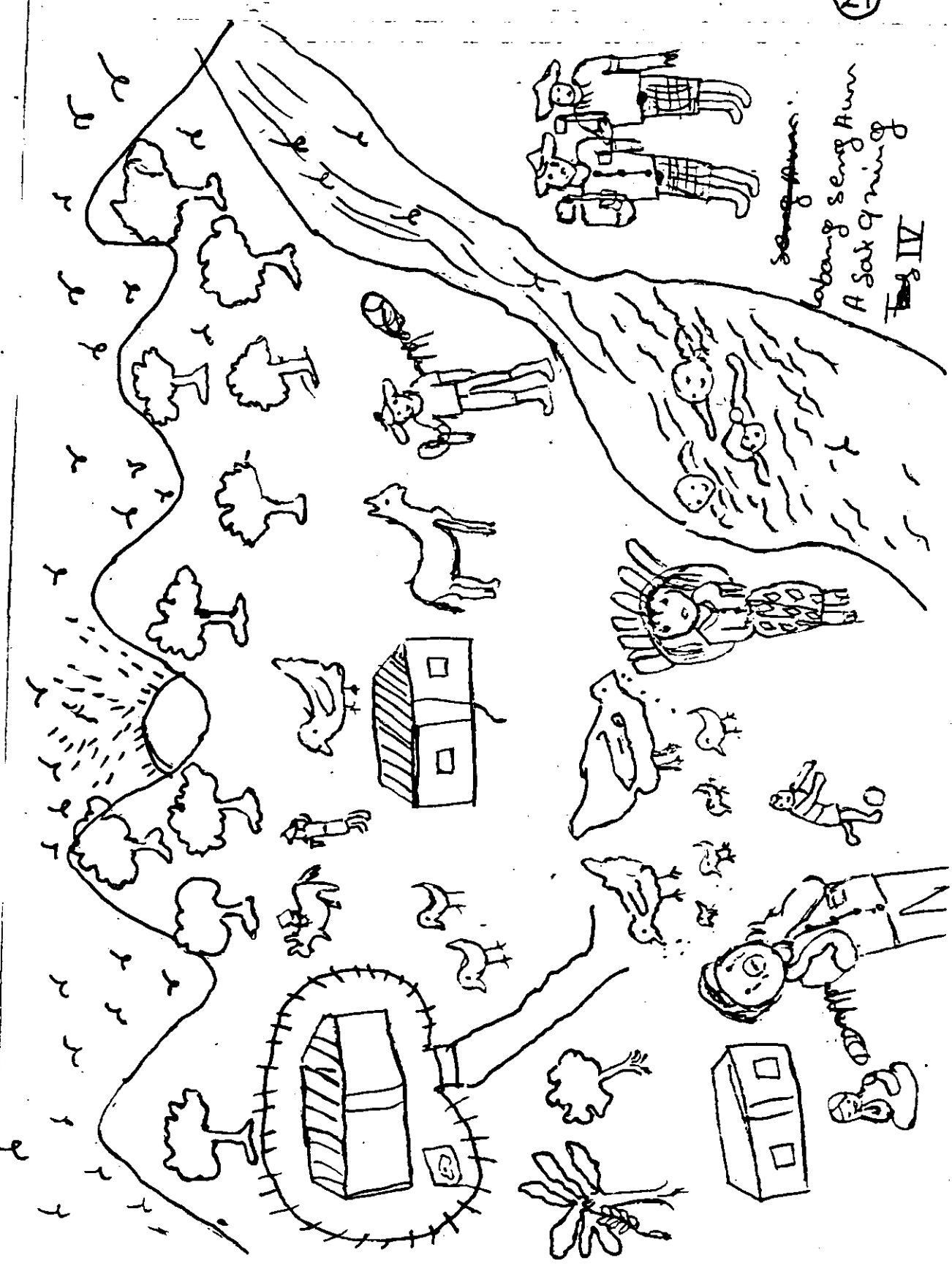
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"MY VILLAGE"



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IV

"MY VILLAGE"





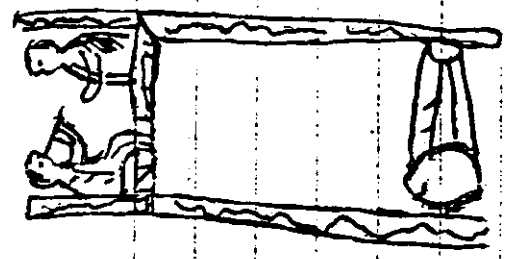
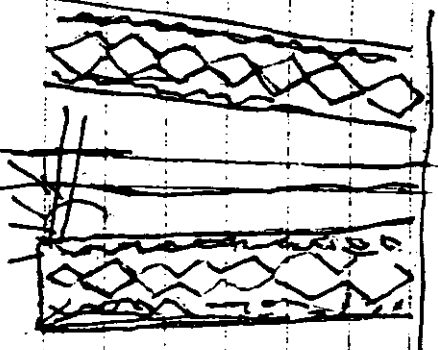
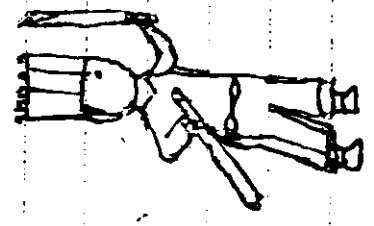
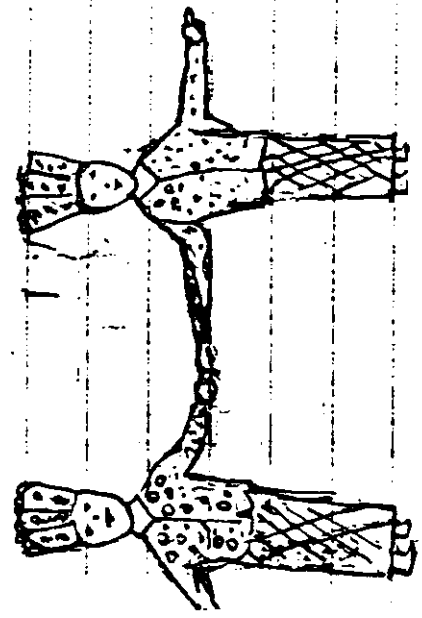
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Asak. 10.

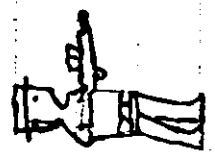
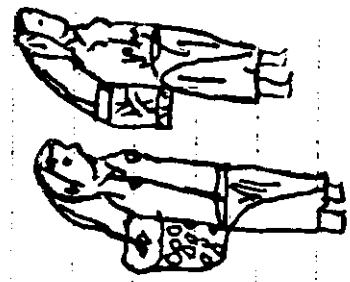
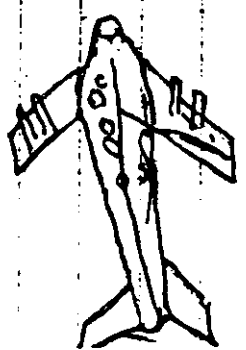
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Tsang IV

BRONG SHAWNG: IIA) 12

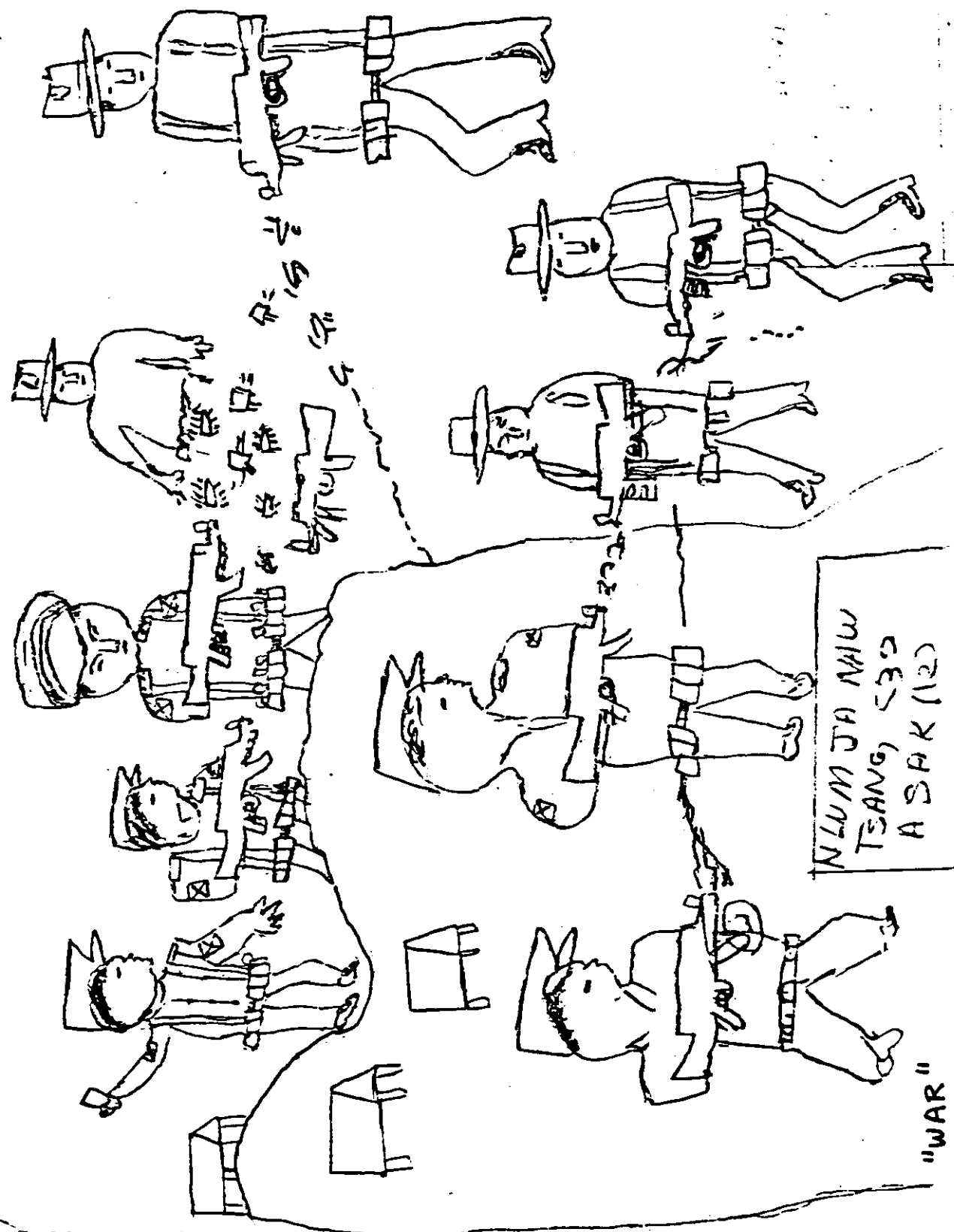


"KACHIN TRADITION"



"WAR"





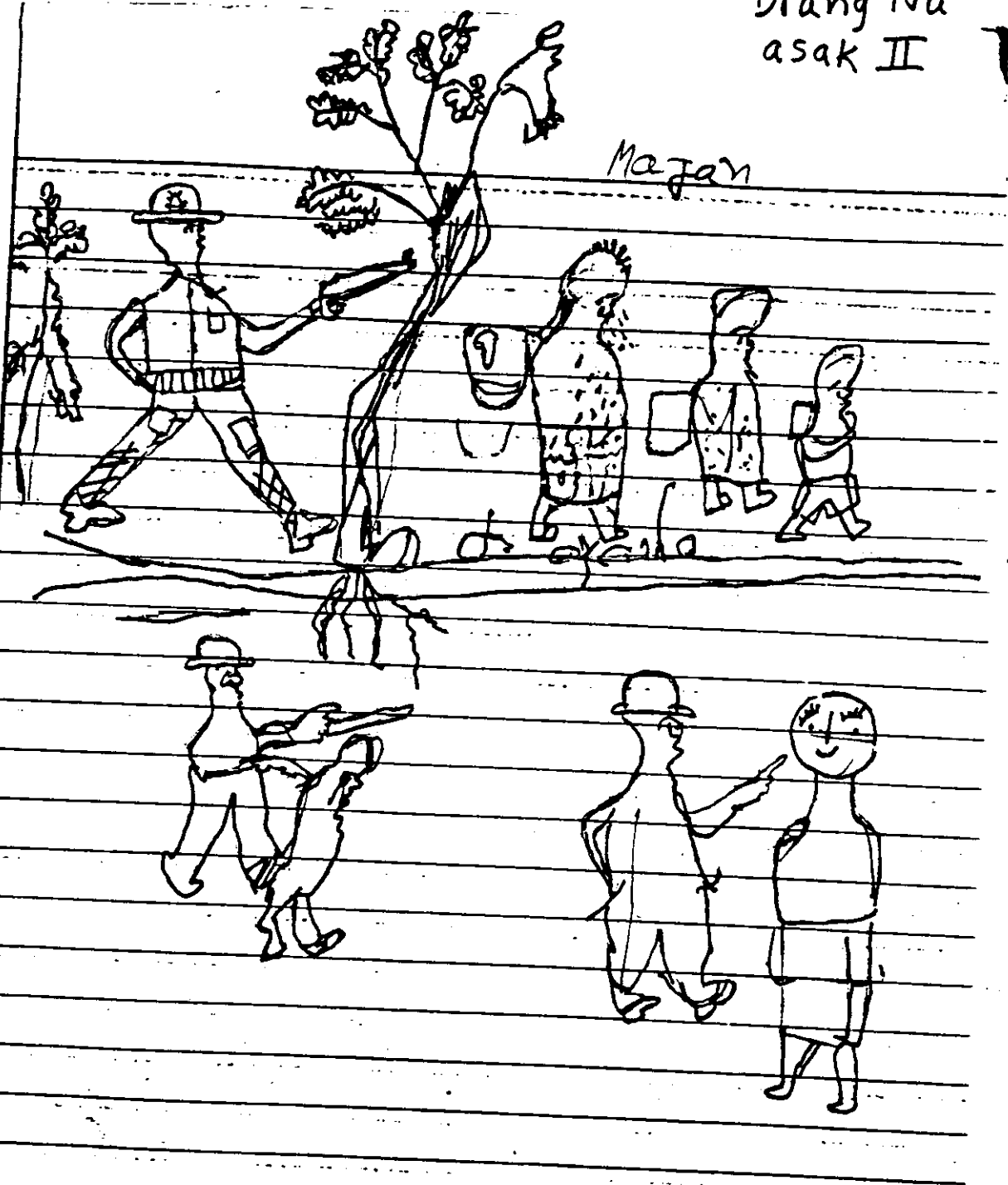
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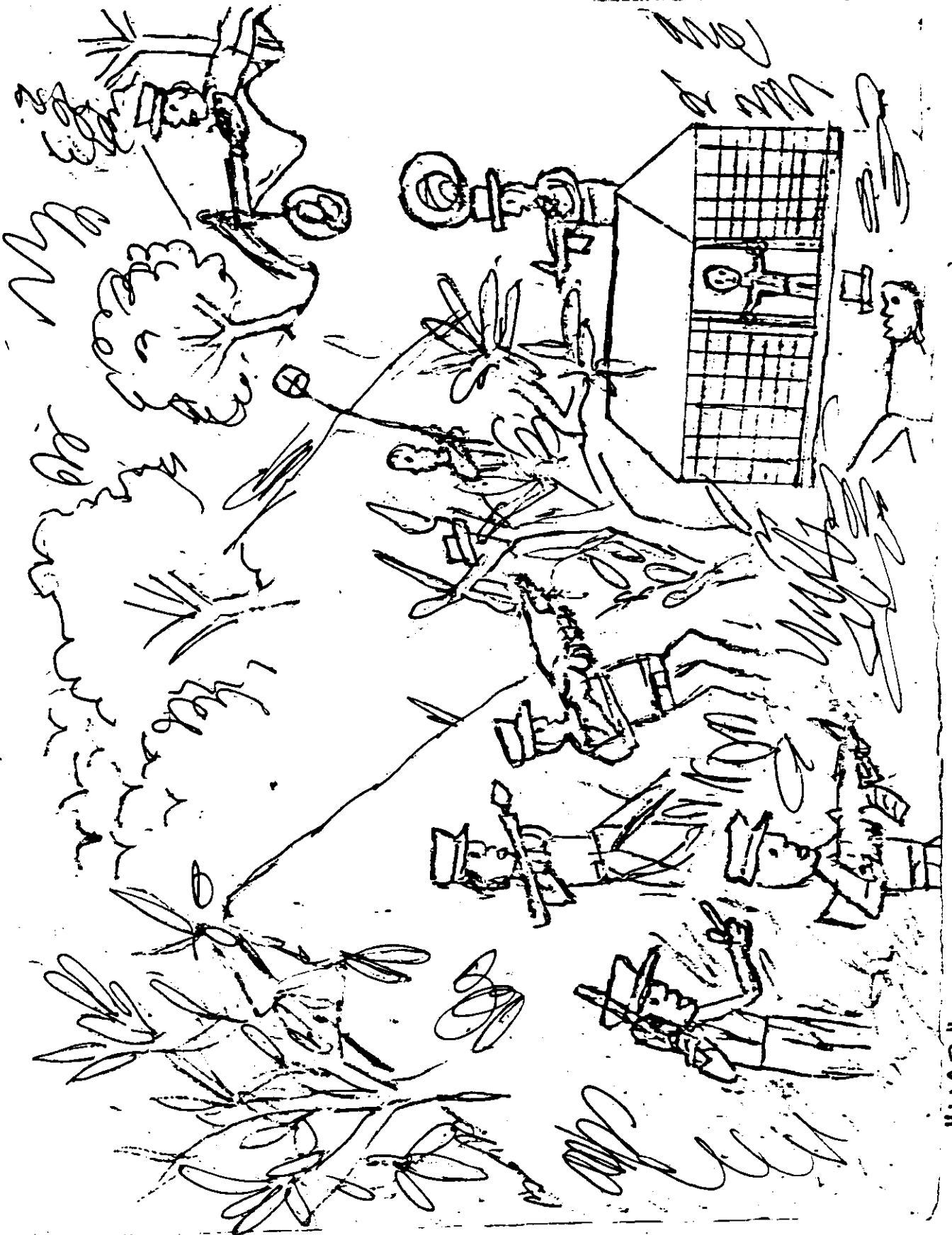
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"WAR"

Brang Nu  
asak II

Majan



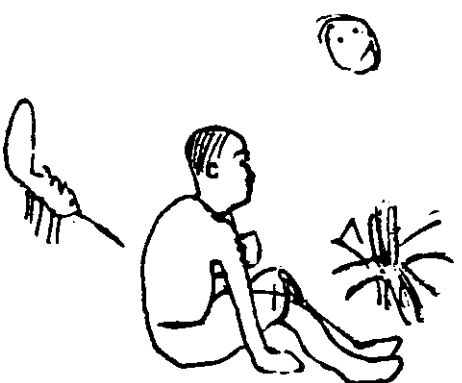
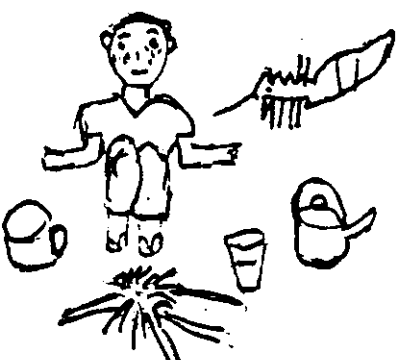
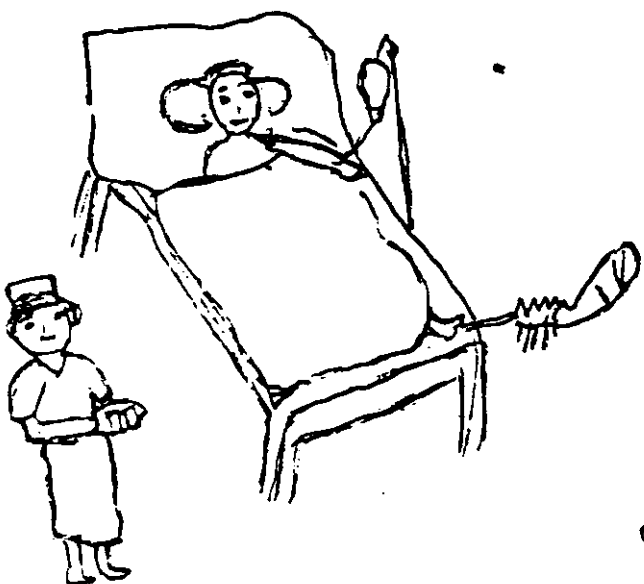


N - DAU LADA  
 ASAK. 11  
 TSANG IV.

"WAR"



DA MAI ROI JA  
ASAK = IIII  
TSANG = IV



"MALARIA"

WHAT YOU CAN DO

. For more background information on the cultures, history and politics of the Kachin State, read Land of Jade by Bertil Lintner (published by Kiscadale Press, 23 Lauriston Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 9HH, Scotland; 1990).

. Contact The Kachinland Foundation for information on ways to help Kachin Women's Association projects such as kindergartens and child health programs; and to contribute funds or materials for civilian schools in the Kachin State. Address: The Kachinland Foundation, 1490 Smithville Rd., Bloomington IN 47401, U.S.A. Telephone, 812-824-2259.

. The Burmese Relief Centre sends funds to refugees in the Kachin State, including students who fled from the cities when the 1988 pro-democracy uprising was crushed. For information, contact: Burmese Relief Centre, PO Box 48, Chiangmai University, Chiangmai 50002, Thailand. Fax, 66-53-212-219.

. The Amoco Corporation has paid millions of dollars to Burma's SLORC dictatorship for a petroleum exploration concession in the Kachin State. Send letters to their C.E.O., urging Amoco to cease doing business that supports the SLORC regime. Address: Mr. H. Laurence Fuller, Chairman of the Board, Amoco Corporation, 200 East Randolph Drive, Post Office Box 87703, Chicago IL 60680-0703, U.S.A.

. The government of the People's Republic of China has been supplying the SLORC dictatorship with advanced weaponry, including fighter-bomber jet aircraft; this is for the SLORC to use against ethnic minority people and pro-democracy civilians. Please write to the Foreign Minister of China, and urge his government to stop sending armaments to the SLORC, and request that China extend humanitarian assistance to war victims in the Kachin State. Ask your friends, family, and colleagues to write letters. Address: Mr. Qian Qichen, Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 225 Chaoyangmennei Dajie, Beijing, People's Republic of China.



End

Project Maje

Year VI