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The most inaccessible of the two dozen-or-so refugee settlements along the Thai-Burma border was the Mon camp at Bee Ree, in the Ye river watershed.

The first part of the journey consisted of an hour-and-a-half's 'long-tail' boat ride, across the lake from Sangkhlaburi, to the site of the abandoned refugee camp at Loh Loe.

An hour or so west of Loh Loe, the path started to zigzag up into the hills, and as we neared the border the forest became gradually more substantial, until we were walking under the canopy of giant hardwood trees. **Although the last rhinoceros in these parts had disappeared some time in the early 1990s**, the area was still home to tigers, wild boar, monkeys and huge eagles.