

SARAWAK

Report No. 69

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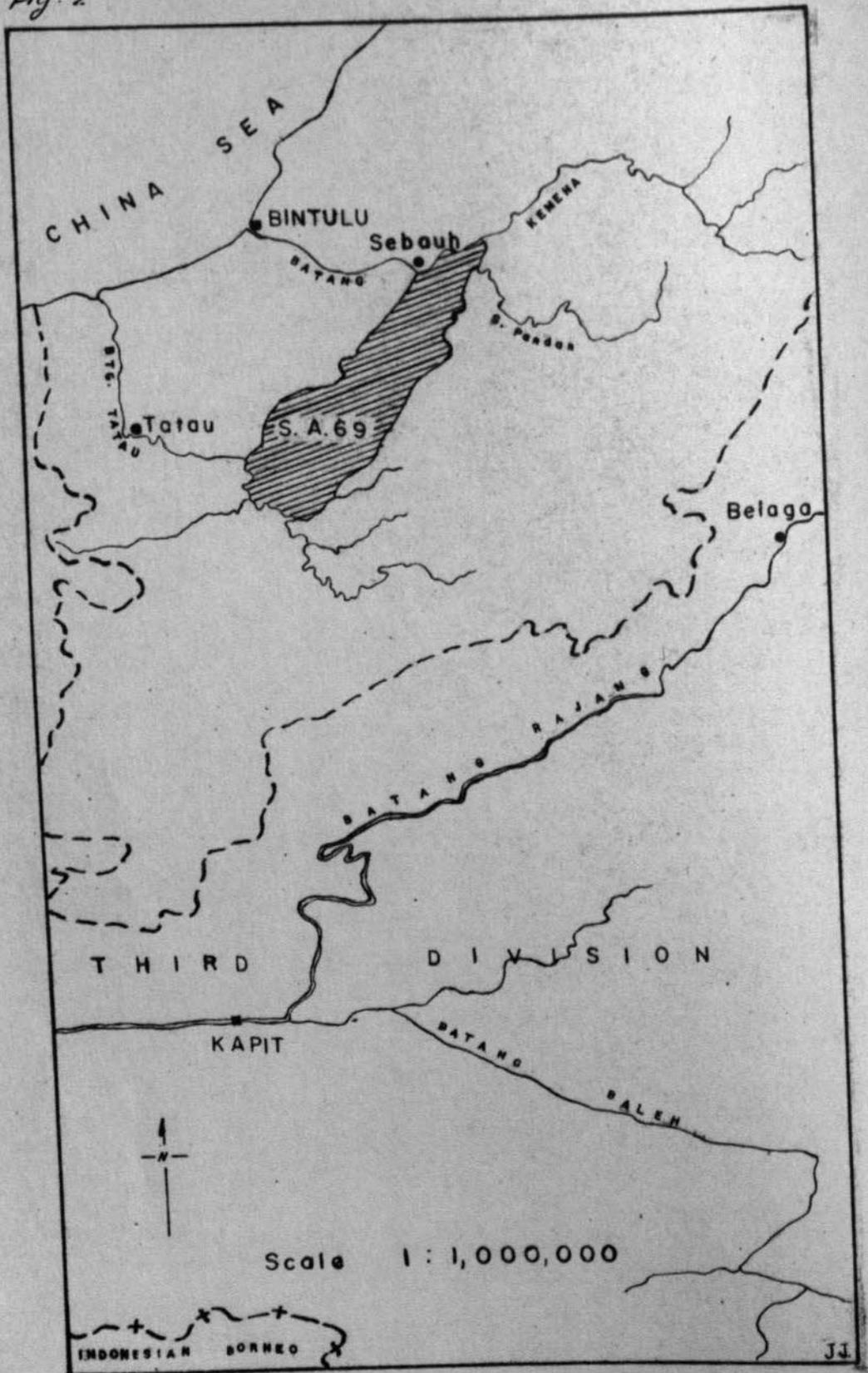
Report on a Terrain Classification
of the
SEBAUH-BT NEGOH AREA

(4 th, Division)

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Fig: 2 LOCATION MAP



REPORT ON A TERRAIN CLASSIFICATION OF THE
SEBAUH-BT. NEGOH AREA, 4th DIVISION,

J.R.D. Wall,
February, 1965.

INTRODUCTION.

A request was made by 4th Division Development Committee for a terrain classification map of a roughly triangular area, bounded in the south by the Tatau and Minah rivers, in the east by the Kelabat stream and in the north and west by parts of the Sebauh River and high land adjacent to Buan Mountain. The area examined borders on and in places extends over that covered by Soil Survey Report Number 22 (Wall, 1962) and totals approximately 340 square miles.

The terrain units are mapped solely by means of air photograph interpretation. Their limits are defined on the key of the map and are explained below in terms of agricultural usage.

- Terrain Class 1. Flat or almost flat land, topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 2. Land with gentle slopes of less than 10° and rising to less than 150 feet above local base level. This type of topography is gently rolling, generally occurs at foothills and is topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 3. Land with gentle to moderately gently slopes of up to 20° and rising to more than 150 feet above local base level. This type of topography is moderately to strongly rolling and is topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 4. Land with gentle to steep slopes and rising to less than 50 feet above local base level. This type of topography ranges from being gently rolling to strongly dissected, and is topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 5. Land with moderately gentle slopes of between 10° and 20° , and between 50 and 150 feet above local base level. This type of topography is moderately rolling, and is topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 6. Land with moderately steep to steep slopes of 20° to 35° and rising to less than 150 feet above local base level. This type of topography is moderately dissected, and is topographically suitable for agriculture.
- Terrain Class 7. Land with moderately steep to steep slopes of 20° to 35° and rising to more than 150 feet above local base level. This type of topography is deeply dissected and is considered topographically marginal for agriculture.

Terrain Class 8. Land with slopes exceeding 35° . This type of topography is steep and is considered topographically unsuitable for agriculture.

The Terrain Map accompanying this report is issued at scale 1:100,000 and is subject to the same qualifying remarks as a reconnaissance soil map would be at the same scale.

The defined limits of the terrain classes are precise, and in the same way that a detailed soil survey has checked accurate boundaries it is possible to produce an accurate large scale terrain map using both large scale air photographs and contoured maps in land cleared of vegetation. Parts of this area are cultivated and the ground with all the minor slope facets can be seen on the air photographs clearly; in other parts however the ground is indistinct or cannot be seen due to poor photography, small scale topography, and/or a thick cover of vegetation. The base map scale is 1:50,000 and at this scale the mapping units although dominated by one terrain class probably contain many small slope facets of other classes, particularly in areas under tall forest. The reduction of the base map to the issued scale of 1:100,000 is done primarily to increase the mapping accuracy, but the same process causes further simplification of the boundaries and grouping of units.

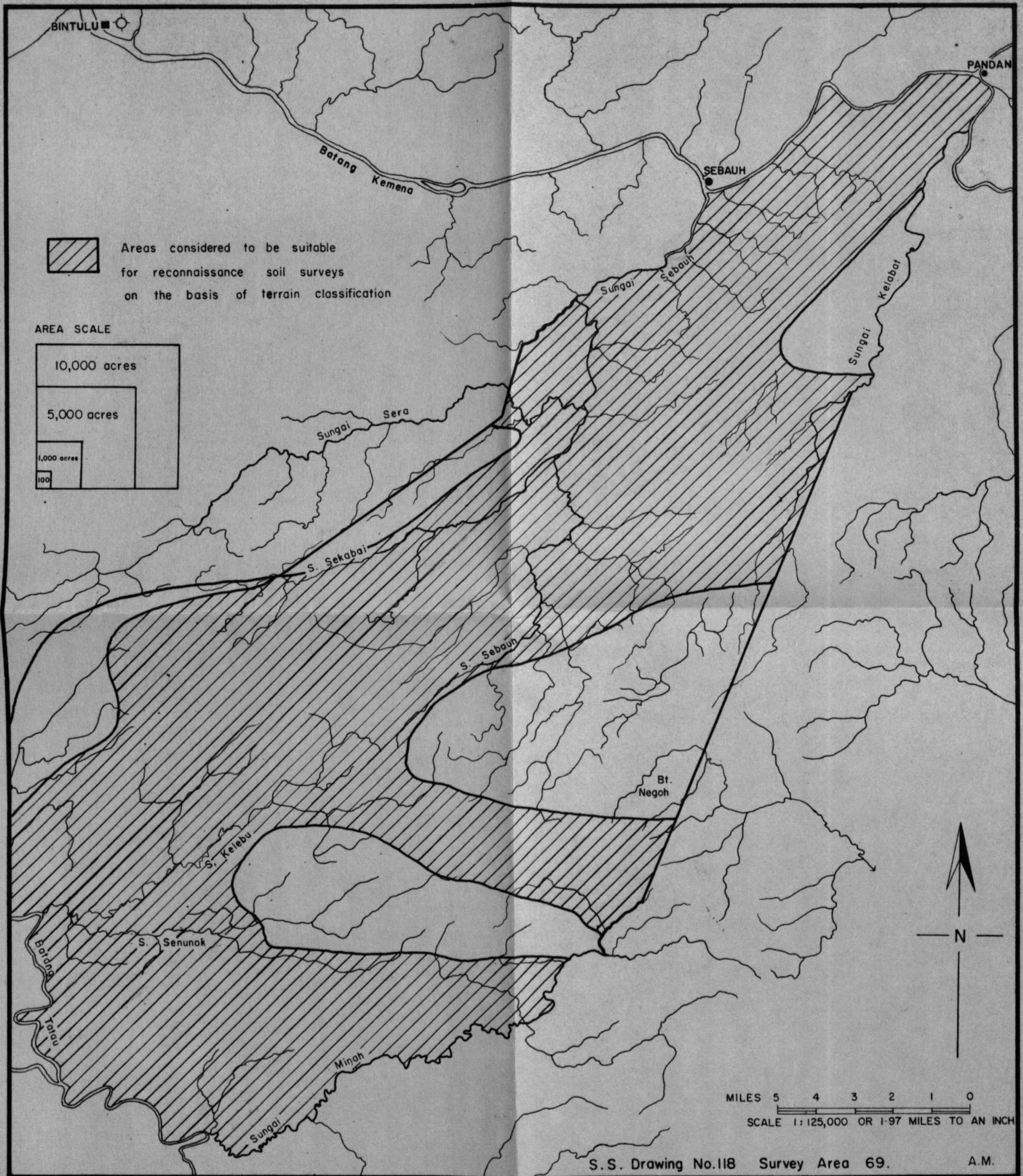
2. TERRAIN OF THE AREA.

Land topographically unsuitable for agriculture in Terrain Class 8 is mapped in small areas only, but is probably common as small slope facets in Terrain Classes 4, 6 and 7.

Large areas of Terrain Class 7 land, topographically marginal for agriculture, occur throughout the hilly areas, and these units probably contain many slope facets of Terrain Class 8 too small to map. This land is high and moderately steep to steep: it has been used for hill rice in the vicinity of the Tatau, Sebauh and Pandan rivers.

Land topographically suitable for agriculture is widespread, particularly in a belt between the upper Biban and the Sera rivers where terrain classes 4, 5 and 6 are dominant. Areas of undulating to rolling terrain classes 2, 3 and 5 are unusually common in a belt fringing flat land in the north where possibly extensive low terraces are in the process of dissection. Terrain Class 1 flat land is dominant in the north but contains much peat swamp vegetation.

Figure 1. Showing schematically the main areas suitable for reconnaissance soil survey.



S.S. Drawing No.118 Survey Area 69.

A.M.

Base map derived from Land and Survey, Series 12.

