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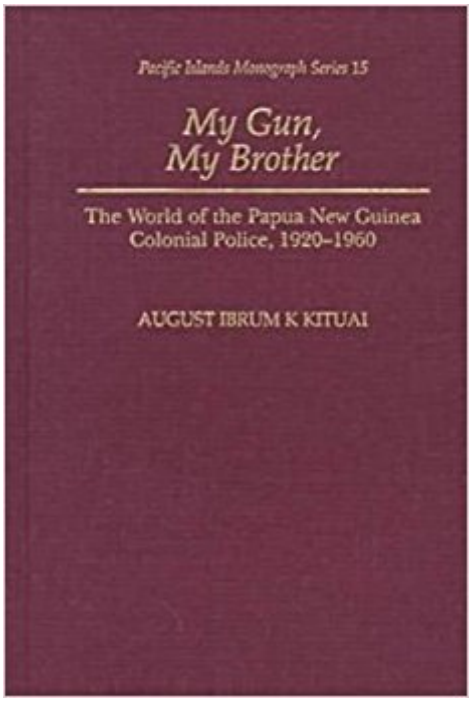

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Synopsis

Despite the heated competition for colonial possessions in Papua New Guinea during the 19th and early 20th centuries, the personnel required to run an effective administration were scarce. As a result, the Australian colonial regime opted for a quick solution - it engaged Papua New Guineans, often to perform the most hazardous and most unpopular responsibilities.

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Customer Reviews

Prior to WW2 The Territory of Papua was an Australian administered colony and New Guinea a Mandated Territory administered by Australia under the auspices of the then League of Nations.Each territory had separate police forces, The Royal Papuan Constabulary and the New Guinea Police Force. Following WW2 New Guinea became a Trust Territory under the auspices of the United Nations and in the early 1950’s the two police forces were amalgamated as the Royal Papuan and New Guinea Constabulary.The constabulary was in many respects para-military armed in later years with the standard SMLE Lee-Enfield .303 rifle on issue to all British Commonwealth military forces plus leather equipment, ammunition pouches and bayonet.Dr Kituai has written what is no doubt the definitive history of the native constabulary covering the period 1920 to 1960 and makes the point that the large bulk of the force was under the command of the field staff of the then Department of District Services and Native Affairs responsible for administering the various districts, sub districts and patrol post areas throughout both territories.Field staff officers held commissioned

rank in the police forces but did not wear uniform.Towns like Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul were gazetted as such and European uniformed police officers had jurisdiction and command of native police posted in confines of the town.The native police were recruited from village life and after training were posted as required to outstations. Generally speaking few were literate and with very few exceptions spoke English. With over seven hundred language groups in PNG, Melanesian "Pidgin" or Police Motu were the common languages spoken within the police force and by field staff officers.

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