

The British South Africa Police in the Great War

From mobile columns 1914-15 to the campaign in
German East Africa 1915-18

with photographs by Sergeant FG Elliot



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PART TWO

THE MOBILE COLUMNS, 1914 AND 1915.



BSAP Patrol crossing Victoria Falls Bridge, 1914 or '15

National Archives of Zimbabwe

The reason for Mobile Columns One and Three: The Victoria Falls Bridge.

The First Mobile Column or Troop was sent to the Victoria Falls on 10th August, 1914, some days after the declaration of war. Its purpose was (a) to ensure the security of the Victoria Falls bridge and (b) to be in a position to take offensive action against the Caprivi Strip, the nearest German occupied territory to the Rhodesias.

A delay ensued while the political authorities deliberated, until on the 13th September, the High Commissioner in Cape Town telegraphed permission to attack the German administrative post of Schuckmannsburg, which was nearly opposite the Northern Rhodesian township of Sesheke.