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## SANDSTONE RIDGES OF THE ST. GEORGE.

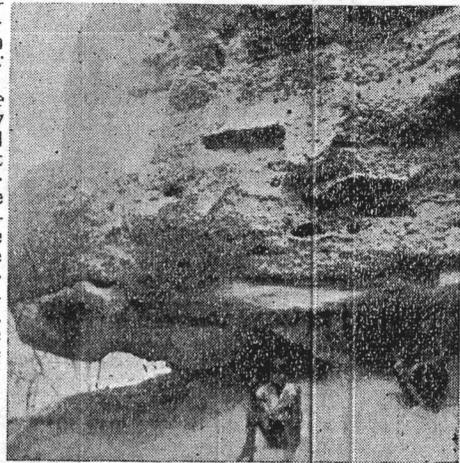
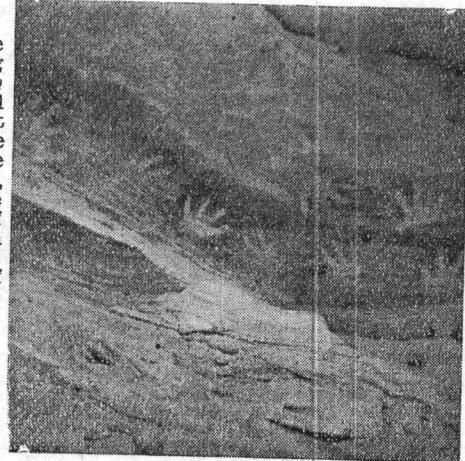
(By D. Veivers).

Twenty-three miles past the Palmer and across the Dividing Range along the route of the overland telegraph, the road crosses the St. George River at its confluence with the Little Kennedy. Several miles before the crossing is reached, a long, narrow ridge of bare sandstone can be observed to the left of the line, running parallel with it to the river, and reforming on the opposite side to run off gradually over several miles into low, grassy hills, with outcrops of exposed sandstone.

These are the "sandstone ridges of the St. George," where is preserved evidence of the existence of the early aboriginal natives, who inhabited this region in years past. There the curious shapes and patterns of the sandstone outcrops, eroded by wind and rain, but still displaying in places examples of aboriginal art, are a monument to a race once supreme in this now dead land.

South of the River, the bare sandstone ridge rises abruptly to an elevation of one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the surrounding country. Here the cliff face has been eroded by weather, resulting in many places in large overhangs. On these faces can be seen the remains of native stencilling, patterns of hands worked in a red-brown substance, apparently prepared from the dried sap of bloodwood trees. To as high as fifteen and twenty feet up the cliff face these designs extend, although in the higher portions the work of wind and rain has accounted for the erasure of many of them.

Below this section, towards the river, deep crevices run into and often through the ridge, usually from one to three feet wide. Apparently the ridge is the haunt of pigs, wild fowl and wallabies, as their tracks and droppings can be seen both on



the summit and at the bottom of the crevices.

On the north bank of the river, the ridge reforms. Here it is mostly a gradual rise to the summit, over grassland with outcrop exposed sandstone. Erosion here too

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