

November 6th. 0200 S.S. "Empire Kinsman", in Port Elizabeth Roads. Tail not less than 11° long (by difference of bearing of head and end of tail).
 2100 S.S. "Orion", in lat. $21^{\circ}24'S.$, long. $104^{\circ}29'E.$ Mag. almost as bright as Venus, tail not less than 10° .
 2130 M.V. "Port Jackson", in lat. $28^{\circ}16'S.$, long. $99^{\circ}34'E.$ Mag. 1. Tail exceptionally bright and long.

November 7th. 0800 Mag. 1.2, tail milky-white.
 0930 Mag. = Venus.
 1200 Tail 5° .
 2100 Tail $6^{\circ} - 7^{\circ}$.
 2140 Mag. 1, tail 5° .
 2330 Mag. 1.1, tail ca 5° . On subsequent mornings tail brightened daily.
 ? Tail ca 5° , fan-shaped.

November 8th. 0120 Mag. 1 - 1.5, tail $15^{\circ} - 20^{\circ}$.
 0400 Mag. 2.
 0820 Mag. 1.6.
 1000 Head remained visible in increasing twilight as long as Spica did (1.2).
 1130 Mag. almost = Venus, tail 26° .
 1700 Tail ca 20° , in form of cone.
 1912 Mag. = Regulus.
 2130 Tail 4° .
 ? Somewhat brighter than Venus, tail greenish-white.

November 9th. 0005 Mag. 2, tail ca 14° .
 0109 Tail 7° .
 0218 Mag. -1.5. Tail ca 4° , "commenced 1° above the comet".
 0530 Mag. between Procyon (0.2) and Spica (1.2), tail $22^{\circ}50'$
 0600 Tail ca 24° , extending from head, about $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ np γ Hydrae to ξ Hydrae.
 0600 Head and tail white. Sketch of head of comet shows it crescent-shaped, with cusps on side away from tail.
 0630 Mag. -1.5. Tail $8^{\circ}02'$.
 0650 Tail $6^{\circ}30'$.
 0845 Tail 6° .
 0849 Mag. 1.8.
 1000 Tail not less than 10° (difference of bearings)
 1600 Mag. 1.1, tail 7° .
 1800 Tail ca 8° .
 1820 Tail $4\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.
 1900 Tail 6° in early dawn.
 1900 Tail 10° .
 2124 Tail $6^{\circ} - 7^{\circ}$.
 ? Mag. 0.1 or 0.2, tail ca 6° .
 ? Tail 10° , $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ wide at end.

November 10th. 0035 Mag. 2, tail ca 18° .
 0500 Tail $3^{\circ} 0'$.
 0530 Mag. 3, tail ca 14° .
 0630 Mag. decreasing, now 0.9. Tail longer than yesterday, i.e. than 8° , and more fanned out.
 0830 Mag. 1.9.
 0950 Mag. 2.5, tail ca 15° .

November 11th. 0030 Tail not less than 10° (from altitudes), pale yellowish.
 0030 Mag. 4.
 0200 Mag. 3, colour white.
 0325 Mag. 4.
 0630 Mag. about same as on 10th (= 0.9).
 0915 Mag. 2, tail 10° .
 0930 Mag. 2.
 0930 Mag. 2.5, tail ca 15° .
 1450 M 1.6, tail 20° .

0.018
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- November 12th. 0000 Tail ca 10°.
0135 Mag. 1.2, tail 20°, brighter than brightest part of Milky Way.
0510 Mag. 3.5. Tail dim close to head (cf observation at 0218 on November 9th).
0600 Mag. = Spica (1.2), tail 10°34'.
0604 Mag. almost = β Corvi (2.8), tail 6°.
0616 Mag. 2.0, tail 19°06'.
0735 Tail 10°.
0830 Mag = Megrez (3.4), tail 10°.
0845 Tail 27°.
0858 Tail 5°12'.
1122 Mag. 3, tail about 15°.
? Tail 10°, 1° wide.
- November 13th. 0350 Mag. 4, tail ca 6°.
0530 Mag. 3.5.
0600 Mag. = Spica (1.2), tail 10°20'.
0655 Head brighter than on 12th, i.e. brighter than 2.8, tail also brighter, 8°51' long.
0720 Tail 20°.
0843 Mag. comparable with Spica.
0847 Tail ca 8°.
0951 Mag. 3, colour white.
1104 Mag. 3, tail 10°.
1505 Mag. 1.0, tail 15°.
? Tail ca 10°, comet less bright than on 10th (when given as Mag. 3).
? Tail rather longer than on 12th (when given as 10°).
- November 14th. 0415 Tail 10° long, ca 3° wide at end.
0500 Tail 10°.
0540 Cirrus veil over sky, mag. probably same as on 13th (3.5).
1045 Mag. 3.5, tail 8°.
1130 Mag. = β Corvi (2.8), tail distinct for 7°, just discernible to 11°.
- November 15th. 0030 Tail 7°
0415 Tail 8°.
0450 Mag. approximately = ϵ Corvi, not so bright as on 14th, tail ca 10°.
1034 Mag. 4, tail 5°.
? Decreasing in brightness.
- November 16th. 0525 Mag. 5, tail hardly visible to naked eye.
1215 Tail 3°, very indistinct to naked eye, bright moonlight.
- November 18th. 0300 Mag. 2.5, bright full moon.
? Decreased in mag. since 15th.
- November 19th. 0100 Mag. 2.4, tail 1°28'.
? Barely visible to naked eye.
- November 20th. 1200 Not bright, but clearly seen with binoculars.
? Almost invisible to naked eye.
? Decreased in mag.
- November 22nd. 0900 Not visible to naked eye.
- November 23rd. 0620 Head and tail clearly visible to naked eye, though brilliant moon.
0900 Not visible to naked eye.
- November 24th. 1203 Mag. 2, tail 1°, colour white.
- November 27th. 0119 Mag. 2, tail 3°30'.
1830 Tail 9°, comet fairly bright.
? Mag. 3 - 4.

November 28th.	0000	Mag. 4, tail ca 4°.
	0400	Mag. 4, tail 3°.
	1805	Tail 8°.
November 29th.	0050	Mag. 3, tail ca 10°.
	0452	Mag. 4, tail 2°.
	?	Mag. 3 - 4.

The following observations were made by one ship, M.V. "Vancouver City", all at 0030, without optical aid.

November 30th.	Still visible.
December 1st.	Hardly discernible (seen, no details, by two other ships on this date).
December 2nd.	Clearly visible.
December 3rd	Clearly visible (at 0430 S.S. "Carlton" reports "Tail very dim to naked eye").
December 5th.	Just visible.

The American S.S. "Onward" reports that the comet was observed nightly in the South Pacific Ocean from November 23rd to December 10th, without optical aid, the brightness and length of tail gradually decreasing until barely visible. No observations on December 11th - 14th. On December 15th, comet only visible with optical aid.

E. W. Barlow

S/S Towell
Ch Long Bros.
Per Said.

? TOORAK

The Astronomer Royal,
Greenwich Observatory,
London.

December 12th 1948.

Recd from A.R. 28.12.48
4.1.49 ^{no copy} & acknowledged with thanks
(for A.R.) & sent MAAC 203, 204

Dear Sir,

The enclosed may be of interest, if not
of use, to you.

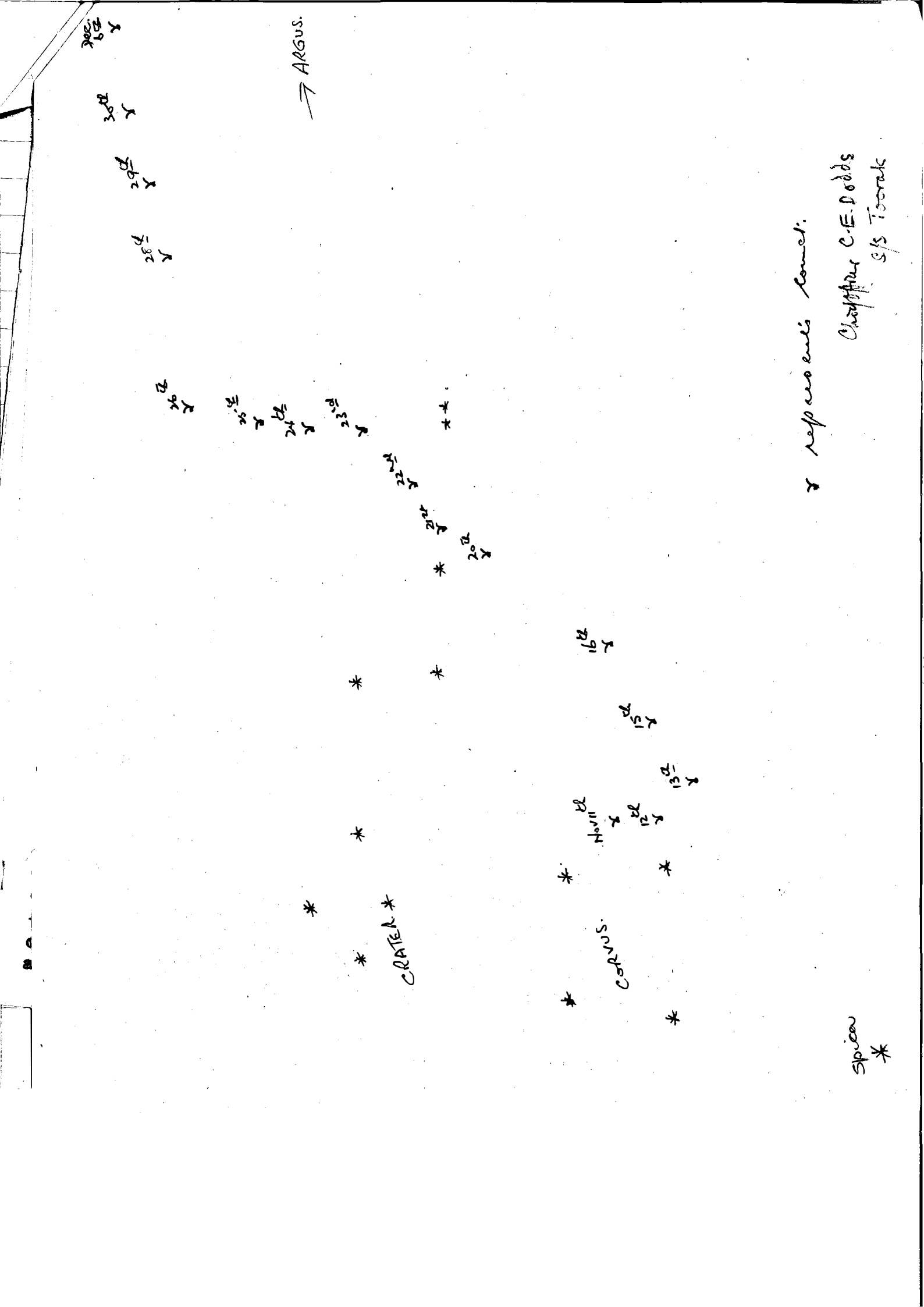
I observed the comet first off Trinidad,
on November 4th at 4.30 AM (8.30 GMT). It was then
near Capricorn and was very brilliant, its tail
measuring almost 20° by sextant.

I followed it daily, when cloud
permitted to Aruba on Nov. 13th, across to
Curaçao, Dec 3rd, and on into the
Mediterranean, losing it on Dec. 6th, though
the sky was clear enough for observation.

It would be most interesting to us, here
in this vessel, to know something about this
comet and if positions of observation would
help you in any way, I would be pleased
to let you have all details.

Yours faithfully,
C. E. Todd S.

Chief Officer



ARGUS.

reparations Compt.

Chapman C.E. Dodds
S/S Torrala

CRATER *

CORRUS.

Spice *

Telephone : 3171
Herstmonceux
Communications should be addressed to Astronomer Royal.
Please quote reference and date of this letter.

Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Herstmonceux Castle,
Hailsham, Sussex.

20th December, 1948.

Dr. G. Merton,
The University Observatory,
Oxford.

Recd 24.12.48
Ans 31.12.48 wordy

Dear Merton,

The enclosed has been sent to me by the Director of the Meteorological Office. I send it on to you for what it is worth. The information about the position is not of much value, but the estimate of the magnitude may be of some interest.

Yours sincerely,

G. Greenhouse

HSJ/BAM



Elevation. 14.6

Elevation. 15.2

The Comet was as bright as a 2nd Magnitude star and its tail was in the opposite direction to the Sun. It appears to rise in the East about 0001.GMT and becomes invisible owing to daylight about 0330.GMT. It is at present near a very bright planet which I believe to be Jupiter.

Recd from R.O. 24.12.48
Ans. 4.1.49 wordy
Thanks
+ MAAO 303 + 304

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observations of it with
as they will be of
Society that may
phenomenical contacts are
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party I have taken by
al subject.

at. 15.37 N, Lon. 32.32 E.
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s being duly corrected

Comet. Date. 10.11.48.
117.7
n. 10.0 0250.GMT.

120.7 Date. 11.11.48.
Time. 0310.GMT.

Thanks
303, 304

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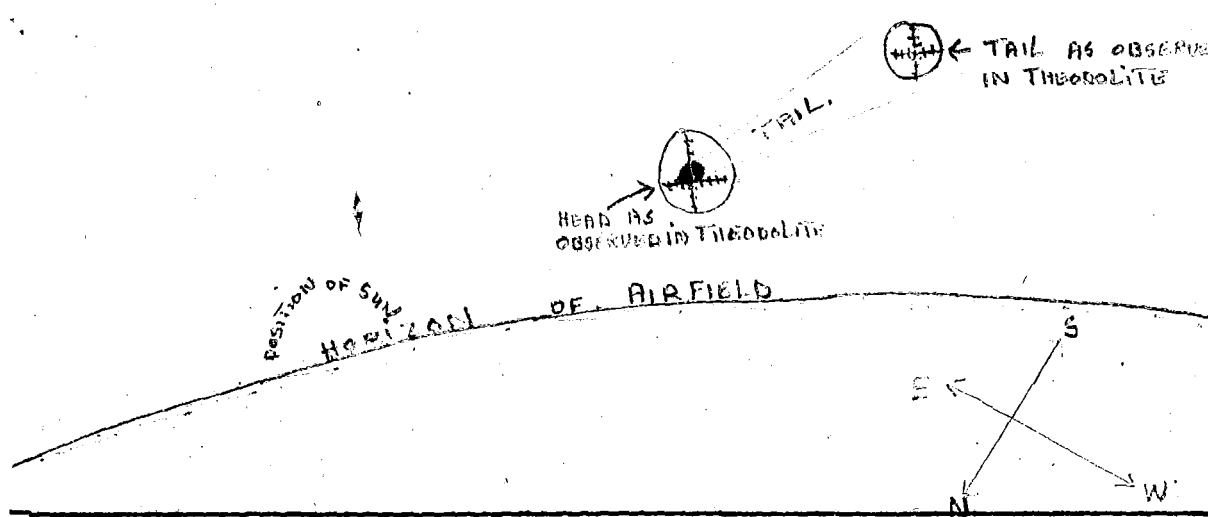
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Venus

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Jupiter Venus

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303, 304

Respectfully Yours

G. I. De Mercade

**G.I. De Mercade.
Acting Met. Briefing Officer.**

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Chief Officer

Telephone: Greenwich 1238

Please address reply to
ASTRONOMER ROYAL
and quote reference

Q12

Your reference 29th December, 1948.

Recd 30.12.48

Dr. G. Merton,
University Observatory,
Oxford.

Dear Merton,

I enclose a couple of
comet letters, with tail details
etc., as well as places.

All the best for New Year.

Yours

R. d' E. Atkinson

R. d' E. Atkinson,
Chief Assistant.

Rd EA/VAB



*2 Memoranda for Sec. (1948)
Photo + ref.*

Royal Observatory,
Greenwich, S.E.10

British Scientist "
Sh Tanker Co., Ltd.,
Pic House,
Bury Circus.
London, E. C. 2.
10th November 1948.

C.2.

18.

*12.48, from Atkinson
9 Nov 48 - 10 Nov 48 + sent
PRAC 303 + 304*

useful information, I beg
of observations of a
on November 11th near

azimuth 122°

(B) below,
21.5" South
21s.

ay (PZ ~ ZX)
) Sec Lat. x Sec Decln.
d triangle.

n,
ude 37° 42' 54" East.
vel) 29.95"
re 83°F.

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rately as possible with

assing through β Corvi

Ship's position at time of Observation,
Latitude 18° 04' 18" north. Longitude 42° 48' 18" East.

Nov. 14th.

From wireless report from s/s Karbagh in position,
Latitude 18° 03' North Longitude 57° 50' East, angular
distance of comet from:-
Spica 18° 22'
 β Corvi 03° 09'
 δ Corvi 10° 24'

S. Arkison
N-IRANIAN OIL COMPANY
LIMITED.
PLEASE REPLY TO
BRITISH TANKER CO. LTD.

BRITANNIC HOUSE,
FINSBURY CIRCUS,
LONDON, E. C. 2.

6th December, 1948.

The Astronomer Royal,
Royal Observatory,
Greenwich,

London S.E. 10.
ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY
MB [Stamp: = 8 DEC 1948] R.H.P.

Dear Sir,

We attach herewith a letter which we have received from the Captain of the m.v. "BRITISH SCIENTIST", containing information of a series of observations relative to a comet which was sighted whilst on passage from Suez to Abadan.

Yours faithfully,

FOR BRITISH TANKER COMPANY LTD.

W. H. Hutchison
CHIEF MARINE SUPERINTENDENT.

m. v. "British Scientist"
C/o British Tanker Co., Ltd.,
Britannic House,
Finsbury Circus,
London. E. C. 2.
20th November 1948.

30-12-48, from Atkinson
Ans 4.1.49 *noisy - thanks & sent*
MASC 303 & 304

Royal Observatory,
Greenwich,
London. S. E. 10.
rs,

In the hope of being able to supply some useful information, I beg to submit the data below, obtained from a series of observations of a comet, which was first observed at 0130 G.M.T. on November 11th near the constellation Corvus.

v. 11th.
02H. 54m. 12s. G.M.T.

Obs. Alt. $13^{\circ} 11' 30''$
Correction $= 10' 42''$
True Alt. $13^{\circ} 00' 48''$
True Azimuth 122°

By calculation, using formulæ (a) & (b) below,
Declination of the body $23^{\circ} 20' 21.5''$ South
Right Ascension of the body 13h. 02m. 21s.

(a) $\text{Hav PX} = \text{Hav Z} \times \text{Sin. PZ} \times \text{Sin. ZX} + \text{Hav (PZ} \sim \text{ZX)}$
(b) $\text{Hav P} = \text{Hav ZX} - \text{Hav (Lat. + Decln.) Sec Lat.} \times \text{Sec Decln.}$
In the "Pole, Zenith, Body" spherical triangle.

Ship's Position at time of Observation,
Latitude $21^{\circ} 44' 42''$ North. Longitude $37^{\circ} 42' 54''$ East.
Barometer (Aneroid @ 46' above Sea Level) 29.95"
Air Temperature 73°F . Sea Temperature 83°F .

v. 12th.
No observations due to body being obscured by cloud from time of rising, until sunrise.

v. 13th.
Angular length of tail (taken as accurately as possible with a sextant) $06^{\circ} 44'$.
Apparent Magnitude of head, 3 to 4
Tail curved slightly away from line passing through β Corvi and ϵ Corvi respectively.
Ship's position at time of Observation,
Latitude $14^{\circ} 04' 18''$ north. Longitude $42^{\circ} 48' 18''$ East.

v. 14th.
From wireless report from s/s Karbagh in position,
Latitude $18^{\circ} 03'$ North Longitude $57^{\circ} 50'$ East, angular distance of comet from:-
Spica $18^{\circ} 22'$
 β Corvi $03^{\circ} 09'$
 δ Corvi $10^{\circ} 24'$

15th.

At 01.15hrs. G.M.T. the following angular distances of the comet from neighbouring stars were obtained:-

♁ Corvi	03 ^o	31'	30"
γ Corvi	10 ^o	02'	00"
Spica	20 ^o	07'	00"

Ship's Position at time of observation,
Latitude 14^o 25' North Longitude 49^o 59' 30" East.
Barometer 29.99" Air Temperature 71^oF.

16th.

At 00.52hrs G.M.T. the following angular distances were obtained:

♁ Corvi	04 ^o	46'	00"
♁ Corvi	05 ^o	47'	00"
♁ Corvi	11^o	07'	00"

Ship's position at time of observation,
Latitude 16^o 03' 30" North Longitude 54^o 00' 00" East
Barometer 29.99" Air Temperature 74^oF.

17th.

At 00.32hrs. G.M.T. the following angular distances were obtained,

♁ Corvi	06 ^o	22'	30"
♁ Corvi	05 ^o	55'	18"
♁ Corvi	11 ^o	07'	00"

Ship's position at time of observation,
Latitude 18^o 54' 12" North Longitude 58^o 03' 00" East
Barometer 30.00" Air Temperature 71^oF.

18th.

At 00.32hrs. G.M.T. the following angular distances were obtained,

♁ Corvi	08 ^o	09'	00"
♁ Corvi	06 ^o	19'	00"
♁ Corvi	13 ^o	20'	30"

Ship's position at time of observation,
Latitude 23^o 03' 30" North Longitude 59^o 22' 30" East
Barometer 29.95" Air Temperature 72^oF.

P.T.O.

9th. At 00.50hrs. G.M.T. the following angular distances were obtained,

♄ Corvi	09°	58'	30"
♃ Corvi	12°	29'	30"
♁ Corvi	07°	17'	30"

Ship's position at time of observation,
 Latitude 26° 22' 30" North Longitude 55° 41' 30" East.
 Barometer 29.94" Air Temperature 75° F.

The comet is now very faint, and further observations cannot be made with any reasonable degree of accuracy

If this comet is one which occasionally re-appears in the heavens I would be interested to learn which one it is, and by whom it was first discovered.

Trusting this information will be of some use to you,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Peter D. Waller

(Peter D. Waller)
Second Officer.

F. L. Morris Master.
 Countersigned..... (F. L. Morris)

J. McKens on

of the Baltic Trading Coy

55 Bishopsgate

The Astronomer Royal,

London.E.C.3.

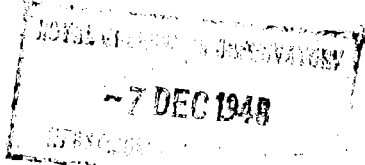
c/o Royal Observatory,

SUEZ (Posting) 26/11/48

Greenwich,

LONDON.S.E.10.

*MIB
012*



642.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed sketch Plan, sextant angles etc of comet, as observed daily from 10/11/48 to 17/11/48; ship on passage from the Persian Gulf to Suez.

The comet was first observed at 0120 hours G.M.T. on the 10th Inst to the East, in position indicated on plan, magnitude was then 3, the tail was approx: 10 degrees in length, and at first sight was mistaken for an aircraft with searchlight.

*They all say this
BSEA*

Sextant angles were taken from a Virginis and stars of Corvo, then, and on subsequent mornings, as listed.

On the 18th Inst the comet was still visible, but insufficiently clear for further observations, there being a bright moon until daylight.

The angles submitted were measured as accurately as possible under conditions of a clear N.E. Monsoon sky, and I forward these particulars trusting they may be of some interest.

As a navigator I take great interest in such phenomenon and would be pleased to know under what name this comet is known.

Yours faithfully,

J. McKens on

Chief Officer. (Master Mariner)

SKETCH PLAN.

November, 1948.

✧ γ Corvi

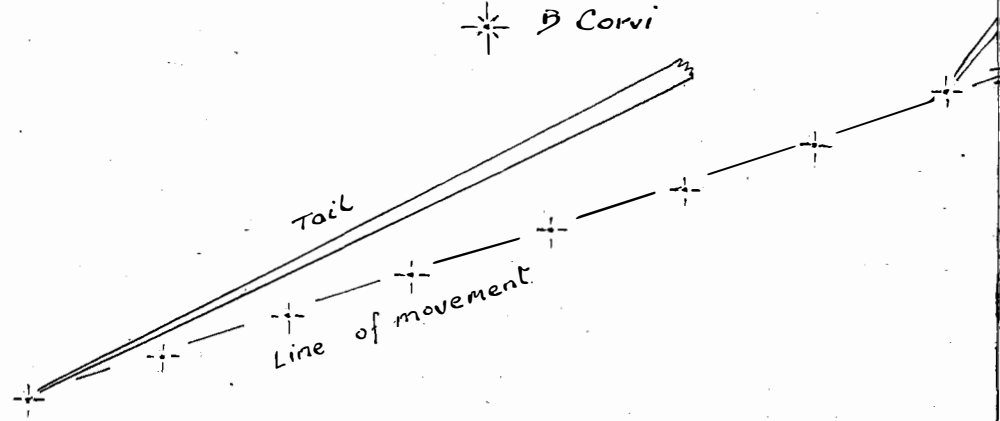
Scale $\frac{1}{32}$ = 5 minutes of Arc.

✧ δ Corvi

✧ ε Corvi

✧ α Virginis

✧ β Corvi



November.	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th.	
G.M.T.	0133	0133	0127	0125	0120	0122	0145	0200	
	<u>First Observed.</u>							<u>Final</u>	<u>Observed</u>

J. H. Reynolds.

DATE November 1948	TIME G.M.T	SHIP'S POSN		OBSERVED ANGLES BETWEEN COMET &				
		Lat.N.	Long.E.	a Virginis	δ Corvi	γ Corvi	ε Corvi	β Corvi
10th	0133	26 43	52 47	12 21	11 48	-	-	-
11th	0133	26 25	56 31	13 41	-	12 56	-	-
12th	0127	23 29	58 47	15 10	10 14	-	-	-
13th	0125	20 33	59 07	16 42	10 02	-	-	-
14th	0120	18 03	57 50	18 22	-	10 24	-	-
15th	0122	16 08	53 28	20 05	-	-	06 34	03 37
16th	0145	14 28	49 53	21 50	-	10 18	05 57	04 49
17th	0200	12 58	46 00	23 36	-	10 48	-	-

Memo of sextant angles measured in plotting
movement of comet, as observed by undersigned.

J. M. Benson.