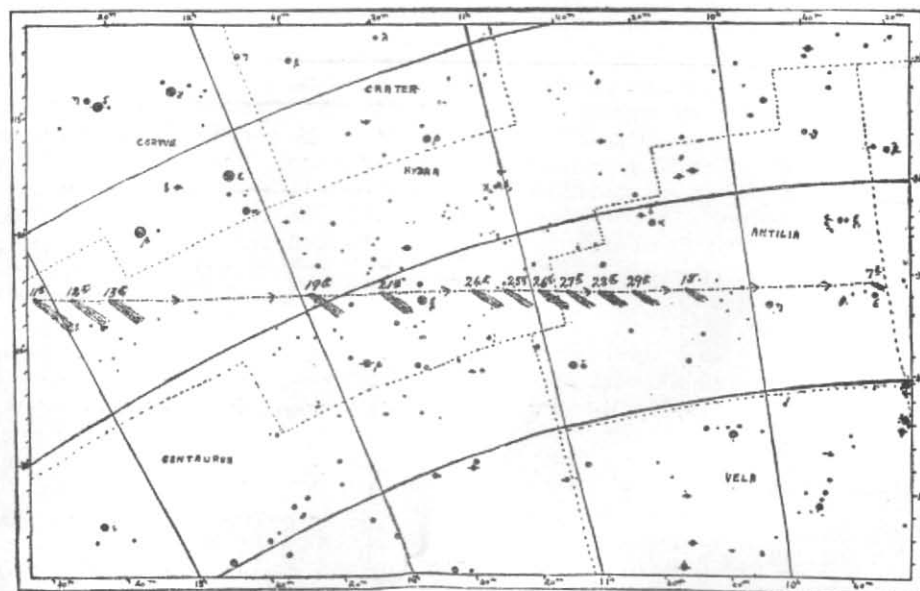


THE COMET OF NOVEMBER, 1948.

The comet, which was first sighted by the pilot of an Australian Aircraft on the morning of 7th November, 1948, was visible to the naked eye in India from 14th November till the end of that month. It is one of the brightest that have been seen since the last appearance of the Hailey's Comet in 1910. The tail of the comet when first sighted subtended an angle of 28° and was pointing approximately in a south-westerly direction. The brightness of the head at that time was about 1.5 stellar magnitude. On 7th December, 1948, when comet was last photographed, it had become very faint (about magnitude 5) and the tail had dwindled to less than 5° . The track of the comet in the celestial sphere as obtained from the observations recorded at the Kodaikanal Observatory between 11th November, 1948 and 7th December, 1948 is shown in the diagram below :



TRACK OF THE COMET OF NOVEMBER 1948

The direction of movement of the comet was approximately westsouthwestwards. It was last observed on 14th December, 1948, in the region of the Milky Way.