The reply to my notes on the ADFGVX suggests a new method - an "Assumption of Width" method. It may be that this method would work very well, but no example of it was given. From a superficial consideration I cannot help thinking there would be considerable difficulty in determining which of the assumed widths is correct, and still more difficulty in deciding where the short columns come. In any case, however, this is not the method I was writing about.

The point that the difference in frequency of V and X in the two tables differentiates their simultaneous appearance from the repetitions at 14-15, etc. is well taken. At the same time, I cannot help thinking that the importance of the phenomenon is over-stressed. · The fact that the letters occur in contradictory positions <u>back to back</u> is of no more significance than would be their occurrence in contradictory positions elsewhere. ⁺hus, are we to conclude from the fact that we have X in messages XIIXXXXXXX III and XI at 124 (even) and V in both messages at 127 (odd), that 124 and 127 do not belong in the same column? If we do so conclude we are wrong, and if we do not so conclude we are inconsistent.

⊥ am disappointed to find no removal of my doubts about the reasoning as to the break at 55. The sentence following figure 4 refers no doubt to the V's and X's back to back. ᴺow G and F are also characteristic letters; but look at 96-97 in messages III and VII. Look also at the V's F's and X at 148-150.

Let nothing disguise the fact that I admire the solution of the messages. My only doubt is as to the general nature of the solution.

P. S. No mention is made of what would be done if the first letters provided no reversals - as might readily be the case.