3 May 1945

—35822

Dear Jackson,

On the point in your first letter: One approach is to say that if a, b, and c are three successive values, then the mean product of (c-b) and (b-a) will involve the mean of $-b^2$, necessarily negative, so that there will be a negative correlation, unless the mean products of successive values ab and bc are sufficiently strongly positive, i.e. with a truly random sequence there will always be a tolerably large negative correlation, about $-\frac{1}{2}$.

As to your second letter, it was to me bright and clear, but I cannot know that the frequency of 3rd captures will be sufficient to make the method practically useful, at least compared with the much greater amount of less direct evidence which you have been getting from second captures.

I am so sorry you have been held up by malaria. Still, your letters show no sign of delirium !

Yours sincerely,