

AHQ., 26 August 1941

The Commander-in-Chief of the Sixth Army

Statement on the report of the 295<sup>th</sup> Division on the events in Bialacerkiev

The report obscures the fact that the Division had ordered that the execution be suspended and for this purpose had requested the consent of the Army. Immediately upon receiving the Division's inquiry by telephone, and following a subsequent conversation with Standartenführer Blobel, I delayed the execution because it had not been properly arranged. I ordered that Standartenführer Blobel and the Field Army Command (A.O.K.) representative to go to Bialacerkiev early on 21 August and investigate the matter. Principally, I have decided that once started the operation should be properly carried through.

The concluding statement contains the sentence: "In the present case however, measures have been taken against women and children that are no different from the atrocities of the enemy, about which the troops are constantly informed."

I must declare this statement to be incorrect as well as unseemly in the extreme and inadvisable. Moreover, it is included in an open letter that passes through many sets of hands.

It would have been better if the report had never been written.

Signed v. Reichenau