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MANSTEIN WAR CRIMES
TRIAL BEGINS

At the Curie House, Hamburg, four years after the end of World War II, a British military court meets for the last major war-crimes trial. Before the Judge Advocate - here with General Sir Frank Simpson - sits 61-year-old, white-haired German Field Marshal Von Manstein, against whom are listed 243 alleged crimes committed, say the Prosecution, during the Polish and Russian campaigns. The early days of the trial are taken up with bitter wrangling as to whether Manstein - having waited this long - should be tried at all. His defence subscribed by private British donation, Manstein pleads Not Guilty ... and waits.