

The First Post-War Months



*Two British soldiers delousing a boy at Neuengamme DP camp, 2 June 1945.
Foto: Sergeant Chitham. (IWM)*

In the evening of 2 May 1945, British troops reached Neuengamme concentration camp and found it to be mostly abandoned. Both the buildings and the infrastructure still seemed suitable for mass accommodation, and so former slave labourers from the Soviet Union who had been deported to the Hamburg area were housed and cared for there only weeks after the camp's liberation. At the same time, other parts of the camp were used to hold German POWs, members of the Waffen SS as well as civilian detainees.

In 1948, the City of Hamburg took over the British internment camp and used it as a prison.