

Administration and Everyday Life

Conditions at CIC 6 were very hard initially, but they improved over time. The internees were given an active part in the administration of the camp. Since the work assignments were voluntary, the detainees had a good deal of spare time in which they pursued extensive cultural activities with the support of the Protestant and Catholic Churches and the Hamburg City Council. They put on concerts and plays, held lectures and formed study groups to further educate themselves. In the summer of 1947, British experts conducted a pilot experiment in the camp with the aim of re-educating Nazis and converting them to democracy.

Many of the internees were released after amnesties had been decreed or their cases had been re-examined. Detainees who had been members of an organisation classified as criminal by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg had to appear in the Bergedorf denazification court before they could be released.