Americans feel and about how Rieu
Kuliczkowskis wanted these two Dutch
Since Rieu makes constant references to
about Rieu’s brazen insult, they also
matter but an international one as well.
said.

We object to anyone who promotes
putdown from a Dutchman like Mr. Rieu.
feeling insulted. “My family took a lot of
walked over to her, readjusted her hat,
number of female cast members walked
insult,” they said.
enjoy a good joke but not a degrading
cheap shot against their ethnic group. “We

held for Rieu ended abruptly that evening
World War II. He is proud of his
through the German Nazi and Russian
Rev. Kuliczkowski’s family lived
flourish.” the Kuliczkowsks said.

able to resist the compulsion to display

misunderstanding. I apologize for that,”
am sure there must have been some
an apology for Rieu’s insensitivity. “I

as Poland. “As for the executives who run the

It was ironic that, just a week earlier, a

Another effective approach to

He has spent time in Poland caring for a

around the fact Israel’s Yad Vashem honors the

or dying. Sometimes we were even

omitted.

the most numerous.

services were originally conducted by

prevalent in past years as they are now.

We slept in the same barracks. Anyone of

the prisoners in Auschwitz were Polish

the Polish people, according to Preisler

728 Polish prisoners arrived that day.

Designated to be in that group were

employed in that list,” said Michael

specific descriptions like “Polish” or

disabled, political prisoners and Gypsies.

728 Polish prisoners arrived that day.

...\"As usual, great care was taken to avoid

Harrell, a 20-year-old from

Germany, said he’s enthusiastic about
going to know Poland and also about helping
other Germans appreciate their

“Catholic” for that list,” said Michael

The way history is viewed and taught in

Around 750 photographs, documents,

focuses on the rocky history of German

Berlin exhibit traces

German-Polish ties on anniversary of Nazi

The Second World War began with the
Nazi invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939.
Nearly 70 years later, a new exhibit in
Berlin, Germany’s National Library
focuses on the rocky history of German-

An article in the DW-WORLD.DE

Around 5,000 of the 250,000 Jews of

around the world for its documentation
It came as no surprise to

This Auschwitz survivor not welcome at N.Y. City
Holocaust Memorial – He’s Polish and he’s a Catholic

Contact: Frank Milewski,
PAC Holocaust Documentation Committee
(718) 263-7000 - Ext. 105

Brooklyn, N.Y. It came as no surprise to
Michael Preisler when a New York City
newspaper quoted a state assemblyman who argued that
the park should exclusively honor the non-Jewish victims of
the Holocaust. Designated to be in that group were
homosexuals, Jews’ victims, the disabled, political prisoners and Gypsies.

“As usual, great care was taken to avoid
specific descriptions like ‘Polish’ or
‘Catholic’ for that list,” said Michael
Preisler of Richmond Hill who survived
more than three years as a prisoner of
Hitler’s SS.

He also survived the bloody January,
1945 Death March out of Auschwitz after
the German railway gave the order to evacuate
the prisoners and transfer them to other
German camps in Austria.

It was no coincidence that the
majority of the inmates at the Brooklyn
park came up just as Preisler’s Holocaust
Documentation Committee of the Polish
American Congress was in the process of
preparing a document to commemorate
the anniversary of the June 14, 1940
opening of Auschwitz when the first
transport of 728 Polish prisoners arrived
at that camp.

Auschwitz was originally intended for
the Polish people, according to Preisler
who said this year marks the first
years of its existence, most of
the prisoners in Auschwitz were Polish
Christians.

“it was like that when I got there,” he
said. Mass transports of Jews began
only after the Nazis devised the ‘Final
Solution’ at the Wannsee Conference in
January, 1942. By the time the war ended,
the largest group murdered there were
Jews. Poles were the second largest.

Preisler emphasized that Jews and
Poles shared a similar existence.

We got the same treatment. We
wore the same uniforms. We were
beaten. We slept in the same barracks.
Anyone of us could be shot dead,
anytime, at any time.

Efforts to compare and differentiate
the suffering of the victims were not
prevalent in past years as they are now.

Preisler still recalls how joint memorial
services were conducted by lighting
eleven candles: six for the six
g million Jews and five for the so-called
“others” of which Polish Christians were
the most numerous.

As age and death began to take their
tool on the survivors and fewer remained
who knew the facts and could tell the complete
story of the events they were now.
From the usual ceremony and only six
candles were lighted while the rest were
omitted.

...then the media started to portray us
as mere by-standers who looked on and
did nothing while someone else was suffering
or dying. Sometimes we were even
accused of being the perpetrators despite
the fact Israel’s Yad Vashem honors the
Polish Jewish people, another community
who rescued Jews more than anyone else.

Preisler visits many schools and
tells the children about the events at
Auschwitz. The Holocaust and how
so many different people become its victims.
Those who hate are rarely treated to their
hate just once,” he says. 

Berlin Exhibit to page 7