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## Web site documents deaf experience during World War II

*Democrat and Chronicle* - January 23, 2007

Patricia Durr

Guest essayist

(January 23, 2007) – A Web site to help make the experiences of deaf people during World War II better known is now available through the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

This site, [www.rit.edu/deafww2](http://www.rit.edu/deafww2), which features videotape clips, testimonies, articles, scripts, artwork, books and related links, explores an area of deaf studies that until now has lacked information.

The site grew out of several years of research and is designed for students, teachers, scholars, researchers and historians.

This site is of particular importance given that many remaining deaf survivors and eyewitnesses of WWII have passed away or will within the coming years. Their stories and experiences need to be preserved and shared. Historians also need to examine records, testimonies and history within the context of the deaf experience.

Under the video section on works from NTID is a new 25-minute documentary titled *Exodus: A Deaf Jewish Family Escapes Nazi Europe*, which features the story of a family as it struggles to get out of Austria before it is too late – only to be detained at Ellis Island. The film is viewable online and features ASL with English voiceover and subtitles.

Durr is an associate professor, National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

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National Technical Institute for the Deaf

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