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#### Recommended Citation

Durr, P. (2006). "Deaf People and World War II." Deaf History International Newsletter, 27, pp.9.

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# DEAF PEOPLE AND WORLD WAR II

By Patricia Durr, Associate Professor, Department of Culture and Creative Studies, NTID at RIT (USA)

For the past four years, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology has been amassing materials on Deaf People during World War II. We have created a prototype/draft website, which will be modified and enhanced in the coming months before it is made public. Using a high speed Internet connection, you can accessed it at

<http://idea3.rit.edu/paddhd/publicww2>

Interactive slideshows and video components will be added. Furthermore, newly found or created information will be installed as well.

The site is broken down into three main spheres - Deaf Americans, Deaf Europeans, and Deaf Asians. The site currently features streaming videotaped testimonies of Deaf survivors of the Holocaust, which have been captioned by NTID. The Shoah Foundation has allowed us to post in their entirety 5 Deaf related testimonies as streaming media. These testimonies are invaluable to researchers to gain a more complete and thorough understanding of the Shoah. Several other important video clips are housed in the site as well and many more will be added.

NTID is in the process of translating several other testimonies and videotapes (Israeli, Japanese, French, etc) to be able to caption these works into English as well for viewers who do not know the sign and

printed languages used in the programs.

The site has bibliography listings for books, articles, scripts, and videotapes. The Links section has imbedded links to other important websites on the subject as well as a works cited listing with links to all the materials within the site.

Joan Naturale of the RIT Wallace Memorial Library has secured copyright permission for original works, articles, and primary documents to be reproduced within this site. Simon Ting and Cathy Clarke have been instrumental in the development of this prototype website. Patti Durr has served as the content expert in seeking out the various materials and determining how the content would be organized.

We are indebted to all of the authors, copyright holders,

publishers, filmmakers, etc who have allowed us to share their work. It is our great hope that by gathering this material together under one site, future researchers will be able to access them and undertake further scholarship in this area in order to advance our understanding of the Deaf experience during World War II.

The site will continue to be added to and redesigned as more permission and materials come in so please bookmark the site. When the site is open to the public a new address will be given and an announcement will follow.

Please contact us at [PADDHD@RIT.EDU](mailto:PADDHD@RIT.EDU) if you know of additional work that could be added to this site or if you wish to offer any input on its design, layout, content, etc.

