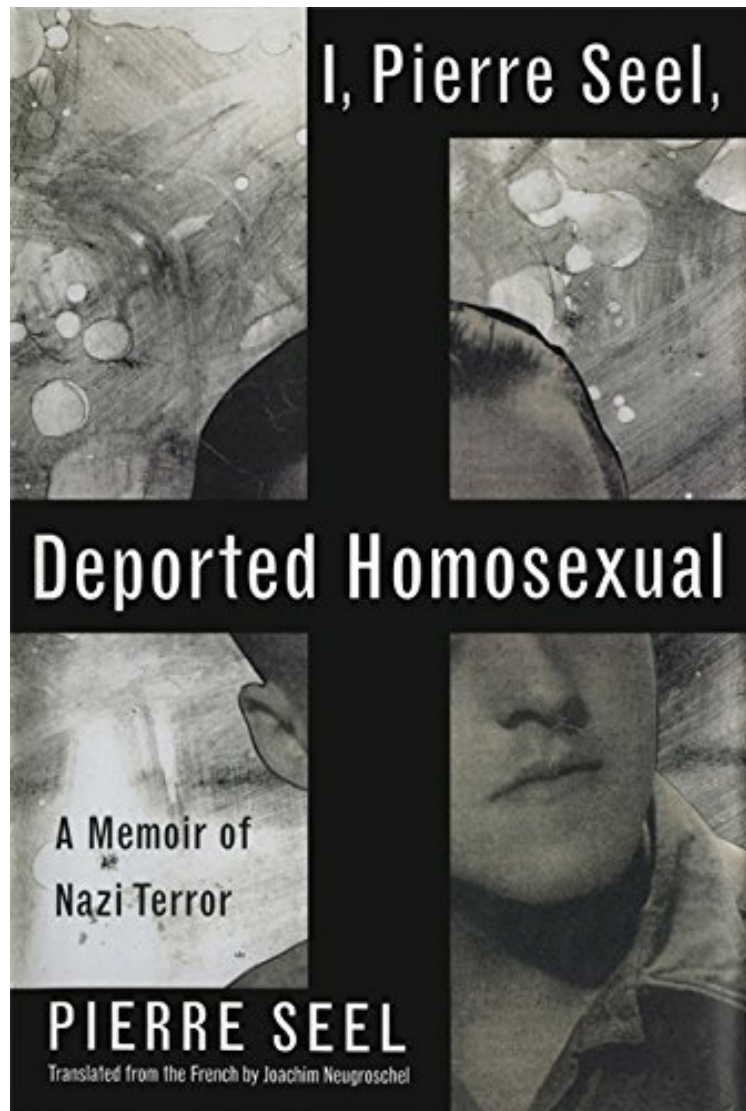


## I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual: A Memoir of Nazi Terror

*Pierre Seel*

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**Pierre Seel : I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual: A Memoir of Nazi Terror** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I, Pierre Seel, Deported Homosexual: A Memoir of Nazi Terror:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A justifiably bitter angry memoir By Gwynn B. Owens Having just read Richard Plant's The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals, I had a background with which to better absorb the rawness and incredible bitterness of Seel's journey. His experiences led him to deny who he was for nearly forty years. After witnessing his lover being torn to death and eaten by the dogs in the concentration camp, being

starved, beaten, somehow drafted into the German army, and surviving other horrific ordeals he managed to return home only to discover he had lost himself. He married to escape from his memories but was terrified his wife and children would discover his secret, leading ultimately to divorce. But when he felt compelled to come out, his wife and children supported his decision. When this was written he was seventy still fighting for reparation from France. A quick read but profoundly moving of a young man of eighteen whose innocence was not only destroyed but ultimately his very identity stolen til grief, anger, and his deepening depression overcame his reluctance and fear of stepping forward with his story. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very good book, excellently written By Manisha Mukherjee Very good book, excellently written. Shocking too. I never thought this book would be so good. I too have the question : how come no one else wrote about the incident Pierre's friend was murdered by dogs encouraged by Nazis. The writing is simple and honest. At least that is what I felt. All the holocaust books raise a question how a human being can be so inhuman ? I shall never find a reply. I postponed buying this book as I do not like the word " Homosexual" or " Lesbian", but after reading this book, I really felt for them, as I felt for the other victims. I shall request others to read this book, if they are interested to know the truth about Nazis. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a must read in gay history and Holocaust history. By jane the reader Great read, sad story, good endnotes by Le Bitoux.

On a fateful day in May 1941, in Nazi-occupied Strasbourg, seventeen-year- old Pierre Seel was summoned by the Gestapo. This was the beginning of his journey through the horrors of a concentration camp. For nearly forty years, Seel kept this secret in order to hide his homosexuality. Eventually he decided to speak out, bearing witness to an aspect of the Holocaust rarely seen. This edition, with a new foreword from gay-literature historian Gregory Woods, is an extraordinary firsthand account of the Nazi roundup and the deportation of homosexuals.

From Publishers Weekly After years of anguished silence, French-born Seel came out of the closet in 1981 at the age of 58 to bear witness to the Nazi deportation of homosexuals during WWII. In this brief, powerful memoir, he recalls the details of his arrest and torture by the Gestapo and his horrific experiences at a concentration camp in Alsace, where homosexuals were the most despised of prisoners. Inexplicably released in 1941, he was drafted into the German army, saw action on various fronts and managed to survive the war. Convinced by a priest that he was in a state of mortal sin, Seel set out to eradicate his homosexuality, keeping silent for years about his "pink triangle" past. But in 1981, outraged by a prominent bishop's characterization of homosexuals as "sick," he became inspired with a sense of obligation to obtain recognition for what had happened to some 350,000 homosexuals during the war, and his public statements became a cause celebre in France. Seel remains active at 72 in his personal crusade, publicly airing the long-overlooked tragedy of the homosexual holocaust. His account of his suffering and his plea for justice are heartrending in their dignified restraint. Illustrations. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Seel was abducted by the Germans from his home in Alsace, France, because his name appeared on a police list of suspected homosexuals. He was then subjected to ghastly torture, later conscripted into the German army, and eventually taken prisoner by the Russians. His testimony and plight do not end there. After years of a difficult marriage and attempts to overcome his shame, he now seeks the same recognition other victims of the Nazis receive from the French government. This harrowing tale may be overwhelming for some, but it gives new depth to human witness of the most horrific act of the century. Though there is an enormous Holocaust literature, relatively little deals with the Nazi internment of gays. A notable exception is Heinz Heger's *The Men with the Pink Triangle* (Alyson Books, 1994. 2d ed.). For public libraries. David Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French