

Ralph Peters

Retired Army Officer, Author, Strategist and New York Post Opinion Columnist

Ralph Peters (born 1952) is a retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel, novelist and essayist. He has sometimes written under the nom-de-plume Owen Parry.

Personal

Peters was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, but grew up in Schuylkill Haven. His father was a coal miner and unsuccessful businessman. Peters has written "I am a miner's son, and my father was a self-made man who unmade himself in my youth."

His wife, Katherine McIntire Peters, is a reporter for Government Executive magazine (a property of National Journal Group, Inc.)

Military career

Peters enlisted in the Army as a private in 1976, after attending Pennsylvania State University.^[1]

After returning from Germany, Peters attended Officer Candidate School and received a commission in 1980.^{[2][3]} . Subsequently, he served with 1st Battalion - 46th Infantry Regiment, then part of the 1st Armored Division,^[4] .

He spent ten years in Germany working in military intelligence. Years later, during the 2004 Killian documents controversy, Peters pointed out that in his front-line division in 1977, five years after the memos in question were allegedly written, only the general's secretary had an electric typewriter. It was, he says, too primitive to produce the documents in question, and moreover, National Guard units "...got the junk we didn't want."

Peters later became a Foreign Area Officer, specializing in the Soviet Union. He attended the Command and General Staff College. His last assignment was to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence. He retired in 1998 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Writing career

Peters has appeared on PBS, FOX News, CNN and other networks with commentary on military issues and current affairs.

Peters's first novel was *Bravo Romeo*, a spy thriller set in West Germany. His novels progressed from futuristic scenarios involving the Red Army to contemporary terrorism and failed state issues. His characters are often presented as military mavericks who have the knowledge and courage to tackle problems others can't or won't.

His latest book is titled *Wars of Blood and Faith: The Conflicts That Will Shape the 21st Century*, and was released on July 15, 2007.

Peters is a regular contributor to the military history magazine, *Armchair General*, and also serves on its Advisory Board.

Peters has published numerous essays on strategy in military journals such as *Parameters*, *Military Review*, and *Armed Forces Journal*, reports for the United States Marine Corps Center for Emerging Threats and Opportunities, writes a regular opinion column for the *New York Post*, and has written essays and columns for *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *The Weekly Standard*, *The Washington Monthly* and *Army* magazine. He has reported from Iraq, Israel, West Africa and other trouble spots.

He has published six collections of his essays and columns, listed below.

Novels

- As Ralph Peters
 - *Bravo Romeo* - 1981
 - *Red Army* - 1989
 - *The War in 2020* - 1991
 - *The Perfect Soldier* - 1995
 - *The Devil's Garden* - 1998
 - *Twilight of Heroes* - 1999
 - *Traitor* - 1999
 - *Flames of Heaven: A Novel of the End of the Soviet Union* - 2003

- Abel Jones Series (as "Owen Parry", pseudonym of Ralph Peters)
 - *Faded Coat of Blue* - 2000
 - *Shadows of Glory* - 2000
 - *Call Each River Jordan* - 2001
 - *Honor's Kingdom* - 2002
 - *Our Simple Gifts: Civil War Christmas Tales* - 2002
 - *Bold Sons of Erin* - 2003
 - *Strike the Harp!: American Christmas Stories - Rebels of Babylon* - 2005

Nonfiction

- *Fighting for the Future: Will America Triumph?* - 1999
- *Beyond Terror: Strategy in a Changing World* - 2002
- *Beyond Baghdad: Postmodern War and Peace* - 2003
- *New Glory: Expanding America's Global Supremacy* - 2005
- *Never Quit the Fight* - 2006
- *Wars of Blood and Faith: The Conflicts That Will Shape the 21st Century* - 2007
- *Looking For Trouble: Adventures in a Broken World* - 2008