

Command Failure
Book Proposal
Biography of Peter Stekel

Peter Stekel (www.peterstekel.com) is the author of two World War II aviation history books. His specialty is addressing military aircraft accidents and fatalities during training exercises in the mountains of California. Stekel is well known by aviation archaeologists and historians for his deep research and attention to historical details.

Stekel's interest in military aviation accidents stems from his discovery in 2007 of the remains of a World War II aviator in the Mendel Glacier of Kings Canyon National Park. That story, and how the aviator became entombed in the glacier in 1942, became the basis for *Final Flight-the Mystery of a WWII Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra* (2010 Wilderness Press www.FinalFlightTheBook.com). His second World War II history book, *Beneath Haunted Waters-the Tragic Tale of Two B-24s Lost in the Sierra Nevada Mountains During World War II*, explores the 1943 mysterious disappearance of two Liberator bombers and their decades later discovery (2017 Lyons Press www.BeneathHauntedWaters.com).

Raised and educated in California, Peter Stekel has a BA in botany from UC Davis and did graduate work in ecology at Humboldt State University. Stekel holds a secondary school teaching certificate in life science and has worked as a high school biology teacher, outdoor school educator, and laboratory/field scientist. He possesses well-rounded freelance writer credentials having published over 700 feature and news articles in over 40 periodicals and newspapers. He has covered such diverse topics as American history, Olympic sports, homelessness, travel and recreation, theater and entertainment, and local politics.

Peter Stekel has spent his life hiking, climbing, and studying the natural history of California's Sierra Nevada mountains. He brings this breath and depth of knowledge and experience to good use in his World War II aviation history books as he studies the airplane crashes that have occurred in these mountains.

Stekel is also the author of the best-selling *Best Hikes Seattle* (3rd ed), *Best Wildflower Hikes Western Washington*, a novel, and a memoir.

Peter Stekel lives in Seattle, Washington.