FAMOUS Spies

AN ESPIONAGE SERIES

JOHN WALKER b. 1937

In December 1967, John Anthony Walker Jr. walked into the Soviet Embassy in Washington D.C. and offered to sell classified documents to the KGB in exchange for a salary of $500-$1,000/week. This exchange eventually prompted Walker to arrange a spy ring that included a Naval student, Walker's older brother and his own son, Michael.

The New York Times in 1990 reported that, "It's been estimated by some intelligence experts that Mr. Walker provided enough code-data information to alter significantly the balance of power between Russia and the United States"

In 1985, Walker's ex-wife Barbara, infuriated by Walker's lack of alimony payments, turned him in to the FBI. Surveillance caught Walker in the act of a dead-drop, after which he was arrested and sentenced to life in prison. In exchange for full details of his espionage, Walker made a deal so his son was sentenced to only 25 years in prison. The other spy ring members all received life sentences.

BROUGHT DOWN BY HIS EX-WIFE