

INFAMOUS SPIES

An Espionage Series



JOHN WALKER



BROUGHT DOWN BY HIS EX

In December 1967, John Anthony Walker, Jr. (1937-2014) 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 a week. This arrangement eventually prompted Walker to organize a spy ring that included a Naval student, Walker's older brother, and his own son, Michael.

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.

After the fallout, the *New York Times* 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 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.



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