

# TRAITOR!

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN ANDREW MAY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN

BY HOWARD CARTER



Democratic Congressman Andrew J. May — a shameless and corrupt war profiteer responsible for the loss of ten American submarines and crews.

One of the most nefarious American politicians of the Second World War is, unfortunately, long forgotten today. Born during 1875 in Kentucky, Andrew J. May would acquire a law degree along with his twin brother in 1898 and the pair opened a business named May & May but this ceased upon the death of the brother in 1921. After that, May began holding different legal posts and started dabbling in local politics with the democratic party. He quickly became known as a deal maker that would let little stand in the way of filling his political coffers with cash. One fellow lawmaker wrote of May, "He was a typical backwoods politician that

had absolutely no scruples. There was a common saying in the court house when May was spotted waddling down the halls, 'Here comes that lard-ass May so hang on to your wallets.' "

Even though he had built a reputation with a foundation of greed, May somehow kept advancing through democratic ranks. He was able to accurately forecast that the "New Deal" politics of Franklin Roosevelt would easily pave the

way towards more riches so May began campaigning as a New Deal Democrat and, rather amazingly, was elected to the 72nd Congress and seven succeeding Congresses (4 March 1931 through 3 January 1947).

Veteran politicians were aghast at May's outlandish behavior but this did not stop his forward trajectory. In one stunning move — and without any form of qualification — May became the Chairman of the powerful Committee on Military Affairs beginning with the 76th Congress and running through the 79th Congress. "It was as if Roosevelt had signed a license for May to freely steal from the American taxpayer,"

recalled one Republican. Indeed, May was often seen at the side of the president as massive spending deals were made.

May knew nothing about the military or about weapons, but that did not stop him from stealing out of every slice of pie that was being dealt to military contractors. Today, politicians are held in extremely low regard by the American taxpayer but during WWII May was the one that set the pace for outright theft and it is not known how much, if any, of his illegal profiteering was kicked back into the Roosevelt campaign.

Against huge odds, the US Navy's submarine force had been waging a victorious war against the Japanese in the Pacific. Even though many of the American torpedoes were defective, the subs and their crews were causing significant damage to the enemy. It seemed that May wanted to correct that fact in favor of the enemy.

As with many politicians of the time, May and his staff went on a "war junket" to "gather facts" that could be then presented to the American public to show that they were really on top of the situation. In actuality, May was staying well away from any combat zone while his staff supplied him with vast quantities of prime food, liquor and prostitutes. Upon returning to the USA and receiving praise from Roosevelt on placing himself in "harm's way," May would then offer up a press conference that was stunning in its implications.

During June 1943, while being lauded for his mission into the war zone at "considerable personal risk," May sat down in front of a battery of reporters and dozens of radio microphones. In an expansive mood,

May revealed that American submarines were having a high victory ratio while also being able to avoid attacks by Japanese defenders because the Japanese had underestimated how deep the *Balao*-class subs could dive. The Japanese, May explained, were setting their depth charges to explode at incorrect depths thus allowing the American subs to escape. This news immediately went out to hundreds of newspapers, radio stations, and wire services.

The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* published the story, which was eagerly read by Japanese spies in the area and the information was rapidly transmitted to the Imperial Japanese Navy. Orders were sent to enemy sub-hunters to immediately reset their depth charges to explode at lower depths.

The revelation caused an immediate furor and a minor government investigation that quickly cleared May of any wrong doing. Some high-ranking Navy officials thought otherwise and



Andrew May with Henry Stimson, Morris Sheppard, and George C. Marshall as Roosevelt signs the 1940 Conscription Bill. May was soon getting his friends and political contributors exempted from the draft.

stated that because of May's revelation of secret information, ten American subs were soon lost along with the deaths of 800 sailors. May was not bothered and continued to move ahead with his deal making that apparently received the full approval of Roosevelt.

If this wasn't enough, it was revealed that May had been busy immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He became involved with two Jewish British-born New York "businessmen" by the names of Murray and Henry Garsson.

The two brothers worked a scam with May to obtain very lucrative arms deals. Using a fake letterhead to obtain a small order for shell fuses, the pair then conspired with Allen Gellman and Joseph Weiss of Chicago to use their watch company to "grow" the contract to \$78 million. Of course, none had any experience with munitions but they were soon awarded, again with the apparent full approval of the Roosevelt administration, more and more contracts. In Washington,

(continued on page 66)



The USS *Balao* would soon become an easier target for the Japanese once May revealed the sub's diving capabilities. Even though some Navy officials tried to whitewash the facts, it would appear that May was directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans.