



**SOLE SURVIVOR – ONE MAN’S JOURNEY**  
**Biography of John Norman Walton – Sole Survivor of HMS Neptune**

**by Peter Redfern**

I was recently invited to attend the launch of this remarkable book at the Union Jack Club by John Hudson an old Postie friend of mine. John served in Cyprus, Mill Hill and HQ BAOR (PCC Dte) during the period 1962-70. He was well known in the sporting arena and particularly excelled at cricket. Some of you may remember him. It was an interesting and moving presentation made even more enjoyable by the fact that I was able to share a couple of pints with Peter Wescott and Peter Cussons before departing.

The book is the Biography of John’s father-in-law, Norman Walton and is written by John’s wife Norma. Norman Walton at age 20 was the only survivor of the 765 crew of HMS Neptune which sank on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1941 after running into a minefield off Tripoli.

Norma said she always knew he was the sole survivor but he never talked about it and she never asked him any questions. But when he passed away she found amongst his belongings a wealth of diaries and stories and felt she had to document it all. The research took her 3 years and was an emotional rollercoaster reading through her father’s letters. She interviewed a lot of seamen who served in the Med and Far East and met some fantastic characters.

I have read the book and found it a moving and interesting life story. If you are interested in purchasing a copy further details are given below:

