



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Lieutenant - Commander Wor. Bro. LEON VERDI GOLDSWORTHY  
G.C., D.S.C., G.M., RANVR.  
(1909-1994)

Leon Goldsworthy was born in Broken Hill, NSW on 19 January 1909, the son of Alfred Thomas Goldsworthy and Eva Jane Riggs.

He received his education at Kapunda High School in South Australia and the Adelaide School of Mines and the University of Adelaide where he studied engineering.

He moved to Western Australia at the age of 21 and, on November 1939, he married Maud E Rutherford. They had a daughter, Pamela.

Goldsworthy was a small man, just 5ft 5in (165 cm) tall, but with a tough, wiry frame as a result of gymnastics and wrestling. The little toe from each foot was missing.

He tried to enlist in the Royal Australian Navy in 1940 but was rejected because of his small stature.

He was later requested to re-apply and, on 24 March 1941, he was commissioned a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve.

He arrived in England some two months later about the time the German battleship *Bismarck* was sunk in the North Atlantic.

He was posted to the Rendering Mines Safe Section of HMS *Vernon* after he had read a notice which stated:

Aussies get into the mining business.

'Goldie', his pre-war nickname, said after the war:

"I volunteered for a brief mine disarmament course, hardly realising what was ahead."

His engineering training gave him some advantage in dealing with the intricate design of German mines and booby traps. Prior to the invasion of Europe on D-Day, 6 June 1944, his operational territory was between Portsmouth and Bexhill, near Hastings in East Sussex.

His wartime nickname was 'Ficky', derived from his reputation as 'Mr Fixit'.

On 17 September 1943, working with another Australian, C J Cliff, Goldsworthy removed a two year old mine from the Coal Barge Wharf at Southampton.

