



Ronald Dickerson Hines Co D-2

Born in the middle of a cyclone in the panhandle of Texas, Hiney (The Tornado) Hines was just made to order for plebe year. Whether or not he ate grass to supplement his plebe diet is still to be proven – anyway, our little whirlwind blew into the “Country Club” on a cloud of Texas dust and hopped off.

Born – 13 July 1938, Amarillo, TX.

To USMA – Came from Amarillo, TX. Appointed by Texas Senator Daniels. Nickname – “Hiney”. Best known for being one of West Point’s mule riders at football games and other events.

Died – 26 Apr 1964 (age 25) killed-in-action (KIA) in Vietnam. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – Silver Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Schooling – Special Warfare School, Vietnamese Language School.

Family - Wife – Lucky Koch Hines Downey (almost 3 years – married soon after graduation, she passed away 23 Jan 2013) – 2 sons (Glenn and Randy) – grandchildren?.

Contact – Glenn Hines (son), Randy Hines (son).

Ron served on active duty in the Army (Armor) for almost 3 years (34 months) until his untimely death in Vietnam in 1964, with the rank of Captain (promoted posthumously). His first assignment was with the 2nd Armored Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Lewis, WA. He then served at Ft. Bragg (Special Warfare School), Monterey, CA (Vietnamese Language School). He then served with the Vietnamese 2nd Armored Cavalry Squadron, IV Corps in Vietnam. He was an Advisor to a fine Vietnamese Captain, Huynh-Van-Tam. They developed a relationship into a brother like friendship with a mutual respect for each other. Ron died on 26 April 1964, from enemy gun fire while attempting to save Tam’s life. Captain Huynh-Van-Tam later wrote – “I owe my life to him.....I cannot put into words my grief, nor will I ever forget Lieutenant Hines or what he did for me.”

Footnote - Ron was the 131st Serviceman, the first one in the Class of 1961, and among the first members of the Long Gray Line to sacrifice his life in the Vietnam War. A tribute to him as a person and future leader – is that the Plebes (Class of 1967) asked if they could be the Pallbearers at his funeral. Ron’s wife, Lucy added, “I have to say, that almost brought me to my knees following all of them carrying Ron out of the Old Cadet Chapel.”