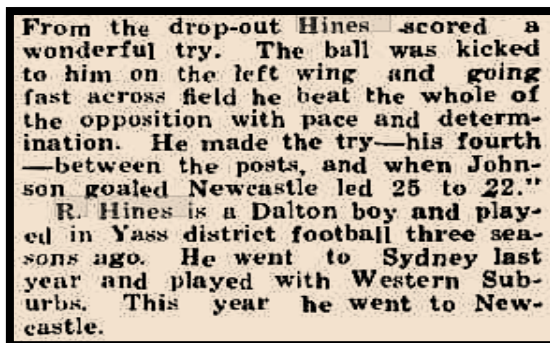


Ray Hines

..... identity was proving elusive. A further search of NSW Births Deaths and Marriages for 1912 indicated that an Edward J Hines was born at Gunning in 1912. Further searches of public records show that he was subsequently recorded as Edward John Raymond Hines or Raymond John Hines.

It is not known why the name Raymond was added, but it may have been to distinguish him from his father who was also named Edward Hines.

What is known though, is from the earliest recordings in the local Dalton newspapers he was known as Ray Hines. The following news article from the Yass Tribune confirms the connection of Ray Hines to his playing days at Dalton, through Wests in 1934 and on to Newcastle in 1935.



From the drop-out Hines scored a wonderful try. The ball was kicked to him on the left wing and going fast across field he beat the whole of the opposition with pace and determination. He made the try—his fourth—between the posts, and when Johnson goaled Newcastle led 25 to 22." R. Hines is a Dalton boy and played in Yass district football three seasons ago. He went to Sydney last year and played with Western Suburbs. This year he went to Newcastle.

Yass Tribune 23 May 1935

In fact, Ray Hines was graded at Wests in 1933 and played two Reserve Grade matches before making his debut in First Grade with Wests in 1934.

Ray Hines grew up in the town of Dalton, NSW. Dalton was sheep country and was a prosperous town in the late 1800's and early 1900's. His family had lived in the district for some decades and it was here that Ray learned his rugby league.

A comment in the Yass Tribune newspaper to players in the Dalton Rugby League team in 1929, noted; "R. Hines, fast young winger - should not look back when he gets a break on the field, will improve." Clearly, Ray Hines took this advice and didn't look back. Ray Hines was with the Dalton Club in 1928 and 1929.

In 1930 through to at least 1932, Ray Hines played with the nearby Gunning team. In 1931 he was selected for the Yass District team. In the trials it was said that; "Hines of Gunning showed excellent form on the wing." In 1932, Ray Hines was one of three players filling in for his old club, Dalton against a strong Goulburn team.

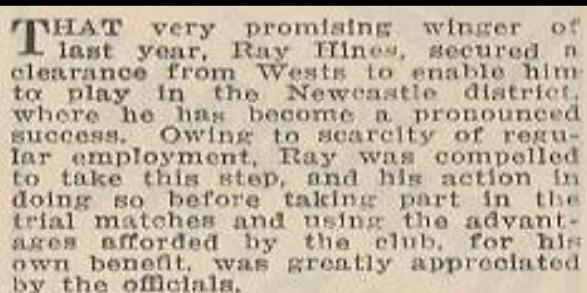
Ray came down to live in Sydney in 1933. His mother and brother, Val Hines, were recorded on the electoral roll living at Burwood at the time. Ray was recorded trialling with Wests in March 1933, but didn't get a run until later in the season. It is likely that he played with the Burwood junior rugby league team during 1933.

Ray Hines came to notice in 1934 when he made his First Grade debut. In a match against Newtown in July, The Sun newspaper noted; "There was some merry moments with the great runs of Tancred and the determination of Hines on the wing. Hines bowled men over and was bowled over himself but

was indifferent to it all." This physical approach that he brought to the game was his trademark throughout his career and made him an exciting player to watch.

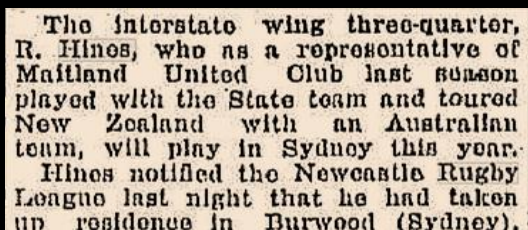
The year of 1934 was highly successful for Ray Hines as well as the Western Suburbs Club, which won the 1934 premiership. Ray Hines also toured with Wests to New Zealand at the end of 1934. However, success on the field didn't put food on the table in the Great Depression, and like many other players, he was out of work.

The opportunity arose for a paid playing position at the Maitland club in the Hunter Valley district and Ray Hines was compelled to take this up in the 1935 season. He was an instant success at Maitland, being the Club's top try scorer and a number of representative honours came his way that year. Arguably he was at the pinnacle of his career, representing Australia against New Zealand.



THAT very promising winger of last year, Ray Hines, secured a clearance from Wests to enable him to play in the Newcastle district, where he has become a pronounced success. Owing to scarcity of regular employment, Ray was compelled to take this step, and his action in doing so before taking part in the trial matches and using the advantages afforded by the club, for his own benefit, was greatly appreciated by the officials.

His venture to Maitland only lasted one season. A newspaper article in the Maitland Daily on 21 January 1936, indicated that Ray Hines was returning from his playing stint at Maitland to go to Sydney and was to live in the Sydney suburb of Burwood.



The interstate wing three-quarter, R. Hines, who as a representative of Maitland United Club last season played with the State team and toured New Zealand with an Australian team, will play in Sydney this year. Hines notified the Newcastle Rugby League last night that he had taken up residence in Burwood (Sydney).

Maitland Daily 21 January 1936

Ray Hines returned to Sydney and once again played First Grade for Wests in 1936 and 1937. He was always very fast but as he matured, he appeared to become more powerful as well. Wests historian, Geoff Ibbett, in his research noted that in 1937, Ray Hines scored a treble in Rounds 3 and 5 and a treble in the City Cup.

In one of those matches it was said he carried a number of men for 10 metres to score. Another account of a match against University had him scoring three tries, the last being a gem, with him covering the final twenty yards to the corner and leaving five University players prone behind him, one of whom had to be carried off.

In 1938, Ray Hines was recorded playing trial matches with the South Sydney Club but it was noted that he was carrying some weight and there is no record of him playing in the competition that year. He did return to Souths in 1939, where he played his last year of First Grade football.

The outbreak of the Second World War saw a number of prominent rugby league players join the cause. Ray Hines was one of this group, and he enlisted for service in 1942. A report in The Sun newspaper on 10 February 1942 noted; "Another League man of prominence to join the AIF is Ray Hines, hard running, terrific bumping winger of Western Suburbs, a few seasons ago.

Hines created a sensation with his headlong dashes along touch when he crashed into any man or number of men who barred his path to the try line. Nothing could deter Hines when he had possession of the ball, not even the occasion on the SCG when he had his pants pulled off during a tackle. He continued down field and scored in the corner."

From the early 1940's, and for the rest of his life, Ray Hines lived in the Sydney suburb of Randwick. He died there in September 1984. He is listed as Raymond John Hines in Ryerson's Index.