

Duty, Honor, Country

My Life Story

ALVIN ASH

Duty, Honor, Country

exemplifies the way in which the author
chose to live his life and is the official motto of the
United States Military Academy at West Point.

Events described in this book are to the best of the author's recollection.

*Although others may remember these events differently,
the author asks that you respect these to be his memories.*

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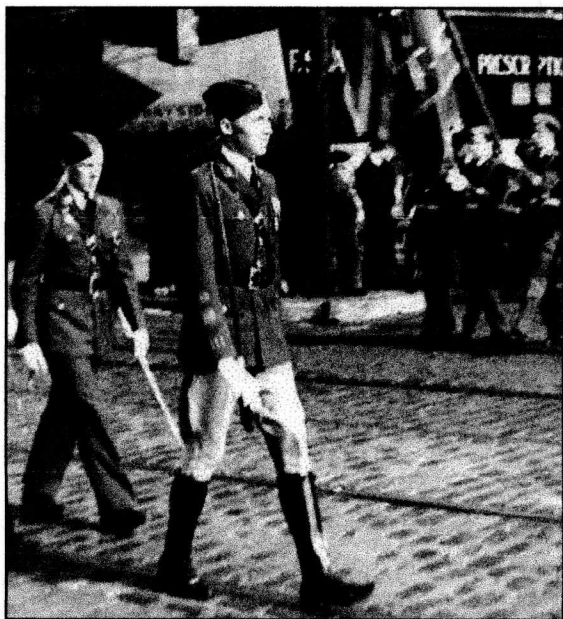
Cover photograph: Lt. Col. Alvin Ash, 1964, *Fabian Bachrach Photography*

Recollections of Youth

In 1933 and 1934, I attended the Chicago World's Fair. At the time, I was 12 years old, so I could go by myself and went at least eight to 10 times. It was really a big deal! The fair featured all sorts of museum exhibits and entertainment, and even the beginnings of computers were on display.

Most memorable for me and many others was the Sky Ride that was built along the lakefront. It consisted of two 600-foot towers: one erected on an island in Lake Michigan and the other on the mainland. Connecting the two towers was a transport bridge that suspended 200 feet above the ground; from it hung rocket-shaped cars that traveled back and forth. They called the 1933 World's Fair "The Century of Progress", since Chicago had been incorporated in 1833.

Several times we took trips back to New York to visit my father's family, and it was there I remembered seeing my grandmother, Rebecca Yeska Ash. We stayed in an apartment where she lived. My most vivid memory was of her peering out at me from her darkened bedroom doorway. It was her eyes that I remembered the most.



ROTC Leadership function, 1938

As a kid, I went to the movies on Saturdays, and the newsreel was always the first thing that came onto the screen. At the beginning of the newsreel, as the West Point Military Academy cadets came marching across the screen in their dress gray uniforms with their white cross belts, I was hooked! I looked forward to those newsreels and grew up worshipping those cadets. I must have been in junior high school at the time.