

Marine Commandant

Robert Everton Cushman Jr.

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WASHINGTON, May 6—In early 1957, an ambitious Marine Corps colonel with a record of heroism in World War II left the Pentagon for four years to serve as an aide to a politician downtown. The colonel was Robert Everton Cushman Jr. The politician was Vice President Richard M.

Man
in the
News

Nixon. The Marine officer served Mr. Nixon for the last four years of his Vice-Presidency as his chief adviser on national security, and the close relationship that developed played no small part in the officer's rising career.

On leaving the White House in 1961, Colonel Cushman was promoted to brigadier general. He served in Vietnam and received two more stars over the next eight years, and when Mr. Nixon became President, he brought his former aide back from Southeast Asia and appointed him Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

Named in Break-In

Today, General Cushman was named by sources close to the Watergate investigators as the C.I.A. official who authorized the use of the agency's equipment and research in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The action was said to have occurred in 1971. The general was to serve in the C.I.A. post only a short time longer. In January, 1972, the President gave him his fourth star and made him Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Over the years, General Cushman has always spoken openly about his relationship with Mr. Nixon. He considers the President a friend and recalls that Mr. Nixon visited him in 1965 when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California.

Asked once how he got along with Mr. Nixon during the four years they worked closely together, General Cushman replied, "I think the Vice President liked the way I did my job because he kept me in it for four years."

General Cushman also has a good deal of combat experience. He was aboard the Pennsylvania in drydock at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombed the ship. About a third of the ship's crew was killed, but

he was not injured. Later in the war, he won the bronze star in the invasion of France and the Navy Cross for heroism during the Battle of Guam.

In Vietnam from 1967 to 1969, he was commanding officer of 163,000 soldiers and marines in the northernmost provinces. No other Marine Corps officer has ever commanded so many

battlefront troops at once.

General Cushman was born in St. Paul, Minn., on Christmas Eve, 1914. He went to public schools there and then to the United States Naval Academy, class of 1935, where he played lacrosse and graduated 10th in his class.

Out of uniform, General Cushman, with his heavy-lensed bifocals, looks like a college professor. But in uniform, at 6 feet and 200 pounds, with closely cropped hair, a square jaw, a barrel chest and ramrod posture, he looks like a picturebook marine.

At work, he is described by his colleagues as single-minded—"strictly a no-nonsense man," an officer who has worked with him remarked.

Sherry and Good Music

After work, the general enjoys relaxing with a glass of sherry and good music on the phonograph. He plays some golf and swims and jogs regularly. He also enjoys chess and woodworking.

Last summer, General Cushman and his wife, the former Audrey Boyce of Portsmouth, Va., gave an enormous garden party on the lawn of the Commandant's residence here. Lobster, beef roasted on a spit and assorted meats cooked on hibachis were served.

The Cushmans have two children, Robert Ed and Mrs. Bernard Cauley. Both are grown.

In his years in the Marines, General Cushman has carefully studied military tactics and believes that mobility is the key to success. He argued strenuously in Vietnam against the static defense concepts such as those employed at Khe Sanh, the American Bastion that was besieged by the Communists for many months.

General Cushman was so convinced of the worth of helicopters that, during one of his tours in Vietnam, he learned to fly one himself and used it to hop around his command.



Camera Press

"A no-nonsense man"