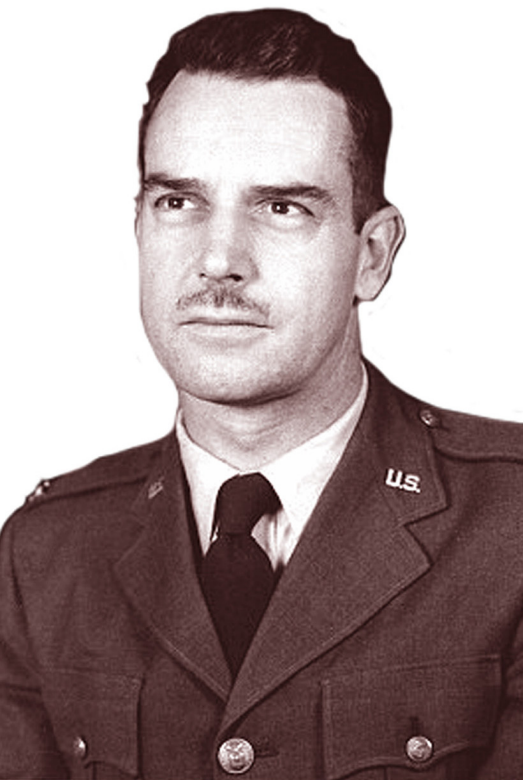




he is faceless, and *The New York Times* has called him a “mystery man.” Many Americans unwittingly read about General Lansdale under a fictitious name in the best-selling novel *The Ugly American*; General Lansdale was the prototype for “the good guy,” the humane American.

The General has better credentials for discussing Vietnam than any senator and many of the men in high places in our government. He was not only a key adviser to Premiers Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Cao Ky, but also worked closely with the common people.

In the following interview, General Lansdale speaks as a man who has great affection for the Vietnamese and deep concern for their future.

PAGEANT: There are many questions to be asked, General. However, can we start with the most topical issue, the withdrawal of American combat troops? If we were to pull out all of our combat forces as quickly as possible, would South Vietnam have a chance of surviving?

GENERAL LANSDALE: An abrupt withdrawal would be catastrophic for the South. The Communists would simply overrun the South.