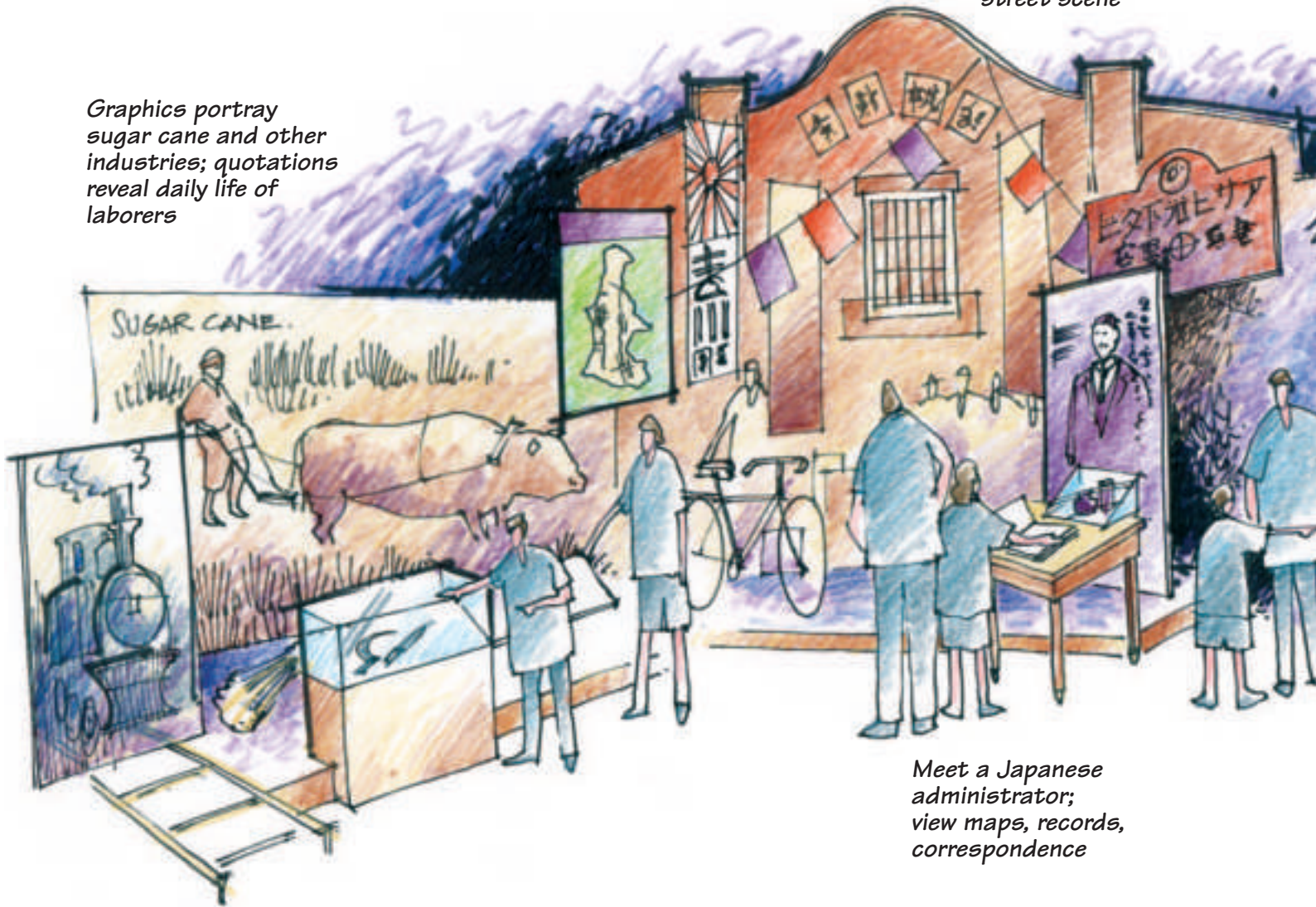


# Pre-war Life

View a busy Garapan street scene

Graphics portray sugar cane and other industries; quotations reveal daily life of laborers



Meet a Japanese administrator; view maps, records, correspondence

*"I really suffered during the Japanese Administration, especially during the war period. Life was hard. I had to work in the cane fields all day to feed my children. And when they were old enough, they too, helped in the fields. When war came and food became scarce, my family really suffered. It is different now."*

Maria Ogo  
Chamorro, Songsong Village

*"As Japan has been endeavoring to secure a stable livelihood for the inhabitants of these islands by giving them work and providing them with schools for the education of their children, they are quite satisfied with the present arrangement..."*

Baron Makino Nobuaki

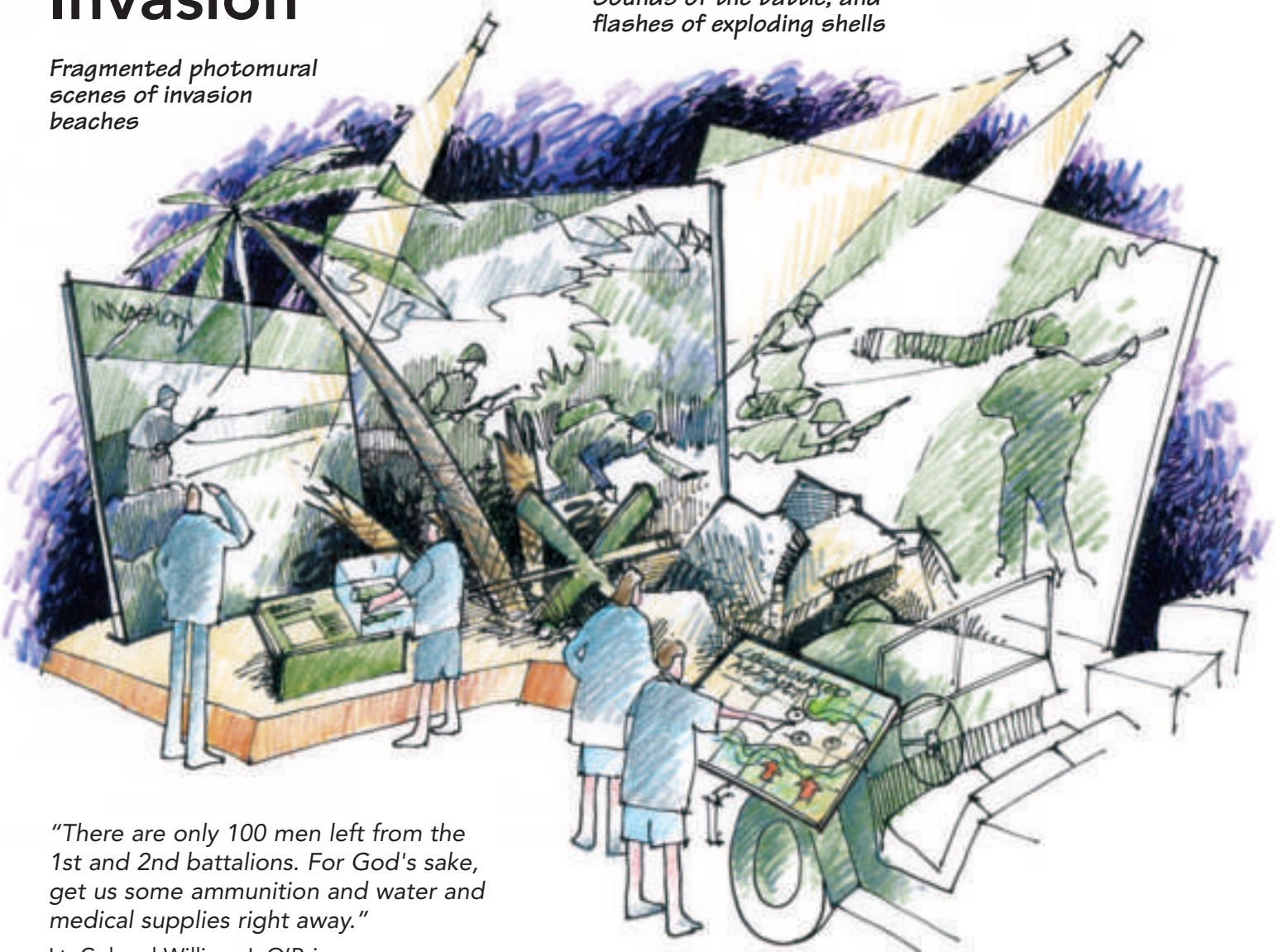




# Invasion

*Fragmented photomural scenes of invasion beaches*

*Sounds of the battle, and flashes of exploding shells*



*"There are only 100 men left from the 1st and 2nd battalions. For God's sake, get us some ammunition and water and medical supplies right away."*

Lt. Colonel William J. O'Brien  
Commander of the American 1st Battalion

*"The first salvos exploded along the beach. The extreme intensity of those flashes and boiling clouds of smoke still remain in my mind. They went sixty meters straight up. Huge guns! From battleships. The area I was in was pitted like the craters of the Moon. We just clung to the earth in our shallow trenches. . . . half buried."*

Japanese defender

*"We had been indoctrinated by the Japanese Military forces earlier that the American soldiers were foreign devils and would slaughter without hesitation men, women and children should they arrive on the island. To the contrary, the men of the 2nd Marines Division treated every member of our group with gentleness, kindness, and even carried the elderly women and children to safety out of the cave."*

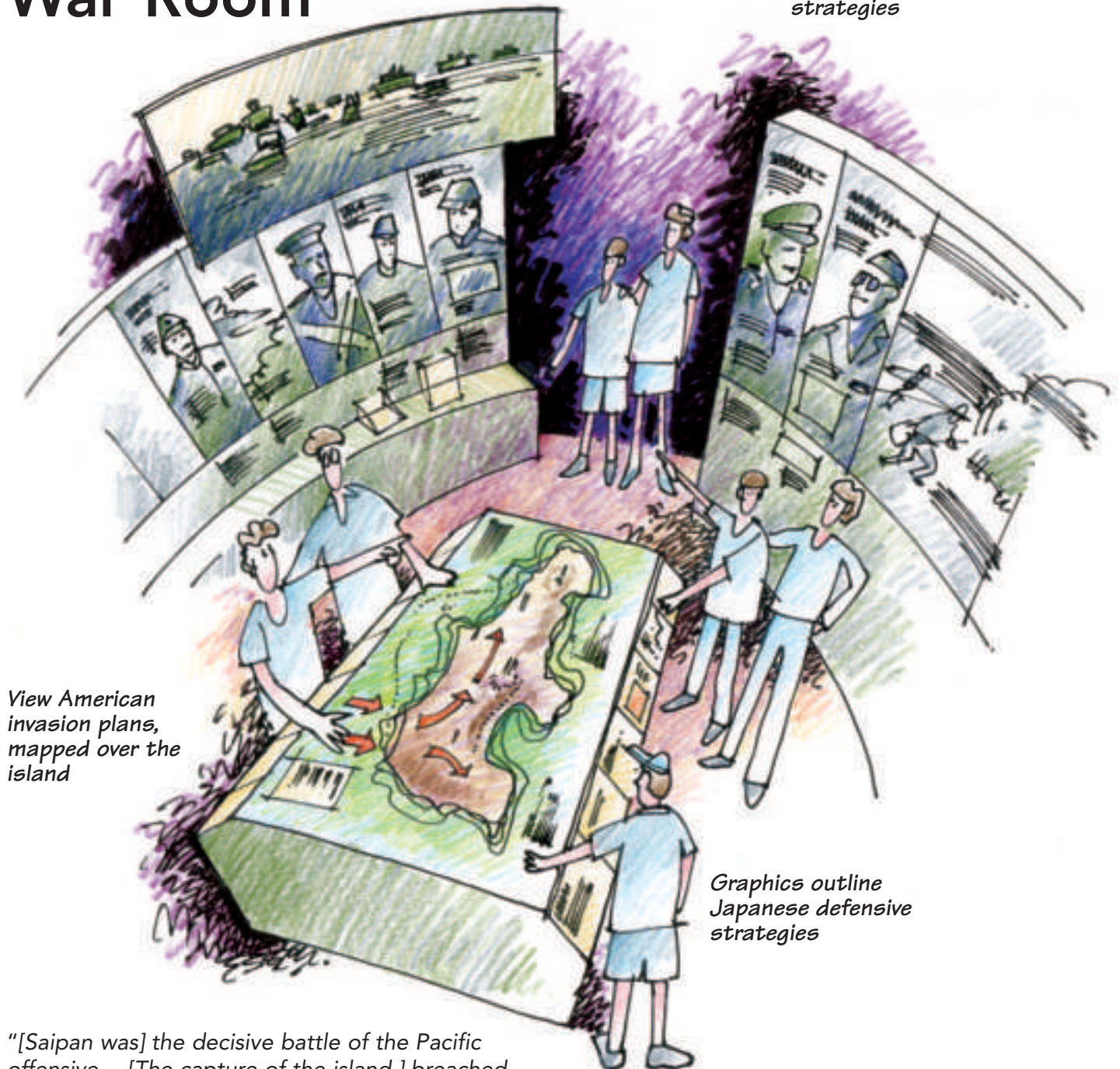
Lorenzo Diaz DeLeon Guerrero  
Chamorro





# War Room

*American and Japanese  
commanders, maps, and  
strategies*



*View American  
invasion plans,  
mapped over the  
island*

*Graphics outline  
Japanese defensive  
strategies*

*"[Saipan was] the decisive battle of the Pacific offensive... [The capture of the island,] breached Japan's inner dense line, destroyed the main bastions, and opened the way to the home islands."*  
American General Holland M. Smith

*"Our war was lost with the loss of Saipan. I feel it was a decisive battle. The loss of Saipan meant [that the U.S.] could cut off our shipping and attack our homeland."*

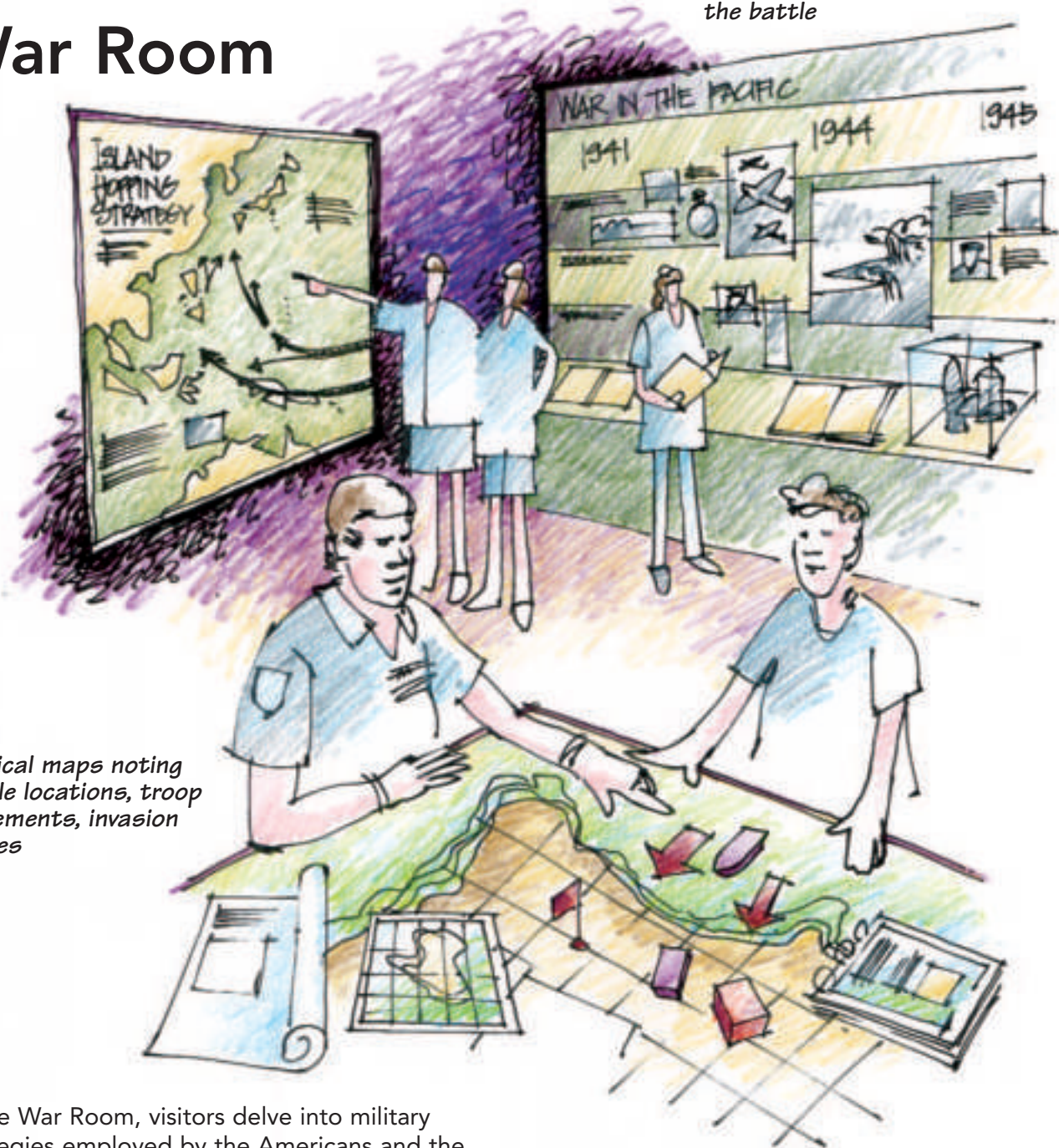
Japanese Vice Admiral Shigeyoshi Miwa





*Timelines and references  
for further details of  
the battle*

# War Room



*Tactical maps noting  
battle locations, troop  
movements, invasion  
routes*

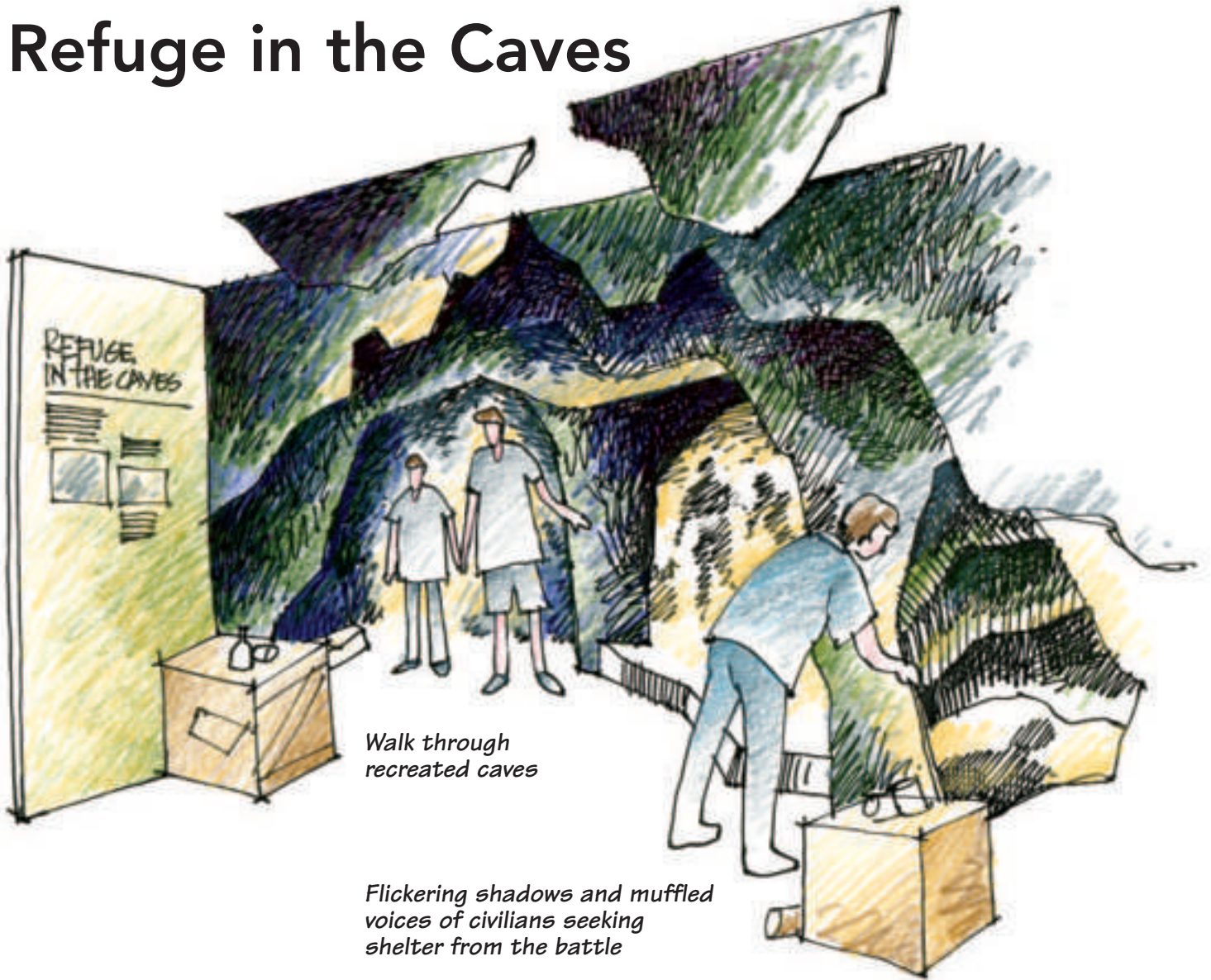
In the War Room, visitors delve into military strategies employed by the Americans and the Japanese as they view Operation Forager invasion plans, defense plans, tactical maps, and charts. They discover the 'facts' through timelines, statistics, brief biographies of military leaders, and quotations from tacticians and soldiers from both

sides of the struggle that present views of the battle from different combatants' perspectives. Returning veterans, or their children, scrutinize these maps to locate where they or their fathers landed and fought.





# Refuge in the Caves



Visitors peer into an abstracted limestone cave hideout where they see flickering shadows of a Chamorro mother caring for her children, and hear water dripping and the whispered sounds of Chamorro conversation in caves.

A Christian cross and a broken doll symbolize what a family would have been able to save as they fled from the American invasion.



# Survivors' Reflective Walkway

*Mementos left by visitors: photos, notes, personal reflections on war and peace*



*Survivors: portraits of individuals and families who have lived on*

*Record your memories and reflections – what does the story of Saipan mean to you?*

Visitors begin their transition back to the present in the Survivors' Reflective Walkway where they see how life continued on the islands after the war.

They view a series of portraits of survivors and images, and perhaps, personal artifacts. Survivors share reflections about the cost of the war and discover how families who live on Saipan have survived and what they have achieved since.

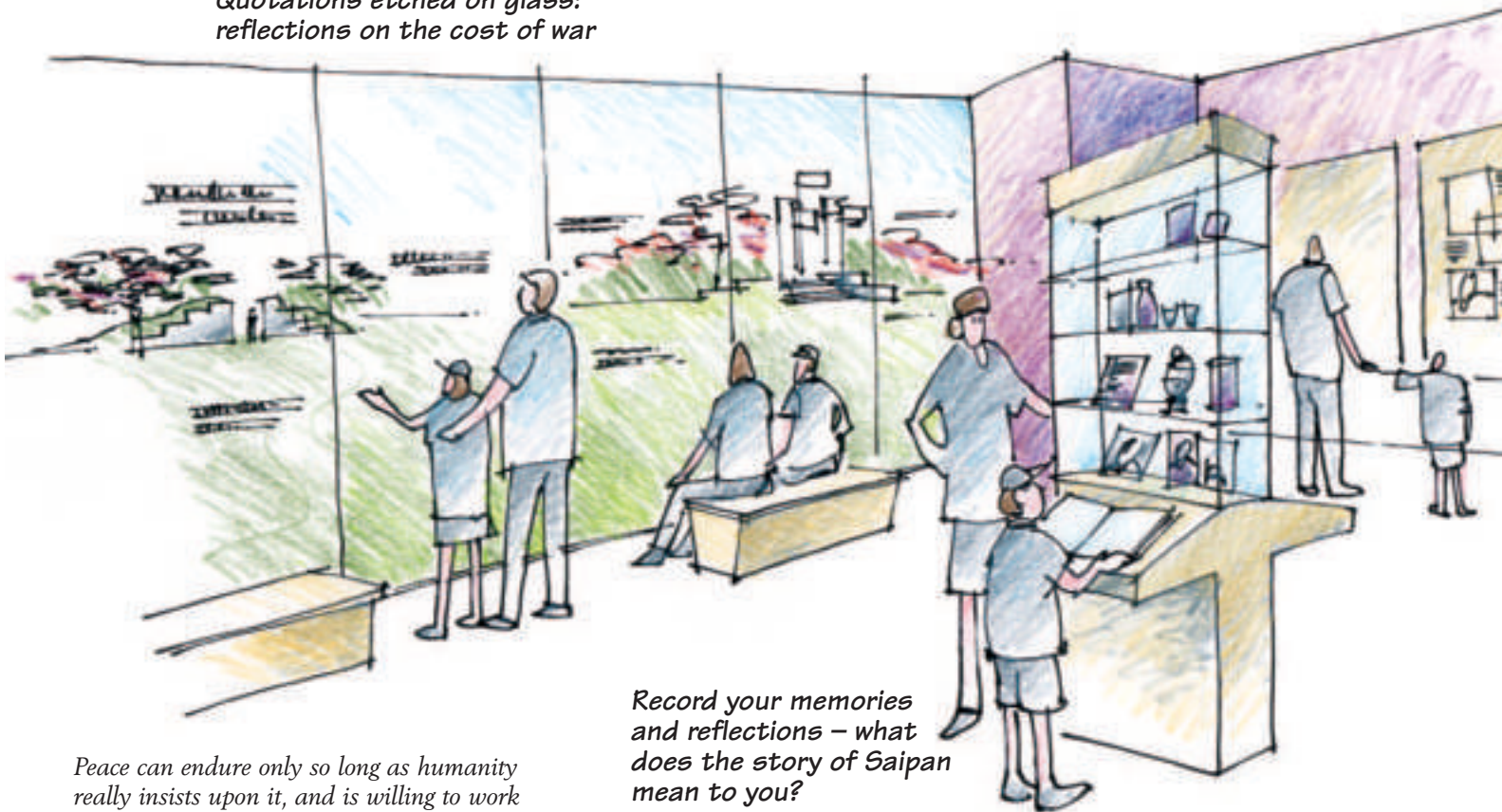
Many visitors stop to leave their own comments behind in a book, and reflect on the impact this story has on their own lives. Others leave mementos with thoughts for peace, and for those who sacrificed their lives.





# Honoring the Sacrifice

*Quotations etched on glass:  
reflections on the cost of war*



*Peace can endure only so long as humanity really insists upon it, and is willing to work for it and sacrifice for it.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt, U.S. President

*Record your memories  
and reflections – what  
does the story of Saipan  
mean to you?*

*Mungnga ta'lo ma konsedera na un ma gånna.  
Na' sãonãõ gi kurason-mu i klaru na inemprentan lina'la'.*

Ilesha Shalon, 8 years old

After experiencing the long and bloody battle of Saipan in the gallery, visitors walk into a serene, quiet gallery that reflects on the meaning of war, and peace. Here in the *Honoring the Sacrifice* gallery, visitors look through a glass wall into the park toward the American Flag Circle memorial and the local peoples' memorial.

On the glass itself, visitors can read quotations, memories and reflections about the war and its toll – and about peace and regrowth, and thoughts for the future in English, Chamorro, Carolinian and Japanese.





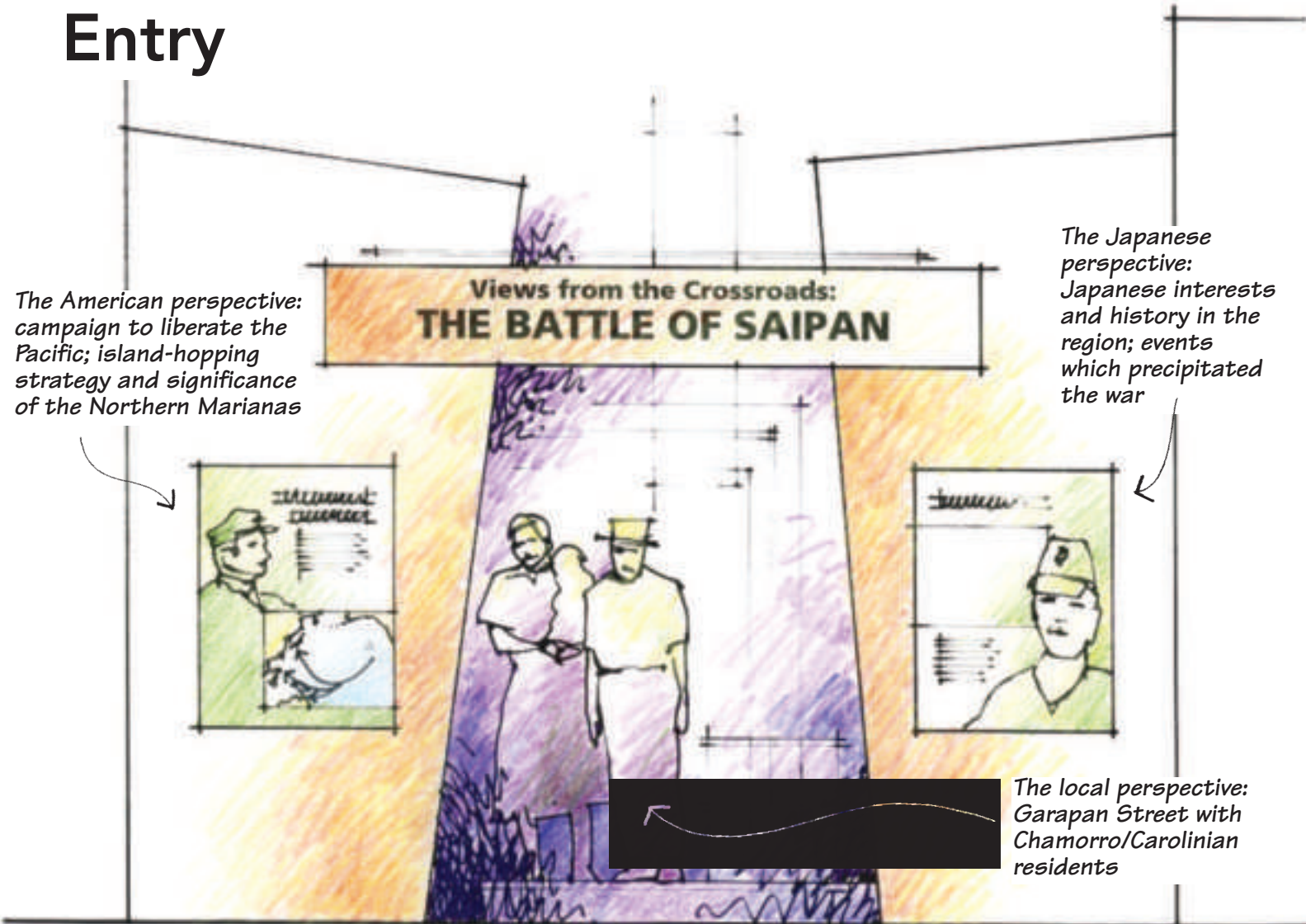


# Entry

*The American perspective: campaign to liberate the Pacific; island-hopping strategy and significance of the Northern Marianas*

*The Japanese perspective: Japanese interests and history in the region; events which precipitated the war*

*The local perspective: Garapan Street with Chamorro/Carolinian residents*



American Lt. General Holland M. Smith, Expeditionary Troupe Commander and Northern Landing Forces Commander declared Saipan, "the decisive battle of the Pacific offensive." The capture of the island, "breached Japan's inner dense line, destroyed the main bastions, and opened the way to the home islands."

American Lt. General Holland M. Smith

"Because the fate of the empire depends upon the results of your operation [the Battle of Saipan], inspire the spirit of your officers and men and to the end continue to destroy the enemy gallantly and persistently, thus alleviating the anxiety of our Emperor."

Prime Minister Tojo, during a radio message to the Thirty-first Army, June 18, 1944

"I had to work in the cane fields all day to feed my children. And when they were old enough, they too, helped in the fields. When war came and food became scarce, my family really suffered. "

Maria Ogo  
 Chamorro, Songsong Village

