



Recollections of the World War II Battlefield

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The Asahi Shimbun English edition is running a 10-part series titled "Relaying recollections of the battlefield" that originally ran in the vernacular Asahi. The [first installment](#), appearing on January 1, was entitled "Unable to die until hell of war can be told."

Here's an excerpt:

"Take me back to Japan with you."

The voice of a dying soldier clung to Tomoda's back. The majority of his unit died of starvation and sickness. Only five or six of the original 200-strong unit returned home alive.

"Why did my fellow soldiers die, and why did I survive? I've asked myself that question ever since. We must never go to war again. Perhaps I survived to pass on that message to the next generation, on behalf of all those who died."