

Slide 1

A Short History of Modern Japan

Dedicated to Ross McConchie

Slide 2



Notes

My favourite uncle Ross McConchie died back in July 2006. I fondly remember Ross as a warm, friendly, gentle, kind and lovely human being.

Ross McConchie was a prisoner of war of the Japanese at Changi and subsequently was a survivor of their Burma Railway. So it was from my early childhood days that the stories of his wartime experiences created within me an ongoing interest in this particular aspect of military history.

As a consequence I have over the years read many books about our Japanese POWs, travelled around Japan, visited the remnants of the Burma railway above the Kwai River and reflected at its nearby war cemetery in an endeavour to better understand the Japanese people and the reasons for their role in the 2nd World War.

One thing that surprised me about Ross McConchie over the years that I knew him was the fact that he never expressed any hatred for his captors or the Japanese people. The extent of his forgiveness I felt was reflected in the 1970's when he was strongly supportive of one of his sons who went into a subsequent business venture involving Japanese interests.

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My presentation of this unit on Japan's modern history is dedicated to the memory of my uncle Ross McConchie.

Vince Black