



The Western Cape Military History Society
Die Wes-Kaapse Krygshistoriese Vereniging
Umbutho weMbali yoMkhosi weNtshona Koloni

Carl Burger (Chairman)
Ronnie Glass (Treasurer)
Daphne Castell (Secretary)
Gavin Withers (FB Admin)

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A summary of the last meeting

The WCMHS AGM was held on Thursday 21 May,

The Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, the Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 and the Financial Statements for the same year, all having been previously circulated, were approved. The Chairman, Carl Burger conducted the meeting and also dealt with events and lectures planned.

The committee elected for the 2026/7 year comprises: Mac Bisset, Carl Burger, Daphne Castell, Ronnie Glass, Marina Hall, Chris McCartney, Roy Wayne and Gavin Withers.

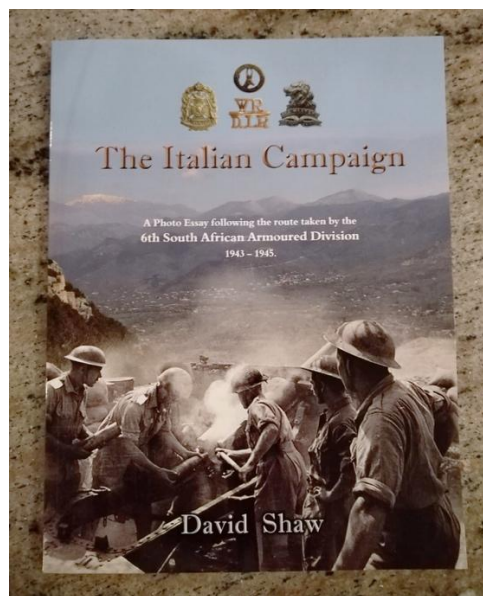
Our Speaker: David Shaw

We had the pleasure listening to the Travels Dave Shaw as he traced the footsteps of his late father through the Italian campaign, World War 2.

He shared over 200 slides taken in 2023 when he and his wife followed the route taken by the South African 6th Armoured Division as our men fought their way up Italy. These were interspersed with other photos taken during the 1944-1945 campaign. He was able to give details of the war due to the research he had done for his recently published book on the campaign and shared memories of some things that his father had told him. His father served as an Information Officer with the Witwatersrand Rifles/De la Rey (WR/DLR) so the focus was primarily on that battalion - but all the South African units worked together so First City/Cape Town Highlanders (FC/CTH), the Royal Natal Carbineers (RNC) and others are very much part of this account.

Thank you very much Dave for your inspiring talk.

To order Dave's book *The Italian Campaign* he can be emailed on mailto:italiancampaignwrdlr@gmail.com



Our next meeting

18th June 2026

Notification is given of the June Meeting to be held at the Rosedale Complex, Lower Nursery Road, Rosebank at 19h30.

Our speaker for the evening is Heinz Rhode.

Heinz is the Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Surgery University of Cape Town and Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. For decades, he headed the specialised Paediatric Burns Unit at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

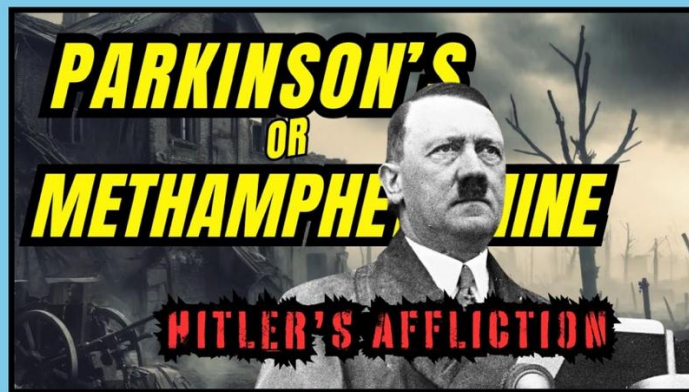
Heinz advises that the Cape Town Medical Museum contains many interesting artefacts. Amongst them is a sterilizer that belonged to Adolf Hitler.

During his presentation, Heinz will explain as to how this equipment, used virtually daily by Hitler, landed up in the mother city.

Hitler was addicted to methamphetamine and morphine. This addiction had a decisive influence on the outcome of WW11. Very little is known about his addiction and how, from 1941 to 1945, it influenced the catastrophic events in Europe. Heinz will cover these events and the impact of Hitler's drug addiction on the outcomes thereof.

This sounds like a very interesting talk. All are welcome. There is a small donation request of R10.00 to cover the usage of the room and tea, coffee and biscuits that are served after the talk.

Western Cape Military History Society meeting, Thursday 18 June 2026



Hitler's addiction and the decisive influence thereof on the outcome of WWII

The Cape Town Medical Museum contains many interesting artefacts; amongst them is a sterilizer that belonged to Adolf Hitler.

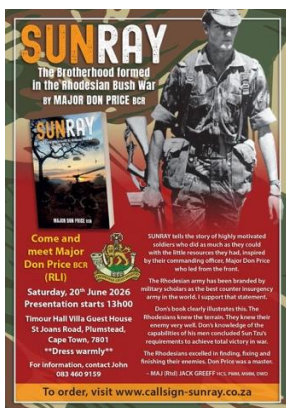
Hitler was addicted to methamphetamine and morphine. This addiction had a decisive influence on the outcome of WWII. Very little is known about his addiction and how, from 1941 to 1945, it influenced the catastrophic events in Europe.

Come and listen to Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Surgery, University of Cape Town and the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Prof Heinz Rode who will cover these events and the impact of Hitler's drug addiction on the outcomes thereof.

During his presentation, Heinz will also explain as to how on earth the sterilizer, used virtually daily by Hitler, landed up in the Mother City.

Notice Board

If you have any events that you would like us to add to this page please feel free to email me on woodworkgavin@gmail.com with the details.



Parades

Delville Wood	19 July 2026	Cape Town Gardens
Black Tot function	25 July 2026	Battledress MOTH Shellhole
El Alamein	18 Oct 2026	Cape Town Gardens
Remembrance Day	11 November 2026	Royal Cape Yacht Club
Remembrance Parade	1 November 2026	Battledress MOTH Shellhole
Remembrance Day	6 November 2026	Red Cross Children's Hospital
Remembrance Day	8 November	Cape Town Cenotaph

Upcoming Meetings

16 July 2026	Adm(rtd) Theo Honiball	Submarines and the Angolan War
20 August 2026	Richard Rosenthal	Mission Impossible. The SA pre 1994 negotiations
17 September 2026.	Sheila Camerer.	Political Tumultuous times between 1980's to 2000's
15 October 2026	Gerrie van der Merwe.	A pilot involved in the border war from both sides
19 November 2026	Michael Schaaf.	Following up with the H Bomb

Important Information

Our meetings starts promptly at 19h30 at the Rosedale Complex, Rosebank
 Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, February - November
 A donation of R10.00 is requested, this is payable on arrival, this assists to cover the cost of the hire of the Rosedale facilities.
 Membership costs R80.00 a year.
 Tea/coffee and biscuits are served after the meeting.

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