

Random Manufacturing Defects

by Gordon Kippola

No musicians killed since Vietnam?
Now it's a cylinder spin
lasting the next twelve months for us.

Dion & Jimmie K., Jarrett, and Russ,
early on,
are leaving the giant mess hall tent.
Mortar shells
shot from town bracket
their route home,
duds
half-buried in asphalt.

Three-hundred-sixty-something days until
we're good.

Following a career as a U.S. Army musician, Gordon Kippola earned an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Tampa, and calls Bremerton, Washington home. His poetry has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Rattle*, *Post Road Magazine*, *District Lit*, *The Road Not Taken*, *The Main Street Rag*, Southeast Missouri State University Press, and other splendid publications.