

Private Tandey, 1940

Ilyse Kusnetz

Sometimes regret
drops from the sky.
Sometimes it bursts

from the ground.
Sheltering in a doorway
as the bombs

battered Coventry,
the erstwhile Private
Tandey wished

he'd pulled the trigger
back in 1918,
in Marcoing. He'd taken

out the machine-gun nest,
led a victorious
bayonet charge, when

that wounded German soldier
stumbled into his
line of fire. Imagine it.

Knowing until the day
he died, he'd spared
the life of Adolf Hitler.

Ilyse Kusnetz (1996-2016), poet, essayist, and journalist, is the author of two collections of poetry: *Angel Bones* (Alice James Books, 2019) and *Small Hours* (Truman State University Press). Kusnetz taught at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, where she lived with her husband, the poet and memoirist Brian Turner.