

T O M S H E E H A N

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*The Municipal Subterranean*

He comes up, goggled,  
out of a manhole  
in the middle of a street  
in my peaceful town,  
sun the sole brazier,

like an old Saharan  
veteran, Rommel-pointing  
his tank across the four-  
year stretch of sand,  
shell holes filling up  
quick as death.

I think of Frank Parkinson,  
Tanker, Tiger of Tobruk,  
now in his grass roots,  
the acetylene smile  
on his oil-dirty face,  
the goggles still high  
on his high forehead,  
his forever knowing  
Egypt's two dark eyes.

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**TOM SHEEHAN**'s collection of short stories, *Epic Cures*, won a 2006 IPPY Award. *A Collection of Friends*, Pocol Press, was nominated for Albrend Memoir Award. *This Rare Earth & Other Flights*, poems, was issued in 2003. He earned a Combat Infantryman's Badge as a member of the 31st Infantry Regiment, Korea, 1951.