

terms and abbreviations for *The Things They Carried*

AO	area(s) of operation
A & W	fast food place
AWOL	absent without leave
ARVIN	army of Viet Nam
C rations	box lunch
CID	criminal investigation division
Claymore	a mine packed with steel pellets
CO status	conscientious objector status
CS	tear gas
dustoff	medical evacuation, or medevac; also any helicopter pickup
E-6	non-commissioned officer, 6th level; sergeant (army)
EM	enlisted man
GI	government issue, another name for a soldier
HE	high explosive rounds
KIA	killed in action
LBJ	Lyndon Baines Johnson, US president from 1963-1969
LP	listening post
LSA(oil)	oil used on rifles and light machinery
Lt	lieutenant
LZ Gator	landing zone named Gator
M & M's	comic slang for medical supplies
MIA	missing in action
MP	military police
MPC	military payment certificates; payment instead of dollars
P 38	small can opener which can be put on a key chain
PF	popular force; So. Vietnamese militiamen
PFC	private 1st class
PRC 25	portable radio-telephone
Psy Ops	psychological warfare operations
R & R	rest and recreation
RF	regional force; So. Vietnamese regional force
RPG's	rocket propelled grenade
RTO	radiotelephone operator
SEATO	Southeast Vietnamese Treaty Organization
Sin Loi	Vietnamese for "sorry about that"
SOP	standard operating procedure
USO	Uniformed Services Organization, entertained the troops
VC	Viet Cong; a south Vietnamese who collaborated with the North

List of Military Terms

C-Rations-Company Rations

SOP-Standard Operating Procedure

R&R-Rest and Recuperation (Relaxation)...usually 3-7 days

RTO-Radio-Telephone Operator

PFC-Private First Class

CS-Composite Service (tear gas/riot control gas)

'Bouncing Betties'-A land mine that explodes after jumping waist high

AO-Area of Operations

USO-United Service Organization

LZ- Landing Zone

'Dust off'-Medevac or General departure (troops (injured usually) are transported by helicopter)

THE THINGS THEY CARRY

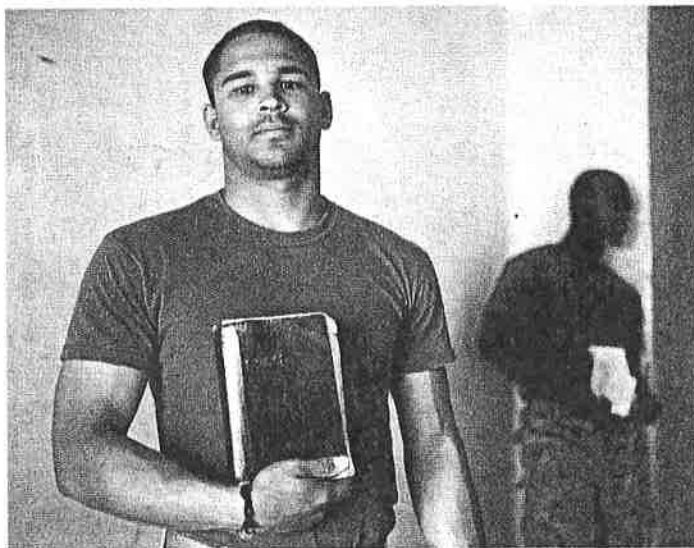
Photographer Yuri Kozyrev captures the tokens of faith that help Marines face battle in Iraq



PSALM 91 ON A BANDANNA
SERGEANT WINSTON DALEY



GRANDFATHER'S DOG TAG
LANCE CORPORAL RICHARD J. CASELTINE



A BIBLE FROM HIS GRANDMOTHER
LANCE CORPORAL BRYAN LOCKLEAR

IN HIS CLASSIC STORY COLLECTION about the Vietnam War, Tim O'Brien wrote that what G.I.'s carried into battle was determined by necessity, specialty and rank, and "to some extent by superstition." Three decades later, the 145,000 Americans serving in Iraq rely on their own talismans to protect them from the barrage of sniper bullets, mortar fire and roadside bombs that have claimed the lives of more than 2,700 of their comrades. The Marines of Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment spent much of this year deployed in Ramadi, the heart of the Sunni Triangle and one of the most dangerous outposts in Iraq. The things they carry are often emblems of love or faith, reminders of home and a higher purpose. PFC Phillip Busenlehner's good-luck charm is an angel pendant given to him by his best friend's mother last year before Busenlehner left for boot camp. The case it came in reads, "An angel to give you strength to overcome any challenge." The pendant has been blessed by three priests and the Pope.

Lance Corporal Richard Caseltine wears a dog tag that belonged to his grandfather, who fought in the Korean War. "It is older than I am and means the world to me," he says. "I haven't taken it off since I got it." He was wearing it on April 8 when a bullet hit him in the head. He survived and returned to duty. "God was

with me and so was my grandfather," he says.

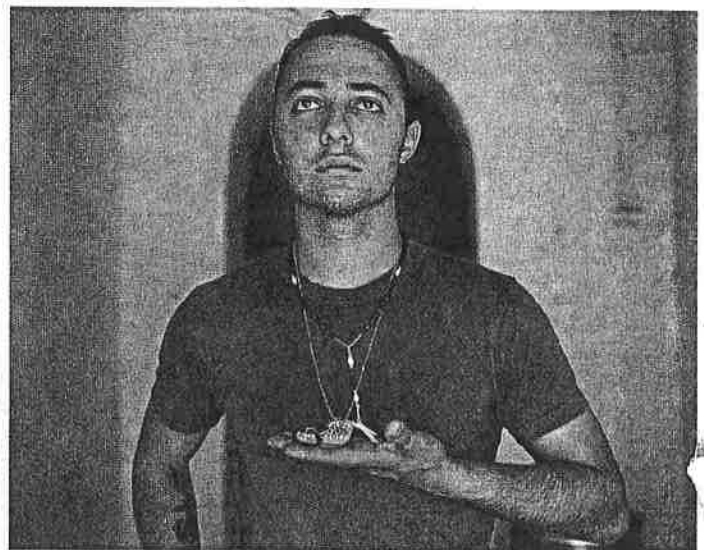
Corporal Michael Compton carries a plastic bag containing a pair of his wife's underwear. She gave it to him before his first deployment to Iraq, when they were still dating. "She said that she would stick by me," he says. But on a patrol outside Fallujah, the bag fell out of his pocket and blew away. "I thought it was long gone," he says. A week later, while "out in the middle of nowhere," he noticed a plastic bag and picked it up. The underwear was inside. "I couldn't believe it. I guess it was a sign because, sure enough, when I got back, me and my wife got married. I deployed again to Iraq, and I figured I should bring it with me. After all, if it found its way back to me, maybe it could guide me back to her." ■



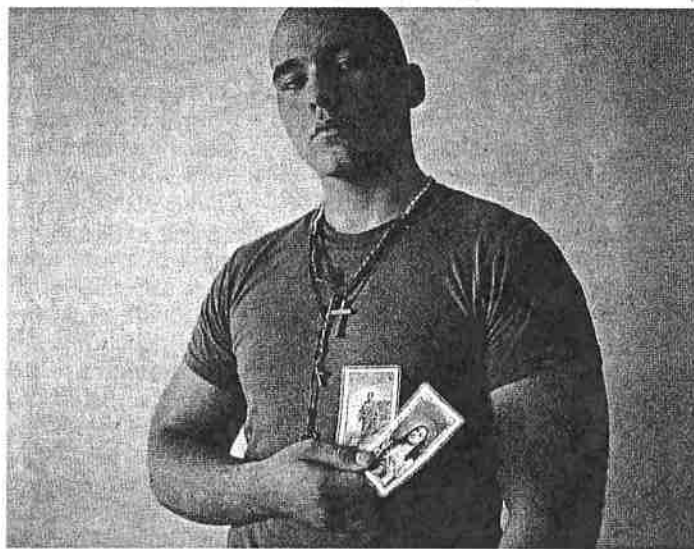
Having spent 3½ years covering the war in Iraq, **Yuri Kozyrev** has amassed his own collection of good-luck charms. Here he displays a few, including a cross, a gift from his wife and a ring that belonged to his grandfather. To see more of Kozyrev's pictures from Ramadi and hear him talk about them, go to time.com



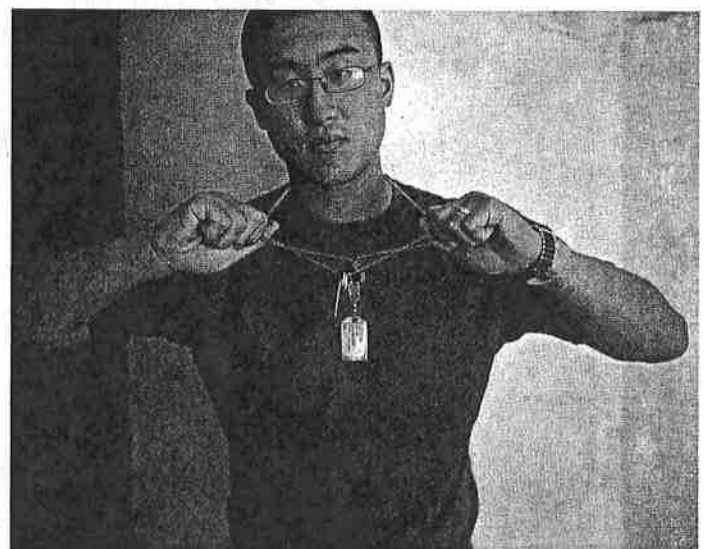
ANGEL PENDANT
PFC PHILLIP BUSENLEHNER



A CROSS, RING AND DOG TAGS
LANCE CORPORAL JEFF ORTIZ



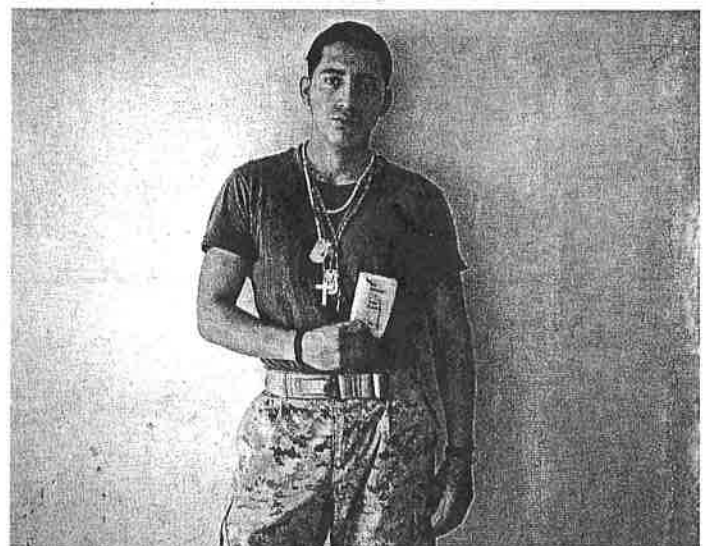
ROSARIES, PICTURES OF JESUS AND ST. PAUL
LANCE CORPORAL JOHN PORRAS



TWO DOG TAGS, A RING AND A CROSS
LANCE CORPORAL GEORGE AHN



WIFE'S UNDERWEAR
CORPORAL MICHAEL COMPTON



ROSARIES, A BIBLE AND DOG TAGS
LANCE CORPORAL JAIRO MUYCANDO