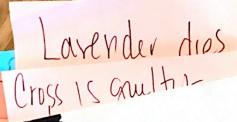
minimum, 14 pounds at maximum. When it was available, ally in cloth bandoliers, adding on another 8.4 pounds at was heavy. A single round weighed 10 ounces. The typical sonably light weapon except for the ammunition, which the M-79 grenade launcher, 5.9 pounds unloaded, a reaweighed about a pound. Among the grunts, some carried brushes and swabs and tubes of LSA oil—all of which they also carried M-16 maintenance gear—rods and steel riflemen carried anywhere from 12 to 20 magazines, usu load was 25 rounds. But Ted Lavender, who was scared, fall, or a big sandbag or something-just boom, then He was dead weight. There was no twitching or flopping. and tranquilizers and all the rest, plus the unweighed fear jacket and helmet and rations and water and toilet paper den, more than 20 pounds of ammunition, plus the flak Than Khe, and he went down under an exceptional burcarried 34 rounds when he was shot and killed outside mid-April. Lieutenant Cross felt the pain. He blamed himnot like that, Kiowa said, the poor bastard just flat-fuck around and does fancy spins and goes ass over teakettledown-not like the movies where the dead guy rolls Kiowa, who saw it happen, said it was like watching a rock self. They stripped off Lavender's canteens and ammo, all fell. Boom. Down. Nothing else. It was a bright morning in man's dope until the chopper came. Lieutenant Cross kept paddy, established security, and sat smoking the deac dead, and Mitchell Sanders used his radio to report one the heavy things, and Rat Kiley said the obvious, the guy's to himself. He pictured Martha's smooth young face Lavender in his poncho. They carried him out to a dry U.S. KIA and to request a chopper. Then they wrapped

mer ware the how ther Lovender, Shot by

just dropped like so much concrete. Boom-down, he said

Like cement

staying alive. They carried catch-as-catch-can. At various or whatever seemed appropriate as a means of killing or M-16, and M-79—they carried whatever presented itself, times, in various situations, they carried M-14s and CARmarket Uzis and .38-caliber Smith & Wesson handguns and and Chi-Coms and RPGs and Simonov carbines and black 15s and Swedish Ks and grease guns and captured AK-47s ell Sanders carried brass knuckles. Kiowa carried his grandried a slingshot; a weapon of last resort, he called it. Mitchand bayonets and C-4 plastic explosives. Lee Strunk car-66 mm LAWs and shotguns and silencers and blackjacks father's feathered hatchet. Every third or fourth man smoke grenade-24 ounces. Some carried CS or tear gas its firing device. They all carried fragmentation grenadescarried a Claymore antipersonnel mine—3.5 pounds with carried all they could bear, and then some, including a sigrenades. Some carried white phosphorus grenades. They 14 ounces each. They all carried at least one M-18 colored lent awe for the terrible power of the things they carried. In addition to the three standard weapons—the M-60





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"A marvel of storytelling. . . . [The Things They Carried] matters not only to the reader interested in Vietnam, but to anyone interested in the craft of writing as well."- New York Times

