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Warrior ethos : I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. P. 626

Only recently has the disproportionate number of wounded become news. Ironically, improvements in body armour and in the procedures for treating and evacuating casualties from the battlefield have markedly reduced mortality rates. The lethality of war wounds in Vietnam, for example, was 24 percent. It was the same for the first Persian Gulf War, but in the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan the rate is only 10 percent. … Today soldiers are living with wounds that they would not have survived in earlier wars. P. 643

The obsession with retrieving the dead stems in part from a desire to preserve the fantasy of war’s beauty, the fantasy that – like Hector’s body, proteted by the gods so that no amount of abuse, not stabbing it repeatedly nor dragging it through the dust behind a chariot, will mutilate or corrupt it – the modern warrior’s body can be somehow preserved, healed, made whole. … The desire to repatriate the far-flung remains of US soldiers cannot replace the obligation to reincorporate those yet-living reminders of war’s sacrifices. P. 644