**Soldier data**

Scanning of photographs focussed on the pages of the source material, which contained soldiers from three regiments: JR 16, JR 21 and KTR 3. These regiments were chosen based on availability in the source material and focusing on these regiments ensured that soldiers analysed had a similar chance of survival. However, scanned pages also contained soldiers from other regiments \( (n = 90) \) with photographs suitable for analysis, and these individuals were included in the dataset. Since these soldiers were all individuals who survived the war, and survival was greatly dependent on regiment, we performed the survival analysis with and without this subset of the data.

For some soldiers, their rank at the start of hostilities was not known and this information was obtained from soldiers' records available from the Finnish National Archives. For these same individuals data on height and weight were obtained at the same time. To estimate the overall survival rate for the soldiers (Fig. 2b) we searched for the total number of soldiers dying from the infantry units from the National Archives fallen soldiers database (http://kronos.narc.fi/menehtyneet) and compared this number to the typical regiment size\(^1\).

Birth place of soldiers was copied from the source material, and for purpose of analysis was categorized into birth regions according to the boundaries of counties in 1939.

References