Author's response to reviews

Title: Late-life coronary heart disease mortality of Finnish war veterans in the TAMRISK study, a 28-year follow-up

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Enclosed please find a revised version of our manuscript entitled "Late-life coronary heart disease mortality of Finnish war veterans in the TAMRISK study, a 28-year follow-up" which we submitted to BMC Public Health (MS: 1839555755407991). The reviewer’s suggestions have been taken into account as closely as possible. New changes and additions in the manuscript are typed in red. Our specific comments are as follows:

Reviewer: Sidsel Graff-Iversen

Reviewer's report:
I have three small remarks, which the authors may make use of if they agree:

- In the discussion of significant losses in the group of wounded men in the first 1-2 years, the last sentence: It is (in my opinion) highly probable, that that you have not demonstrated the whole effect of being wounded, when doing a study that started three decades after the exposure. "May not have seen" could be changed to a stronger suggestion.

We have changed “may not have seen” to “it is highly probable that we have not seen”.

- In the Discussion, page 9-10, the issue of different kind of war exposures (PTSD, wounds, other) is mentioned. When speaking of long-term mortality including CVD, the issue of nutritional deficiency may be brought up (briefly). War veterans in this study (and the probably in any study of veterans?) were very young (down to 17 years) when exposed to war as soldiers. This may imply that many of them were exposed to war also when too young for the army (as civilians, which often means bad nutrition in wartime)?

We have added: “War veterans in this study were very young when exposed to war as soldiers. This may imply that many of them were exposed to war also when too young for the army as civilians, which often means bad nutrition in wartime.”

- the sentence including "were more on disability pension": perhaps "were more often on...".

Has been changed to: were more often on disability pension,
Reviewer: Maria Inês Azambuja

Reviewer's report:
The authors accepted suggestions made by the reviewer, incorporating some additional points to the discussion. I leave to the editor the decision of publishing or not.

We hope that these new changes and additions - as suggested by Sidsel Graff-Iversen - will make the manuscript suitable for publication.

Sincerely yours,

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