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Background on Facts and Figures Cited in Press Release

HOW MANY ELEPHANTS?

No precise figure is known for the total number of elephants taken over a 100-year period (1840-1940) for the Deep River and Essex, CT ivory businesses, but based on company records, and direct knowledge of company men in Africa, a reasonable—though conservative—estimate of at least 500,000 elephants can be made. Ernst Moore, the Zanzibar-based ivory buyer for Comstock Cheney and Pratt Read, hand picked ivory tusks in the market, and travelled to the interior of Africa to observe tusk collection. Citing figures he kept for his own records, Moore wrote in his 1931 memoir, *IVORY Scourge of Africa*, that between 1907-11 alone, the Connecticut trade took 30,000 elephants EACH YEAR, while noting others claimed 40,000-100,000 prior to that. Extrapolating, and using only Moore's annual lower figure of 30,000/year, and applying it to just one decade, it would mean 300,000 elephants were sacrificed; 600,000 if calculated over two decades. Allowing for off years, a very conservative total number then for elephants killed for the ivory trade in Connecticut is at least 500,000. The figure was probably much higher. {Source: *IVORY Scourge of Africa*, Ernst D. Moore, pp. 213, 215}

Just how high was put forth by Esmond Bradley Martin, Jr., a conservation expert living in Kenya, and the World Wildlife Fund's ivory trade investigator and UN Special Envoy. Writing in a 2001 article for *BBC History* magazine, "The Great White Gold Rush," Martin's research estimates showed that there were "nearly 44,000 elephants killed each year from 1850-1914," equal to "700 tons every year or 2,800,000 elephants killed." (Source: *Ivory's Ghosts*, John F. Walker)

HOW MANY HUMAN BEINGS?

Along with the staggering number of elephants killed, a great number of humans were sacrificed for Connecticut's ivory trade. More than half a century of missionary and explorer eyewitness accounts, between 1840-1890, document the suffering. In the 19th century, there were no railroads or transport lines in central Africa where elephants were found. Africans had to be captured and forced to carry the tusks from the interior to the coast. The great African explorer and missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, observed in the 1850s, that five black people were killed for each elephant tusk that reached the coast. Henry Stanley, Livingstone's companion, put the number much higher. Livingstone and others noted that conditions of the tusk caravans were so brutal, half of all Africans died in transit. Those that survived were sold as slaves for plantations in the New World . {Source: *Complicity*, Anne Farrow, et al, 2005, *p. 209*.}

In a groundbreaking work, writer and researcher Anne Farrow, with the assistance of Essex Town Historian, Don Malcarne, estimated that at least two million Africans were sacrificed for the Connecticut trade. Using Dr. Livingstone's figure of five people per tusk, and taking just Comstock-Cheney's records of 200,000 tusks cut between 1879 and 1900, Malcarne calculated that one million human beings were sacrificed for the Essex factory alone. Bringing Pratt Read into the equation, which handled many more tusks than Comstock-Cheney, the conservative estimate becomes two million African lives. (Numbers are based on only a 21-year period). {Source: *Complicity*, Anne Farrow, et al, 2005, *p. 209*.}