

[Home](#) > [Newspaper Catalogue](#) > [The Straits Budget](#) > [1939](#) > [June](#) > [15](#) > [Page 5](#) > [Elephant Records](#)

Elephant Records

The Straits Budget, 15 June 1939, Page 5

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Elephant Records

IN an estate bungalow in Johore recently an argument arose as to whether the Indian elephant (of which the Malayan is a sub-species) is bigger than the African elephant, and it was decided to write to me and ask whether I could supply the answer. Accordingly I have consulted a reference work which settles the argument in favour of *Elephas Africanus*.

The jungles of Asia contain no elephant as huge as old Jumbo, an African elephant well-known for many years at the London Zoo, who stood 11 feet 3 inches high at the shoulder and weighed six and a half tons. Fourteen-foot elephants are supposed to have existed in Africa, but they are legendary, and there are no authenticated measurements beyond 12 feet.

Jumbo was very exceptional, but the African elephant not uncommonly attains a height of ten feet and a weight of four tons, whereas an average Indian elephant stands eight feet high and weighs three tons. The tusks of the African species are much heavier, the record being 235 lb., as compared with 102 lb. in India.

In the Malay Peninsula a ten-foot elephant has never been recorded, so far as is known. The tallest elephant of which Mr. Theodore Hubback has





had reliable evidence was one shot by Mr. Frederiksen in Kelantan which measured 9 feet 8 inches at the shoulder. The heaviest tusks recorded in the Peninsula are supposed to have been a pair weighing $90\frac{3}{4}$ lb. which were taken from an elephant shot by the late Mr. William Hay in Pahang.

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