

1 THAYER, Mr. John Borland jr "Jack"
2 17 ans- 1ère classe- billet 17421- £110 17s 8d- embarqué à Cherbourg- lycéen- cannot B.
3 [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126944/Titanic-survivor-John-B-Jack-Thayer-III-reveals-](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126944/Titanic-survivor-John-B-Jack-Thayer-III-reveals-horrifying-cries-dying-victims.html)
4 [horrifying-cries-dying-victims.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126944/Titanic-survivor-John-B-Jack-Thayer-III-reveals-horrifying-cries-dying-victims.html)
5 'It sounded like locusts on a midsummer night': Titanic survivor reveals the horrifying cries of the luxury
6 liner's dying victims
7 By Emine Sinmaz
8 PUBLISHED:19:53 GMT, 8 April 2012| UPDATED:10:57 GMT, 9 April 2012
9 The dramatic first-hand account of a Titanic survivor is to be published this month to mark
10 the centennial of the catastrophe.
11 John B. 'Jack' Thayer III, a 17-year-old heir to a Pennsylvania railroad fortune, was one of
12 the few people who lived to tell the tale of the 'unsinkable' ship's fate.
13 Of the 2,224 aboard, only 710 people survived the disaster - many escaping in lifeboats
14 before the luxury liner sank - and most were women, including Thayer's mother.
15 But the teen was miraculously rescued after he plunged into the icy waters and clung on to
16 an upturned lifeboat, while watching the tragedy unfold before him.
17 In 1940, Thayer penned his account of what had happened in the early hours of April 15
18 1912 as a tribute to his father who had tragically gone down with the ship, printing an
19 edition of just 500 copies for family and friends
20 Now, however, 'A Survivor's Tale' is to be printed by New York publisher Thornwillow
21 Press, bringing alive the doomed liner's story to those outside his inner circle.
22 In his vivid account, Thayer recounts his own desperate struggle for survival. *'About one
23 in every 36 who went down with the ship was saved, and I happened to be one,'* he said, in
an extract obtained by the *Daily Telegraph*.
*'We were a mass of hopeless, dazed humanity, attempting, as the Almighty and Nature
made us, to keep our final breath until the last possible moment.'*
In despair, and left with no option, Thayer decided to jump. *'I was pushed out and then
sucked down. The cold was terrific. The shock of the water took the breath out of my
lungs,'* he says of the terrifying plunge.
*'Down and down, I went, spinning in all directions. Swimming as hard as I could in the
direction which I thought to be away from the ship, I finally came up with my lungs
bursting, but not having taken any water.'*
After latching on to a life boat, Thayer watched as the ship's passengers battled against the
inevitable. *'We could see groups of the almost 1,500 people still aboard, clinging in
clusters of bunches like swarming bees; only to fall in masses, pairs or singly, as the great
after-part of the ship, 250 feet of it, rose into the sky, till it reached a 65 or 70-degree
angle.'*
He describes being haunted by the horrifying cries of the people who slowly died around
him - and his own survival.
*'It sounded like locusts on a midsummer night in the woods. This terrible cry lasted for 20
or 30 minutes, gradually dying away, as one after another could no longer withstand the
cold and exposure,'* he said.
Thayer said the most poignant part of the catastrophe was that the lifeboats, some of
which were 'only partially loaded', did not return to rescue those crying for help in the
water.
He describes how several hundred more people could have been saved had the boats,
which were only four or five hundred yards away, turned back.
Although Thayer escaped the disaster, his life ended tragically. Five years after he wrote
his memoir, he committed suicide following the tragic death of his son in WWII.

23 Son récit est retranscrit en entier dans le livre d'Archibald Gracie.