

1 THAYER, Mr. John Borland jr "Jack"
2 17 ans- 1ère classe- billet 17421- £110 17s 8d- embarqué à
3 Cherbourg- lycéen- cannot B.
4 [http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126944/Titanic-survivor-John-B-](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126944/Titanic-survivor-John-B-Jack-Thayer-III-reveals-horrifying-cries-dying-victims.html)
5 Jack-Thayer-III-reveals-horrifying-cries-dying-victims.html
6 'It sounded like locusts on a midsummer night': Titanic survivor reveals the
7 horrifying cries of the luxury liner's dying victims
8 By Emine Sinmaz
9 PUBLISHED:19:53 GMT, 8 April 2012| UPDATED:10:57 GMT, 9 April 2012
10 The dramatic first-hand account of a Titanic survivor is to be
11 published this month to mark the centennial of the catastrophe.
12 John B. 'Jack' Thayer III, a 17-year-old heir to a Pennsylvania
13 railroad fortune, was one of the few people who lived to tell the
14 tale of the 'unsinkable' ship's fate.
15 Of the 2,224 aboard, only 710 people survived the disaster -
16 many escaping in lifeboats before the luxury liner sank - and
17 most were women, including Thayer's mother.
18 But the teen was miraculously rescued after he plunged into the
19 icy waters and clung on to an upturned lifeboat, while watching
the tragedy unfold before him.
In 1940, Thayer penned his account of what had happened in the
early hours of April 15 1912 as a tribute to his father who had
tragically gone down with the ship, printing an edition of just
500 copies for family and friends
Now, however, 'A Survivor's Tale' is to be printed by New York
publisher Thornwillow Press, bringing alive the doomed liner's
story to those outside his inner circle.
In his vivid account, Thayer recounts his own desperate struggle
for survival. *'About one 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.

20 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.

21 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.

22 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.