

The Survivor by John Goddard (2001)

John Goddard [1924-2013] at age 15 wrote out his "life list" with 127 goals. He fulfilled 111 of them as he led a life as an adventurer. Some of them were:

- Explore the Amazon, Nile & Congo Rivers
- Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro & the Matterhorn
- Explore the Great Barrier Reef & Grand Canyon
- Become an Eagle Scout
- Climb the Great Pyramid
- Learn to fly a plane & skydive
- Study tribes in Alaska, Africa & Australia
- Visit Great Wall of China, Panama Canal & Eiffel Tower
- Circumnavigate the globe
- Write a book, compose music & much more.

42 times he had near-death experiences [some from poor decisions & some from natural forces beyond his control. He survived most from remaining calm & a will to live. Here are some:

1. His dog provoked a deer, who in turn attacked John; his dog distracted the deer while he got away
2. He was trapped underwater by the suction of an abalone on his hand
3. He jumped on a mtn goat, then realized there was no way off the 300' cliff
4. He decided not to take a flight that crashed with no survivors
5. He survived a head-on car collision
6. He survived attacks from hippos, crocodile, elephant
7. He survived river rapids, trapped underwater by roots, current, etc
8. He survived attacks from river pirates & natives
9. He survived dehydration in the desert
10. He survived a plane crash
11. He survived Malaria
12. He survived a deep scuba dive after running out of air

He had to overcome fears from these experiences by facing his fears & learning from them. In 1951 he was the 1st to explore the entire Nile River [in a kayak] & 1956 the same on the Congo River. He said the best investment a person can make is in themselves. Go to church, spend time with family & don't go in debt.