

A Loss for the X-2 Family: Richard Passman

Daily we lose those who were part of the Golden Age of Flight Test. Sadly on April 1, Richard Passman died at the young age of 94. Mr. Passman was chief aerodynamicist at Bell Aircraft, working on the X-1 and X-2 programs. Reading over his obituary (as the guest book), I truly realized his involvement in aerospace: the Corona spy satellite program, Manned Orbiting Laboratory, Apollo program and more. In 2014, he co-authored the 2014 book **X-15: The World's Fastest World's Fastest Rocket Plane and the Pilots Who Ushered in the Space Age**.

IMO, his biggest achievement...celebrating 70 years of marriage last June with his wife Minna.

The Philadelphia Inquirer Obituary

New York Times Obituary

Legacy.com Guest Book

April 20th, 2020 | Tags: [X-1](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB, X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

January 25 2020 X-2 Crash Site Visit

I've probably mentioned this before, but one of the most enjoyable things of owning this X-2 website is getting emails from other enthusiasts. Loren D. recently emailed me with some photos of a site visit. He grew up on Edwards AFB next door to the Apt family and remembers playing with the Captain's older daughter. And a quick *Toward The Unknown* connection – Loren's dad flew a few scenes in the movie. If you happen to know any details, **drop me a line!**

The below photos are from a January 25 site visit:



February 8th, 2020 | Tags: [edwards afb](#), [Mel Apt](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Mel Apt](#), [Test Pilots](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

Bell Aircraft Wheatfield Photos

I have added a new section to the [X-2 Photo Album](#) with pictures from Bell Aircraft's plant in Wheatfield, New York. A few unique shots in the bunch, **so take a look**.

Thanks to Tony Landis for locating the images and sharing. Photos are from the National Archives in St. Louis as well as the Air Force Flight Test Center History Office.

December 23rd, 2019 | Tags: [Bell Aircraft](#), [New York](#), [Wheatfield](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

Matthews Aviation Art: Martin XB-51

I have to put a plug in for a website I recently ran into and an art print that I purchased. Having the XB-51 (aka Gilbert XF-120) the subject of a piece of aviation art isn't seen every day, so I want to pass John Matthew's website along – [JohnMatthewsArt.com](#)

Here's the print I ended up with. Printed on gloss paper, it's extremely realistic.

John has two other XB-51 prints as well as F-105, B-47 and Lockheed Project L-133 prints. Check it out!

October 26th, 2019 | Tags: [xb-51](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB, XB-51](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

X-2 Photo Album Update Part 2 – 6674 Crash Photos

Part two of the 6674 photo album has been uploading, completing the album updates.

Over the next few months I'll be posting more photos including test stand shots, X-2 mockups, 1953 X-2/B-50 accident photos and more. Watch for notifications on the blog when new photos come online.

A special thanks to Tony Landis for doing the hard work locating the images and sharing! Photos are from the National Archives in St. Louis as well as the Air Force Flight Test Center History Office.

X-2 Photo Album Home | Final Flight of 6674 Album

July 5th, 2019 | Tags: [6674](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB, Mel Apt, X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Linc Didn't Own a Ferrari

An interesting recent find. A rather sappy publicity shot from *Toward The Unknown*, one I haven't seen in any of the "standard" publicity shots promoting the film (probably cause it looks like Virginia Leith is dead). Anyhow, one thing caught my eye, Bill's lapel pin. You see, at this time William Holden owned a 1954 Ferrari 375MM Spider. I guess this is one way of showing his true love 😊





May 5th, 2019 | Tags: [Ferrari](#), [Toward The Unknown](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Movies](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

X-2 Photo Album Update – 6674 Crash Photos

I am in the process of updating the website album with a number of new X-2 photos. I just posted the first batch of 6674 crash site photos – part two to come.

Over the next few months I'll be posting more photos including test stand shots, X-2 mockups, 1953 X-2/B-50 accident photos and more. Watch for notifications on the blog when new photos come online.

A special thanks to Tony Landis for doing the hard work locating the images and sharing! Photos are from the National Archives in St. Louis as well as the Air Force Flight Test Center History Office.

[X-2 Photo Album Home](#) | [Final Flight of 6674 Album](#)

April 14th, 2019 | Tags: [6674](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Mel Apt](#), [X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Aviation History Mag: Bell X-2: First to Mach 3

The May issue of Aviation History Magazine has a brief two-page article on the X-2 program. The article is also available [on their website](#). Also in the issue is an article on the X-1: Dropping the Orange Beast.

H/t to Rick for the lead!

April 6th, 2019 | Tags: [X-1](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

X-2 & TF-86 Movie

Via the San Diego Air and Space Museum YouTube Channel:

March 16th, 2019 | Tags: [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB, X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Flight Test Book Club: X-15: The World's Fastest Rocket Plane and the Pilots Who Ushered in the Space Age

I want to give a plug for this book because of one of the author's connections to the X-2 program. Richard Passman was chief aerodynamicist at Bell Aircraft for the X-2. Equally interesting, he has been a volunteer at the National Air and Space Museum (which sounds like it would be a fun time).

There have been many books on the X-15 and her pilots, and many in much more detail. However, this book is a fun visual overview of the program as well as aircraft of the era. This feels like one of those books I would have flipped through a million times as a kid, in awe of the color "rocket plane" photos. I think this would be a great book to get folks further roped into X plane and spaceflight.

And a note for Mr. Passman – you should write something about your experiences with the X-2!

Available on [Amazon](#).

February 16th, 2019 | Tags: [x-15](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Flight Test Book Club](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

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