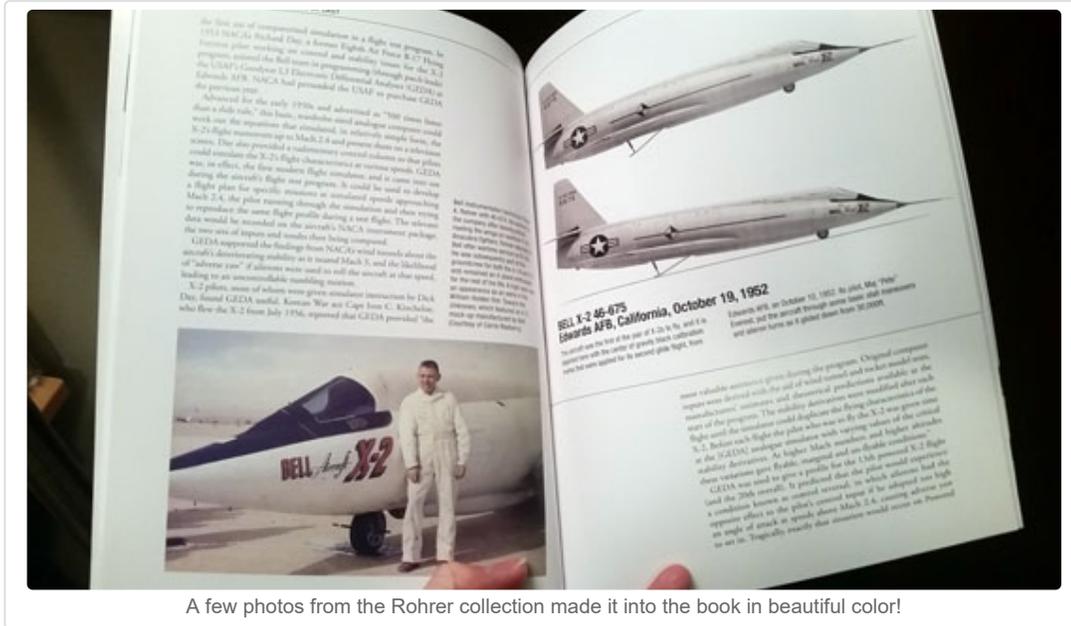


X Planes 6 – Bell X-2 by Peter E. Davies

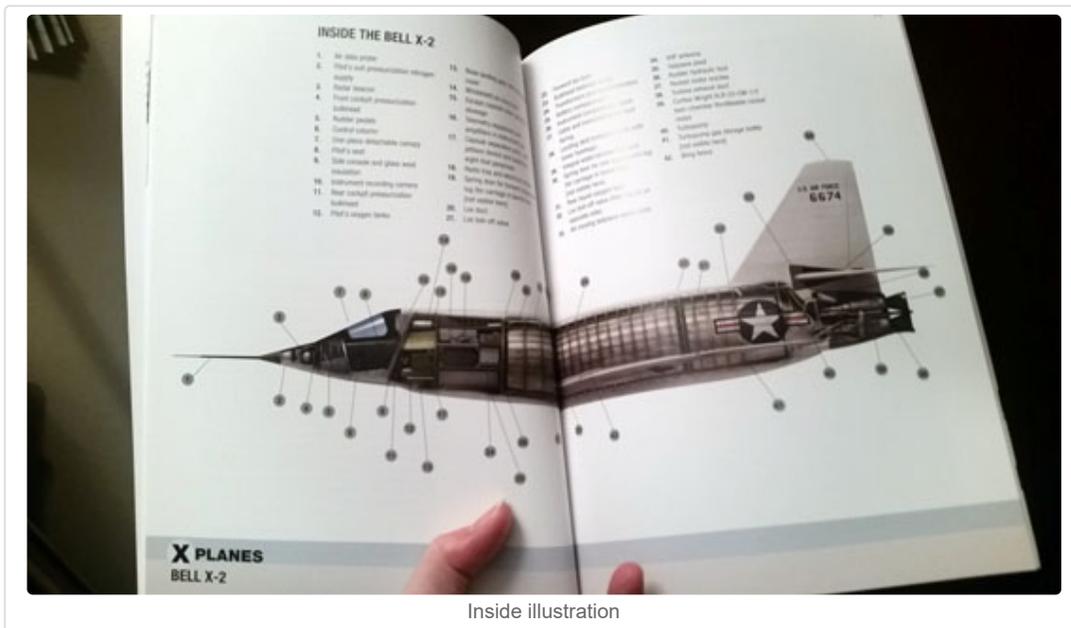
There's one thing I always hear about the X-2 program; "There outta be a book."

Well, we now have two X-2 books on the market. In November 2017, Osprey released X Planes 6 on the Bell X-2, by Peter E. Davies. Is it the "definitive" X-2 book? No, but it's still a worthy effort with a selection of quality photos and excellent illustrations by **Adam Tooby**. For \$20, the book is worth the investment.

The other X-2 book? Henry Matthew's *The Saga of the Bell X-2*.



A few photos from the Rohrer collection made it into the book in beautiful color!



Inside illustration



X PLANES

BELL X-2



Even before the spectacular success of its X-1 rocket-powered aircraft in breaking the "sound barrier", the adventurous Bell Aircraft Corporation was already pushing ahead with a parallel project to build a second aircraft capable of far higher speeds. The X-2 (or Model 52) explored the equally uncertain technology of swept-back wings. Although it is now common in modern conventional fighter aircraft, the Bell X-2 was revolutionary in using this type of wing planform to probe Mach 3 and research the effects of extreme aerodynamic friction heat on airframes.

Although both X-2s were destroyed in crashes after only 20 flights, killing two test pilots, the knowledge gained from the program was invaluable in developing aircraft that could safely fly at such speeds. Using stunning artwork and historical photographs, this is the story of the aircraft that paved the way for the Lockheed SR-71 and Concorde.



Throughout the last century, one-off experimental aircraft and cutting-edge military prototypes have pushed the boundaries of what is possible.

Authoritative and accessible, **X-Planes** is the series that explains the technology behind the world's most important prototype and research aircraft, their often dangerous flight-test careers, and how their successes and failures influenced frontline aircraft development.

EACH BOOK CONTAINS:

- The best archive photography
- Meticulously detailed original artwork
- Expert history and analysis



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January 8th, 2018 | Tags: [books](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Flight Test Book Club](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Motion Picture Herald – September 22, 1956

Chances are, you've never heard of the magazine *Motion Picture Herald*. If you were a theater owner back in the day, you did. This was the source for all the dirt on movies coming up as well as performance of what was playing at that time. In the September 22 issue, Warner Brothers promoted *Toward The Unknown* in a two page color ad. Unfortunately, I couldn't get a good scan of the Life magazine sized pages without disassembling it (no staples). I've added my pieced together scan over in the [TTU Photo Album](#), [page 5](#).

The interesting piece is the "First Engagements" portion at the bottom of the ad: Baltimore, Buffalo and New York. I recall seeing an article talking about what I believe was the Baltimore premiere with ARDC big wigs. I want to say Iven Kincheloe and other pilots were there. Buffalo was likely for the Bell Aircraft folks. I'm partial to the ad for having the Ad Inexplorata crest in it.



December 26th, 2017 | Tags: [Toward The Unknown](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Iven Kincheloe](#), [Test Pilots](#), [Toward The Unknown](#) | Comments are closed

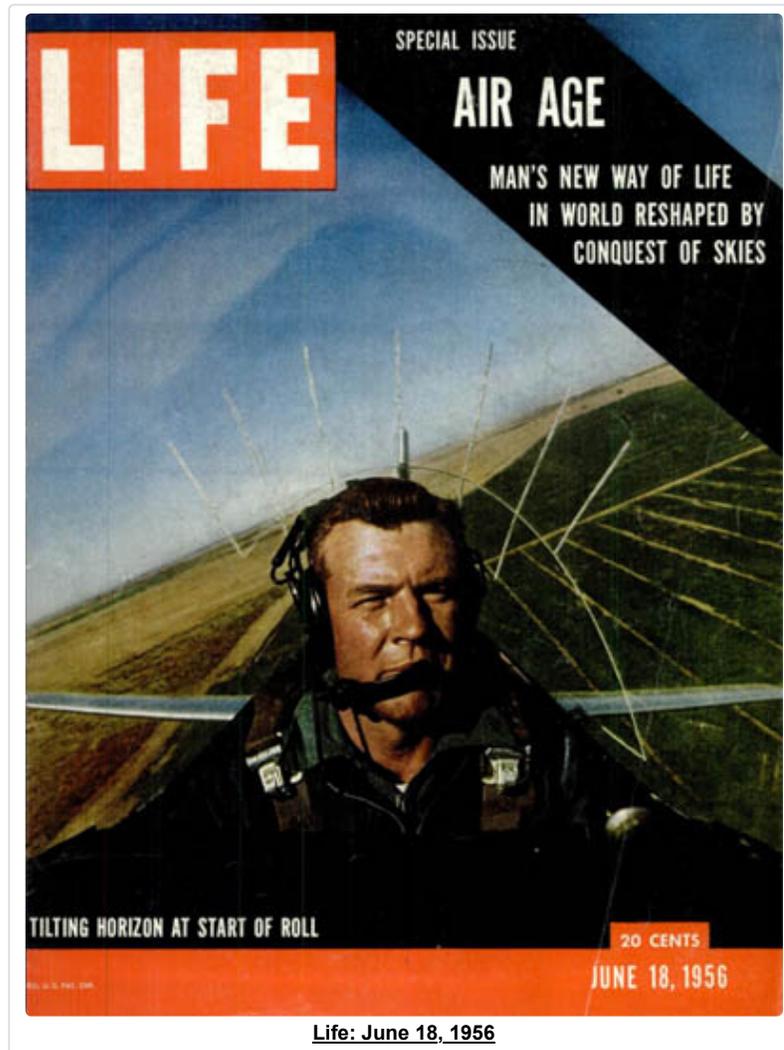
Old Life Magazine Issues on Google

I've known about the Life Magazine photo archive on Google for a while, but I recently stumbled across something just as fun – [full issues online](#). It looks like the archive starts around 1972 and goes through 1953 as of this post.

I remember trying to find the August 3, 1962 issue. Because there's a Marilyn Monroe story in it, the prices were always nuts. Finally found one, but like all Life Magazines, it smells like the 60s...or musty. Google got rid of the smell.



Life: August 3, 1962



December 17th, 2017 | Tags: [life magazine](#), [Robert White](#), [x-15](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Test Pilots](#) | Comments are closed

On The Threshold of Space Artwork

I recently ran into an [interesting post on TVWeek.com](#) about artwork designed by Saul Bass and Al Kallis for *On The Threshold of Space* promo materials. If you've seen the [opening credits of North By Northwest](#), you know Bass' work.

Some interesting background and striking artwork that never quite made it as intended.



December 4th, 2017 | Tags: [On The Threshold of Space](#) | Category: [Movies](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

As Seen in Life Magazine

Not only a movie star in [H-19 scene in TTU](#), this H-19B was also photographed for Life Magazine:



November 19th, 2017 | Tags: [H-19](#), [Toward The Unknown](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Movies](#), [Toward The Unknown](#) | [Comments are closer](#)

Pete Everest – Part 2

Another slick model from Thomas!

Pete Everest made the first, third and sixth (and last) USAF flight on 23 12 1953, 02 07 1954 and 29 07 1954 on that plane. Then the underpowered jet went to NACA. Pete was used to hotter stuff!



[View Large Image](#)

October 15th, 2017 | Tags: [pete everest](#), [X-3](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Pete Everest](#), [Test Pilots](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Pete Everest & the D-558 II

Thomas from Germany emailed me a photo of his 1/72 D-558 II model diorama – nice!

Nov 20, 1953: Scott Crossfield broke the Mach 2 barrier in Buno. 37974

May 5, 1955: Pete Everest made a 17 minute familiarization flight (N50) in that plane (M 1.6, 68.000ft) before starting with the X 2



[View Large Image](#)

September 30th, 2017 | Tags: [D-558 II](#), [pete everest](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Pete Everest](#), [Test Pilots](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

Pete Everest & the X-1D

Just ran across this article from [“This Day in Aviation:” August 22, 1953](#). It talks about Pete abandoning a flight in the X-1D, barely:

Fearing that a larger explosion or fire would jeopardize the bomber and its crew, Everest abandoned the X-1D, climbing up into the bomber. The X-1 was then dropped. It crashed onto the desert floor and exploded.

The article also talks about *Toward The Unknown* and a very similar scene with the X-2.



“Trouble with the X-2!”

August 26th, 2017 | Tags: [pete everest](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [Edwards AFB](#), [Movies](#), [Test Pilots](#), [Toward The Unknown](#), [X-2](#) | **Comments are closed**

Bell X-2 Book Coming This November

Osprey Publishing is releasing a X-2 book November 21, 2017 by Peter E. Davies. It is number 6 in a series of books on the X Planes.

Amazon currently has the book available for pre-order at \$13.39.



August 6th, 2017 | Tags: [books](#), [X-2](#) | Category: [X-2](#) | Comments are closed

[Toward The Unknown Playing at EAA Museum in September](#)

If you're up in the Oshkosh, Wisconsin area on September 7, the EAA Museum is playing *Toward The Unknown* in their **SkyScape Theater**. Per the EAA website:

Travel back in time and experience the golden age of cinema at EAA's Skyscape Theater Royale, a series of classic aviation film screenings. Each film begins at 6:30 p.m. in the museum's Skyscape Theater, an intimate setting with a 50-foot screen and state-of-the-art projection and sound systems. (Seating is on a first come, first serve basis and is subject to capacity.)

Nuts. They would do that on a work night...

COMING SOON!

Travel back in time and experience the golden age of cinema at
EAA's Skyscape Theater Royale!

Movies begin at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.
 Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis and subject to capacity.
 For more information visit EAA.org/SkyscapeTheater.



Free for EAA members | \$5 for Nonmembers

<p>January 5</p>  <p>Strategic Air Command (1955)</p>	<p>February 2</p>  <p>Jet Pilot (1957)</p>	<p>March 2</p>  <p>The Hindenburg (1975)</p>	
<p>April 6</p>  <p>Apollo 13 (1995)</p>	<p>May 4</p>  <p>The Spirit of St. Louis (1957)</p>	<p>June 1</p>  <p>Memphis Belle (1990)</p>	
<p>September 7</p>  <p>Toward the Unknown (1956)</p>	<p>October 5</p>  <p>Dive Bomber (1941)</p>	<p>November 2</p>  <p>Chain Lightning (1950)</p>	<p>December 7</p>  <p>The Red Baron (2008)</p>

July 19th, 2017 | Tags: [Toward The Unknown](#) | Category: [Movies, Toward The Unknown](#) | [Comments are closed](#)

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