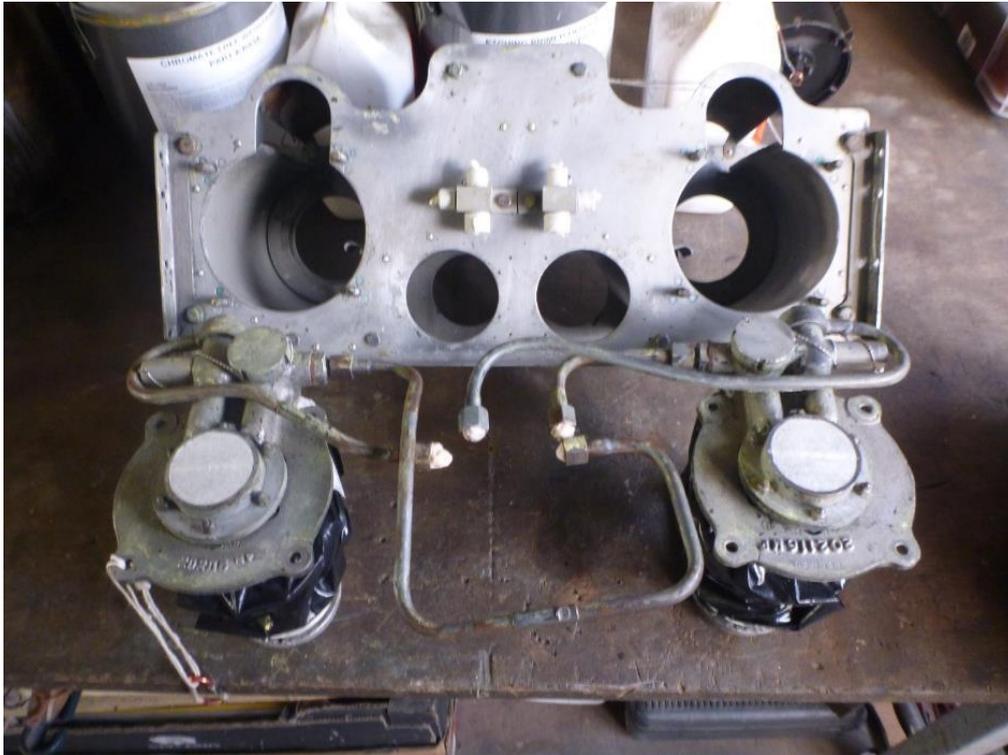


FN82 Turret update February 2021

The plan for February was to spray and rebuild the second gun cradle, build both roller draught excluders and restore the servo feed unit.

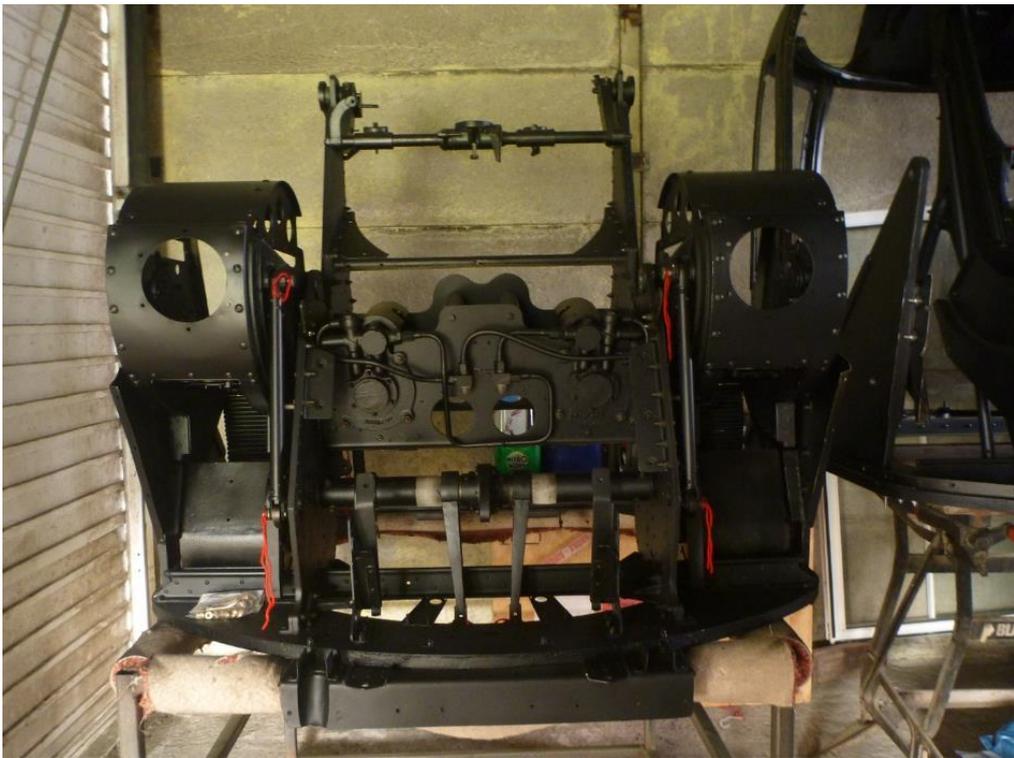
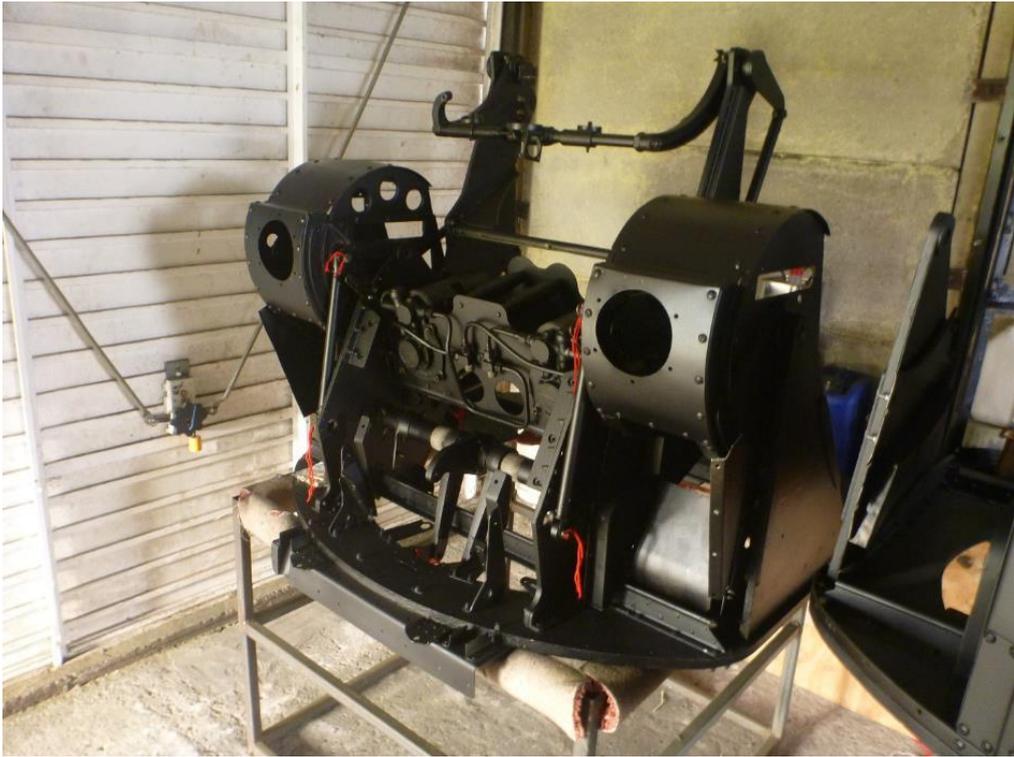
The second gun cradle went very well, with the components being sprayed, the cradle rebuilt and then the assembly given a light dusting over for cosmetic purposes. This cradle was in slightly better condition than the first and was assembled in around a day or two. The two roller draught excluders, although fiddly and complex were also relatively quickly assembled and dusted over.

I had hoped that the servo feed unit could be restored without the need to take it apart, but that proved to be impossible. Therefore, the two hydraulic motors were removed from the support frame to better enable the removal of old paint. The frame, in particular, scrubbed up well to reveal an almost perfect anodised finish. These assemblies were then sprayed and the unit re-built.



With these items all finished it was possible to dry assemble them into the turret superstructure. Although time consuming, this dry assembly allowed several awkward rubs and tight spots to be identified and resolved at an early point in the restoration.

All of these items will need to be removed to enable the turret rings to be fitted at some point in the future, but it was good to get an impression of the way things are going. Below are a few images of the current state of the turret.

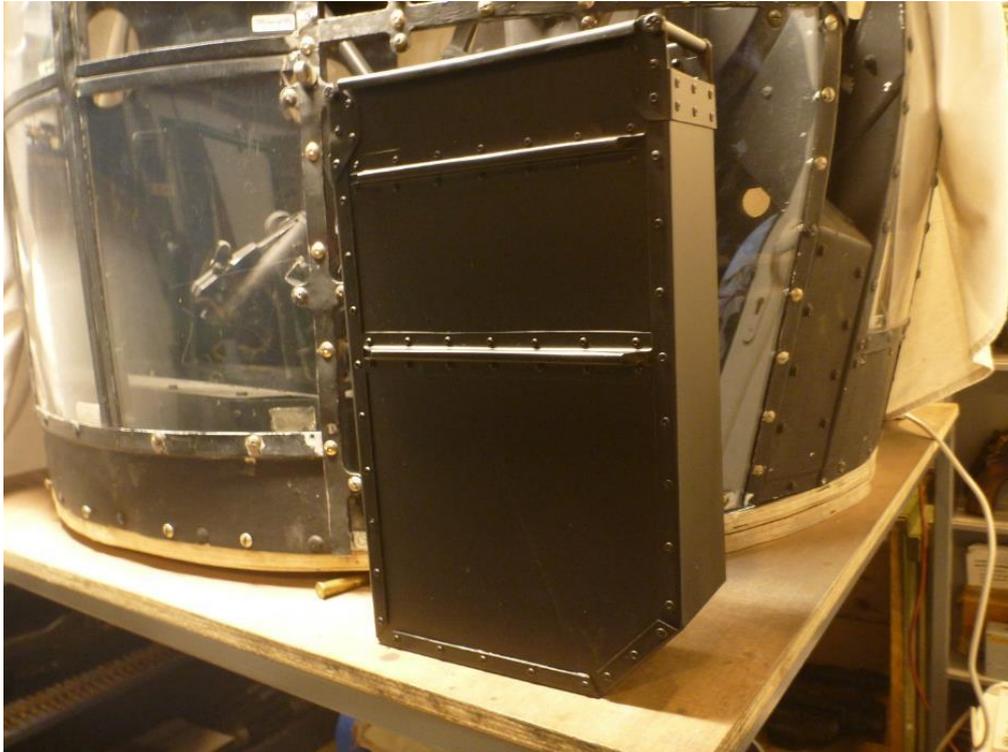




The plan for March is to rebuild the turret control unit. The uppermost in the image below is from NX611 and is in very poor condition. It is hoped that one good unit can be created using the best of the parts from the two control units available.



It's not all FN82 up here, however, and at weekends attention is known to slip onto the FN5 and A13-A turrets. Pictured below is a reproduction FN5 ammunition can that took a ludicrously long time to create



January also saw the oxygen system being completed on the A13-A (ball) turret – a job that was long overdue.



The empty case and link ejection chutes also went in, as did the ammunition feed rails.

