

FN82 update February to April 2022

The last update ended with an image of some of the component parts of Jane's drum and floor assembly. The restoration continued from there.

Firstly, the sides were temporarily bolted to the rotating turret ring in order to establish the correct circumference at that end.



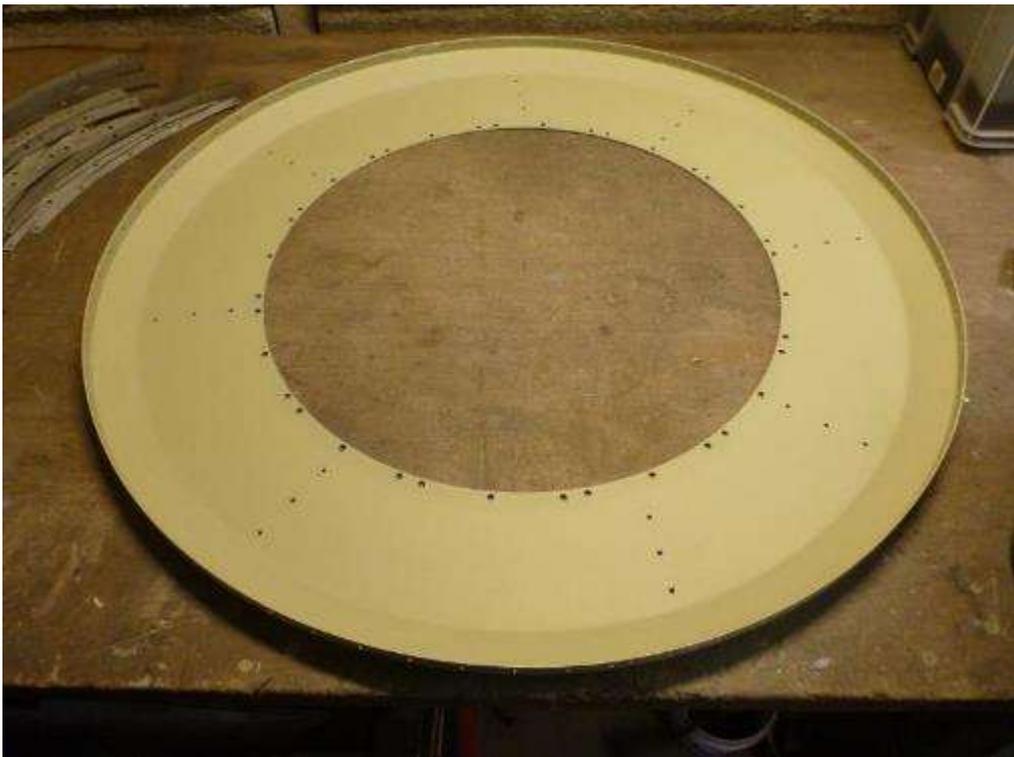
Then the inner floor could be gripped to the sides to establish the circumference at the other end and allow all of the rivet holes to be transferred across. The 'inside' of both of the two floor skins were washed and primed at this point to better prevent corrosion. The originals had no surface finish applied but, I assume, that they weren't expected to last that long.

The two floors are held apart with Tuffnell spacers which had to be manufactured as the originals had all cracked.

During final assembly of the drum and floor jointing compound was used on all of the joints as this area of the turret is particularly prone to corrosion due to the moisture collecting in the drum.

Probably the hardest part of this assembly was getting the outer floor in place. All of the holes in the bearing mount and the eight spacers have to be aligned before the outer skin can be gripped to the inner floor and drum sides.

Once aligned and bolted and riveted together the next stage was to fit the fixed floor assembly – there are many parts.





The components of the fixed floor are seen below. Firstly, the bearings are greased and then slid into place. The other bearing mount and floor are bolted around them.





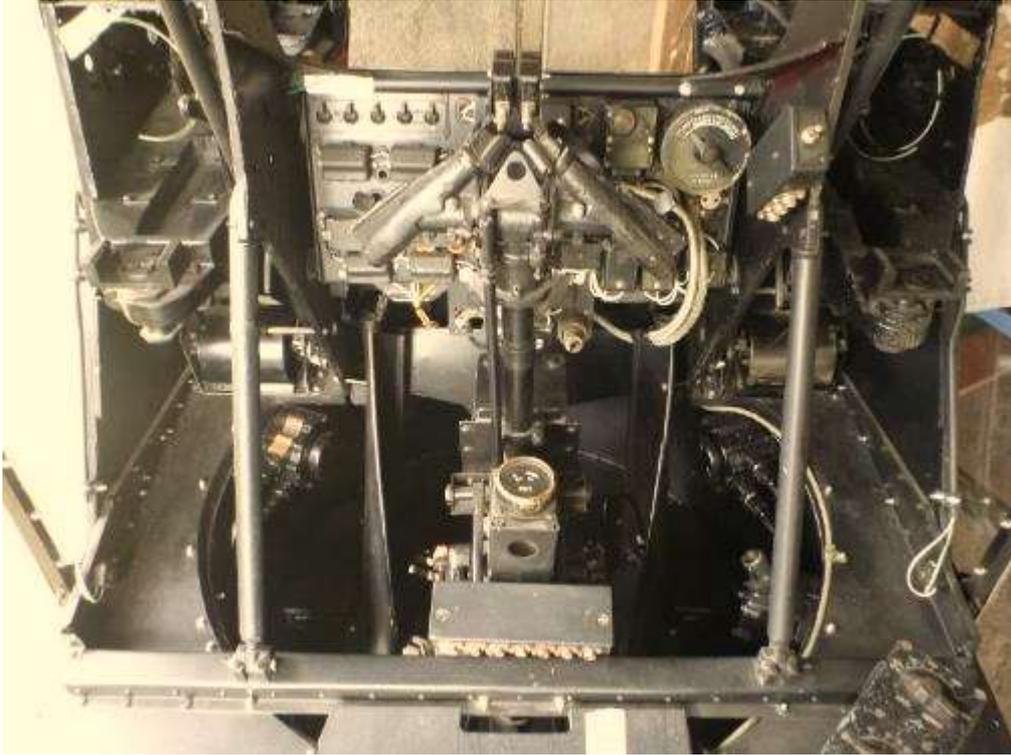
Seen below is the completed drum and floor assembly which has been bolted to the rotating turret ring. Once this assembly has been sprayed it will need to be fitted to the fixed turret ring and then the whole thing bolted to the underside of the turret.



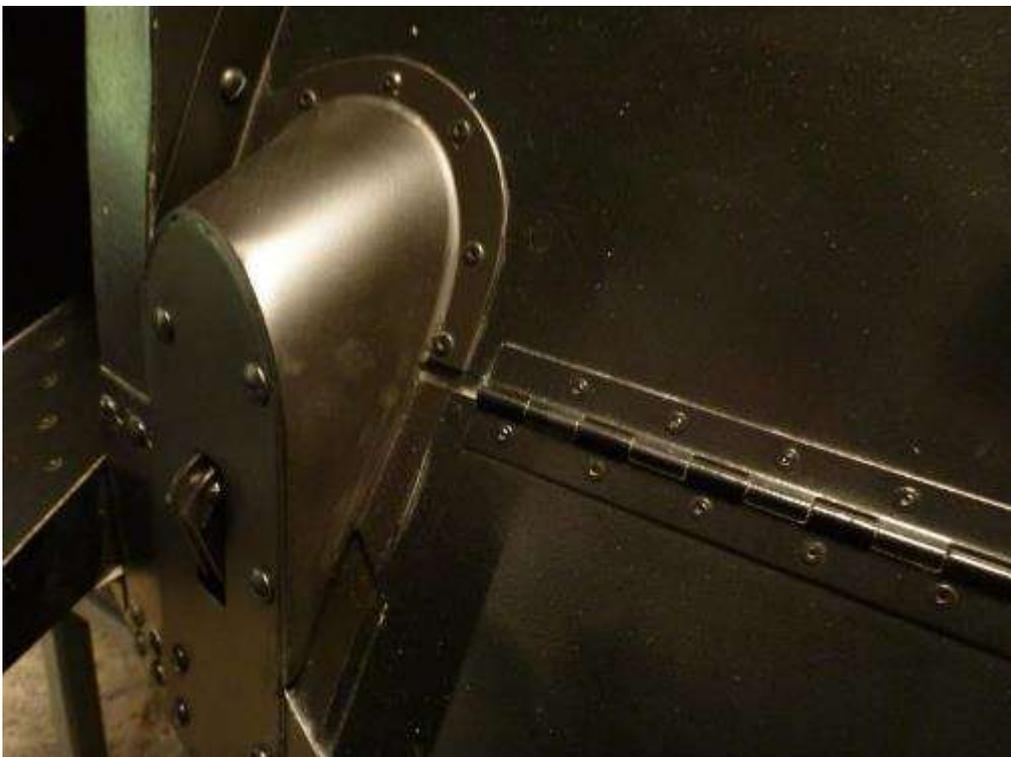


By way of a change, progress was continued on the display FN82 Series 2. Here is a similar assembly hanging in the spray bay (an Anderson shelter). Once done this assembly was bolted to the turret and the control column fitted.





One job I had been avoiding was the last two fairings on the cupola. In the end, making these proved a lot easier than expected and resulted in a complete cupola front half.



Finally, for the display turret a pair of reproduction .50 cal's were made and fitted and so the turret was completed as far as it can be and is now ready for return t East Kirkby.



This period also resulted in the production of the last two fairing on the A-13 ball turret. These were built in a similar manner to those on the FN82 and their production resulted in the end of this restoration as well. The completed turret is shown below with a late War USAAF gunner and will, hopefully, be on display at East Kirkby in the not too distant future.

