

FN82 update October 2022

The plan for October was to transfer Jane's turret to the new workshop and then start the rebuild of all of the sub-assemblies onto the turret rings. The process was slowed somewhat when, at the start of the month, I caught Covid and it seemed polite to lay low for a while.

Once over that hurdle, the whole lot was loaded and shifted over to Lincolnshire. Seen below are images of just about everything that is needed to build the turret. It is still missing its late war seat and several components from the Gyro Gun Sight (GGS) system, but they can be added at a later date. This workshop is considerably brighter and warmer than the last and has a lot more space to spread the parts out.



Turret rings, accommodation plate, superstructure and torque shaft.



Cupola front and back halves.



Left and right gun cradles.



GGS components.



Ammunition servo feed and roller draught excluders.



Control column.

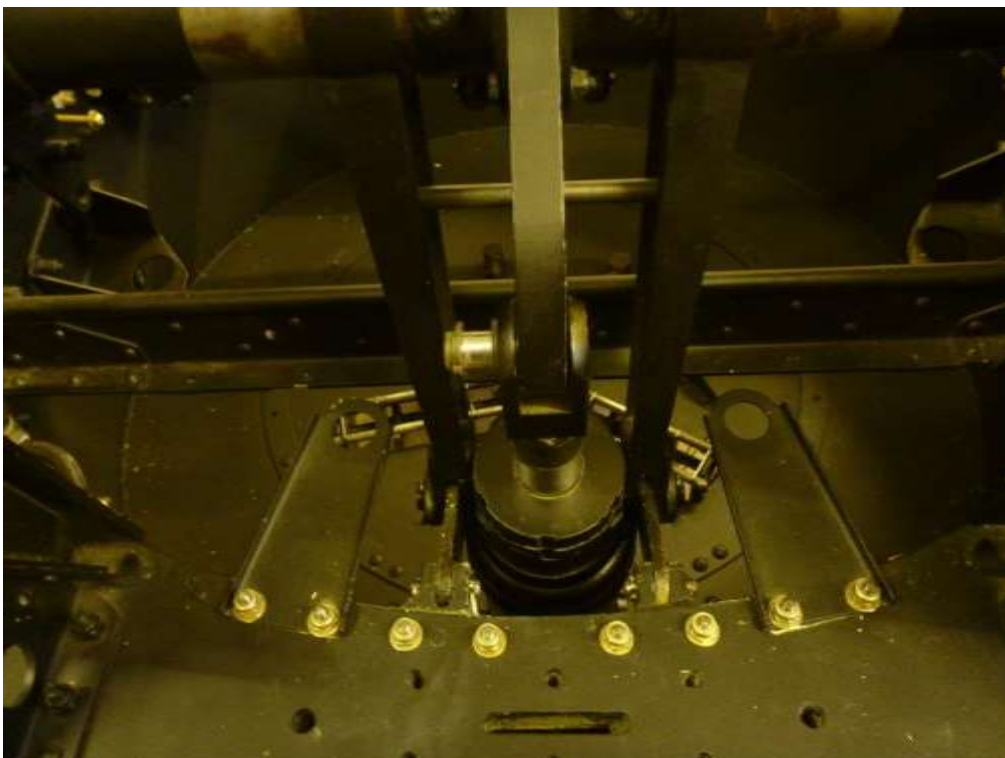
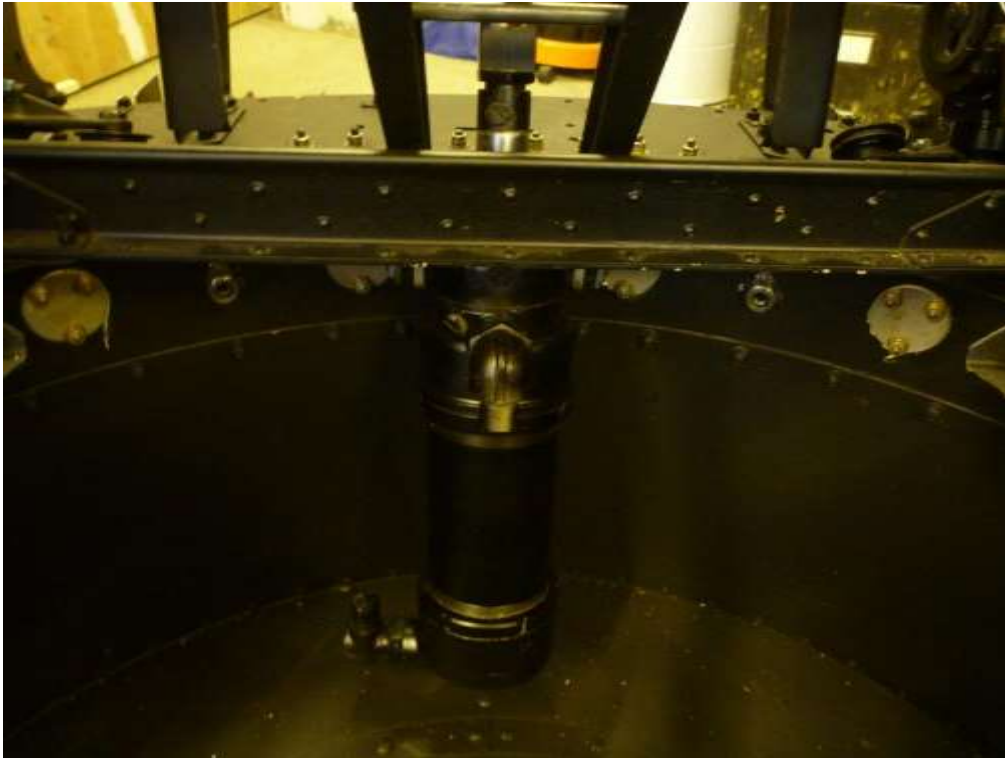
Now the re-build could start in earnest. Having been working on the turret rings for so long it seemed appropriate to work out from there. Seen below are the right-hand hydraulic rotation drive motor and the manual rotation handle. These bolt directly onto the rotating turret ring and engage on the geared drive ring in the fixed turret ring.



Seen below is the left-hand hydraulic rotation motor.



Also attached to the rotating turret ring is the elevation ram. This is held in place by several close tolerance pins, washers and split pins and is a good one to get out of the way at an early stage. As the build goes on, access becomes extremely difficult. In the second image below, it can be seen that the uppermost pin needs to be shimmed to remove side play then locked.



Meanwhile, the two ANM2 .30 inch calibre guns and belts were fitted to the Douglas Dauntless mount. Although these guns were generally considered to be too small by the USAAF in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO), the USN found that they were perfectly suited for use against Japanese aircraft in the Pacific Ocean theatre. This was because the Japanese didn't fit armour to their aircraft whereas the Germans in the ETO certainly did. For the record, the ANM2s are de-activated and the ammunition is inert.

This assembly just needs the two ammunition feeds and the armour plate fitting to the mount. I'm currently on the hunt for these parts but, in reality, will probably have to make reproductions.



Also in October some of the Blenheim/Bolingbroke turret parts made their way to the workshop. I'm sure there are enough parts available to build one or two of these Blenheim turrets and the first task will be to convert the turret stand and then mount the parts that I have to it. This will be an interesting project – the Blenheim MkIV sported a twin Browning mount in the BI MkIV turret and this has no similarities to the more usual FN turrets of the time. I'd guess that the parts will be harder to find too!

