

FN82 update June 2022

The plan for June was to spray the cupola components and rebuild it, spray the drum and floor and bring a couple of turrets to EK for display.

Well, the cupola went well and the rebuild was considerably quicker than the first time. Once built, I removed it from the accommodation plate just to make sure there wasn't any tension in it and then refitted the whole thing for safe keeping.

Finally, the door markings were applied and the whole thing locked away in the dark, dehumidified, dust free annex to the workshop. Also seen below are the drum and floor assembly and control column.







Seen below is the drum and floor assembly with the rotating turret ring in the spray shelter. I took a gamble on fitting the turret ring before spraying as I'm pretty certain that the two fixed turret rings can be fitted to this complete assembly.



Next up, the trip to EK with a couple of turrets. First into the van was the display FN82 on its specially lowered display stand



Then the display FN5, also on a lowered stand for the journey. The FN5 has got to be the quintessential turret and was fitted to great variety of aircraft throughout the entire duration of the War. It got all over the place and this particular configuration is for the Short Sunderland.



The final big(ish) job for June was to work out a list of AGS parts for the final build of Jane's FN82. This actually proved to be quite a tricky task and, more or less, led to all of the sub-assemblies being un-packed, trial fitted and removed. Hopefully, this will prevent any last minute panics in the big push to finish the turret off before the 2023 season. Probably won't though.

So, now with the A-13 ball turret, display FN82 and FN5 turrets all at EK there was a chance to start on another project that I've had packed away for quite some time. Below are the remains of the rear gun mount for a Douglas Dauntless SBD, there can't be that many of these in the UK.

Once the remains are tacked together and fitted to a pair of deactivated ANM2 .30 calibre guns it starts to make a bit more sense. That said there is a long way to go on this one.

