

FN-150 Turret update April – May 2019

Progress was much as planned for April and May, with the main objective being to complete both Gun Cradles. The first task was to remove, paint and refit the left side cradle that was built in March. With this done, the right side cradle was assembled and then checked for correct fit before being removed, painted and then refitted.

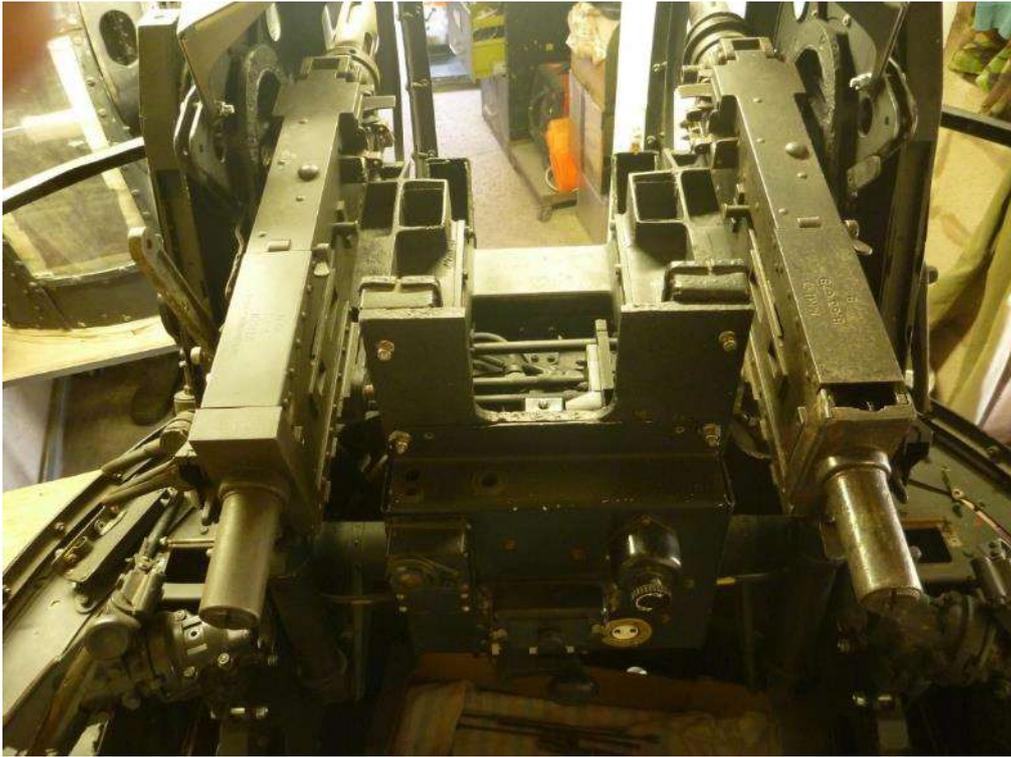
With both cradles in, it was now possible to fit the torque brace that joins the two and ensures that the guns remain harmonised during use.

At this point I simply could not resist the temptation of fitting two Browning to see how the turret might look when finished.

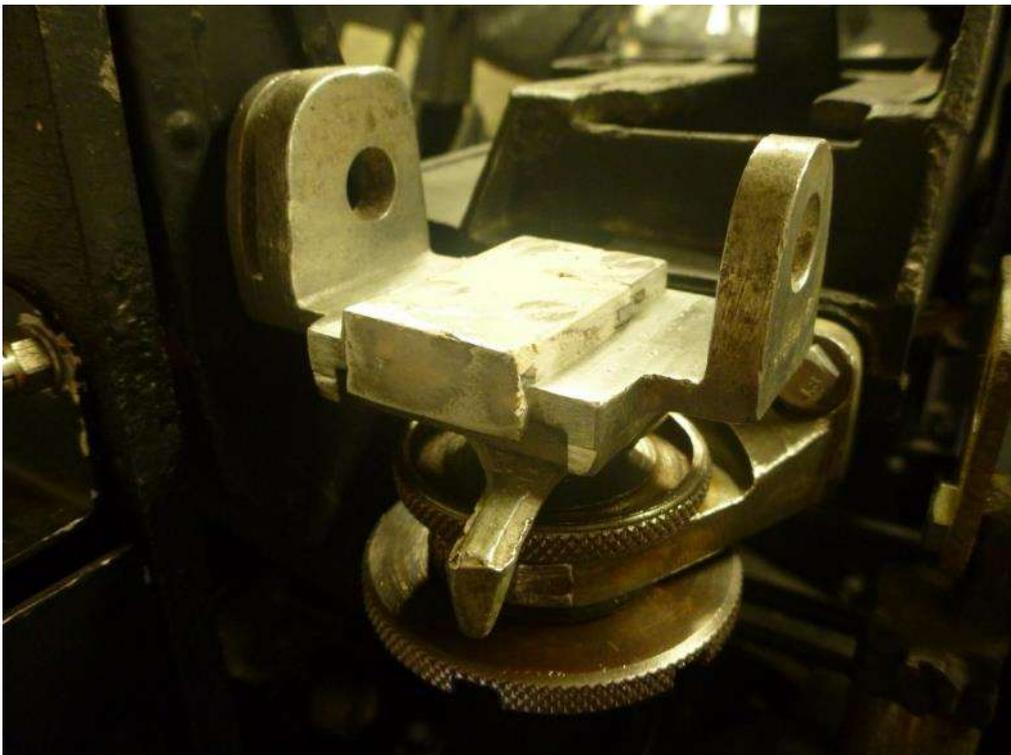
The right side cradle forward gun mount has some missing parts and so I will need to go back to that in the future but access to it is very easy indeed (with the perpex missing).

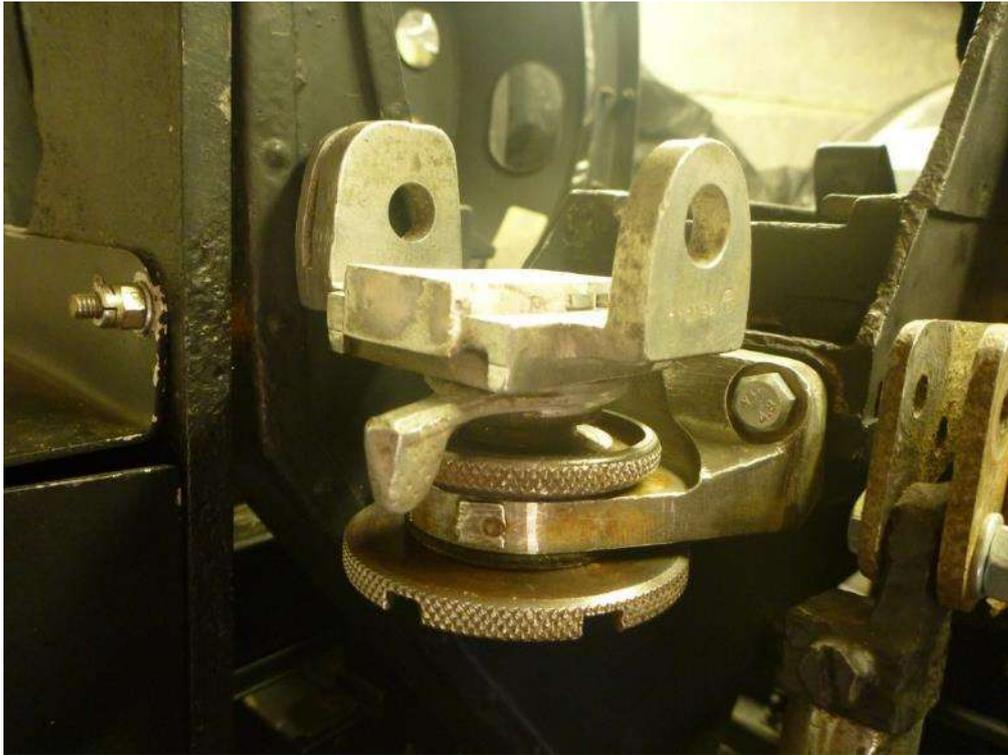


Below is a gunner's view of the guns with the face armour and control panel between them and the control handles to the outboard rear.



The right hand gun has a great little rear mount that allows the gun to be harmonised with the left hand gun that cannot be adjusted. This mount appeared in kit form in the box of bits, but as time goes on items required for use become easier to find. All parts cleaned up well and the assembly will just need painting at some point.



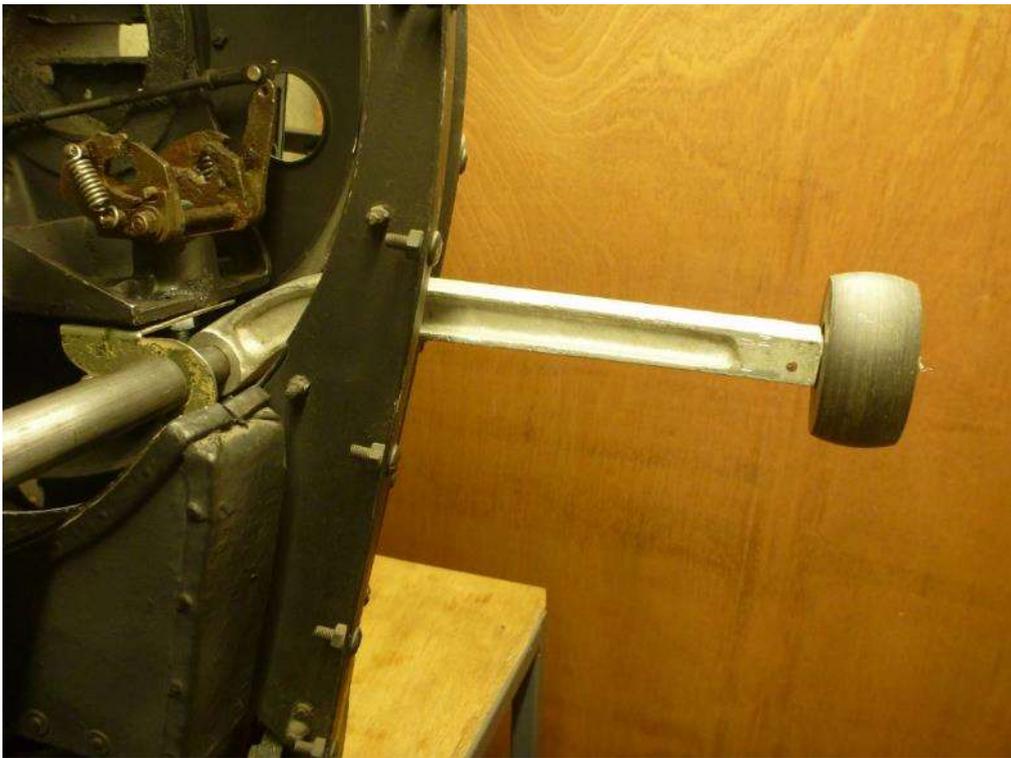


With the two Gun Cradles almost finished, attention turned to the Gun Travel Interrupter Gear. This system prevents the guns from fouling certain parts of the aircraft when the guns are fully depressed. The two operating levers travel against the cam ring that is fitted to the airframe around the turret and move the guns up when traversing such that they miss the airframe.

The main problem here was that the only part of this system the turret had was the two reproduction operating levers. All of the other fittings, including the shaft were missing and to further compound the problem the cast mounting points on the cradles were absent as they are an earlier model of cradle.

I was able to obtain good drawings of the missing parts to get things started and made an educated guess at how the mounts needed to be. With trial mounts made and functional shaft fitted to them the operating levers could be tried for size and position. A further complication was that the operating levers operate through large slots in the gun shrouds. The shrouds that came with the turret didn't have the slots and it was a nerve racking task cutting the beautifully crafted (and presumably very expensive) reproduction items. It worked though and all is well so far.

There is still a lot to do on the Travel Interrupter but at least now it is started and the remaining parts can be created and fitted to the system



Finally, for this update a return to the gunner's control system. The left control handle had been connected to the control shafts long ago, however, the right control handle had not as there was a broken lever deep in the support structure. I'd put this off for long enough and resolved this problem and so the right hand side rods could go in. Once these rods are

connected then the system is complete but there are several fiddly little joints to make before this can happen

