

FN-150 Turret update November 2019

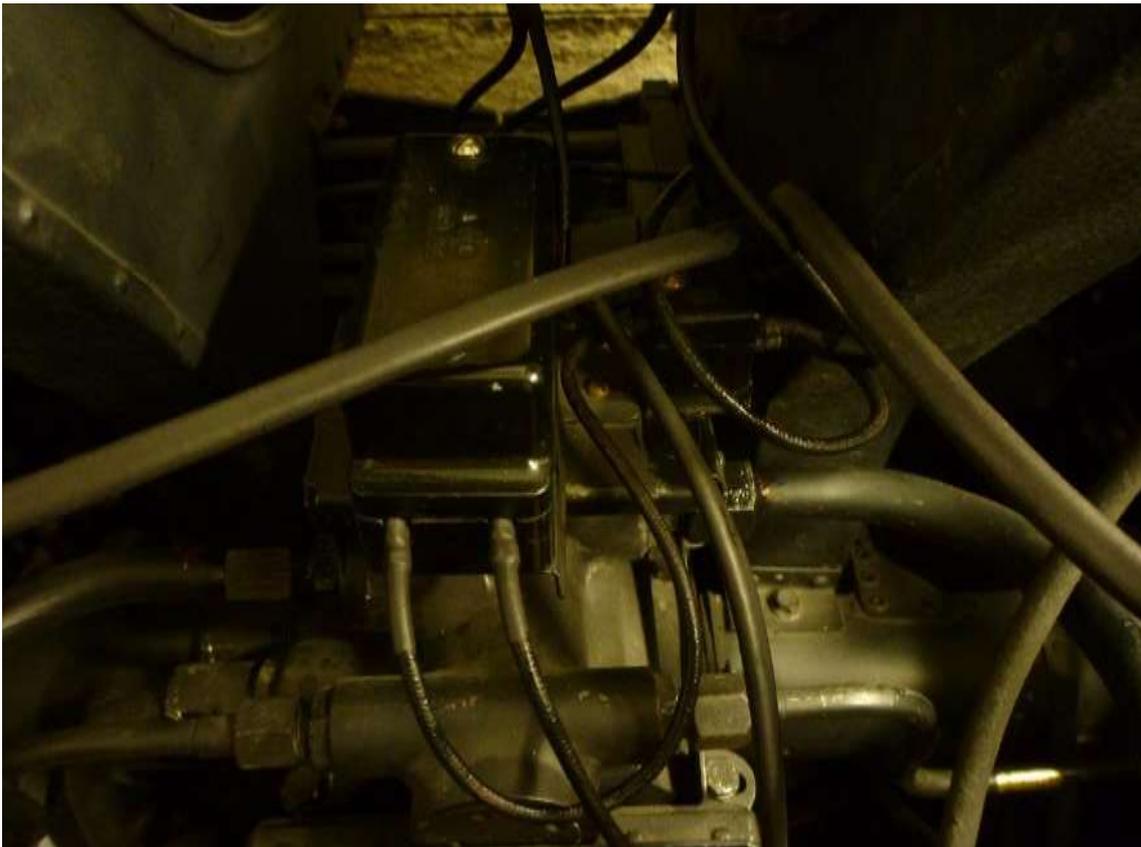
I finished the last update with the following comment:

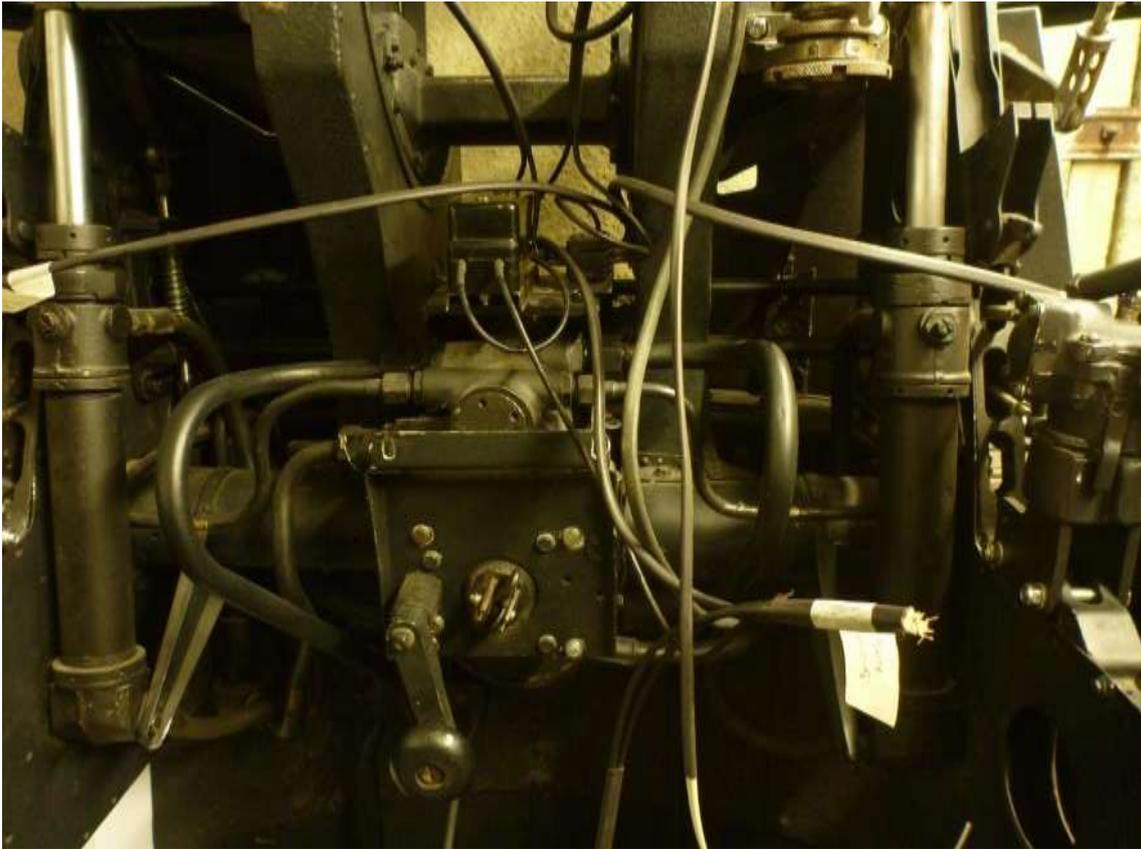
“October will be mostly dedicated to producing the ammunition chutes that run from the storage cans up to the guns. These are very obvious on most FN turrets and will have to be exact copies if they are to look any good. So far, they have been quite a challenge – more next month.”

Well, events moved on and it turned out that the production of the ammunition chutes was already under control at Revival Motorsport Fabrications and I was off the hook.

So, I busied myself with the electrical system, all of which was missing. It was agreed to make this a cosmetically reasonable reproduction and I made no attempt to make this function. The closest cable I could find to a period original was a mini co-ax cable that, once painted black, looked quite convincing. Also, black heat shrink sleeving looks very similar to the vintage rubber sleeving that is fitted, for example, to the gun sight cable.

Cables were produced and laid in to go to the gun fire micro-switches and solenoids although at this time I have not been able to find either.





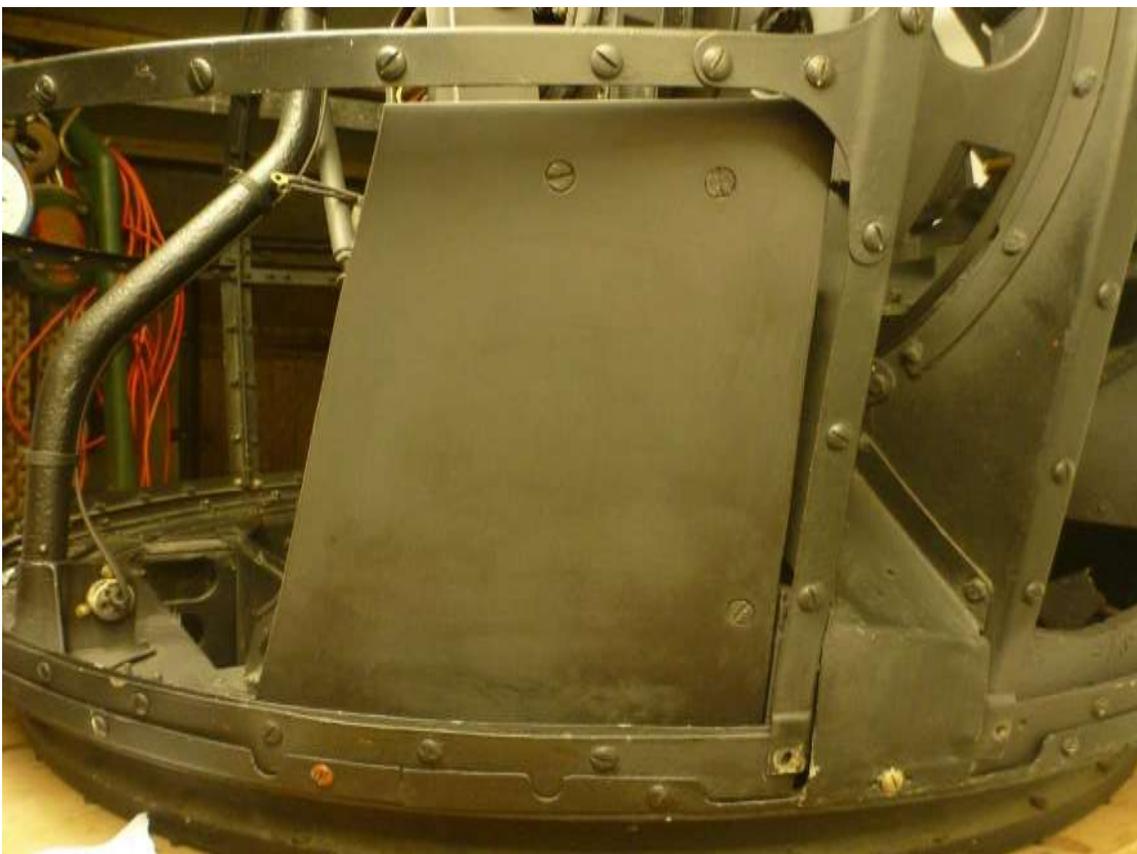
With the cables in and labelled as required, the face armour and control panel could go in and the cable ends were tucked up inside it. At this point, the intercom jack plug was fitted and the cables from the interrupter were added to the harness. This leaves just the cables from the bottom of the turret to be added in once I can work out where they go.



Next on the agenda were the missing armour plate panels. Both big panels were absent and for weight saving I had considered using either plywood or aluminium for these. In the end I opted for mild steel – not much use for stopping a bullet but certainly looking the part. We had enough of the original machine screws to use in the visible positions.

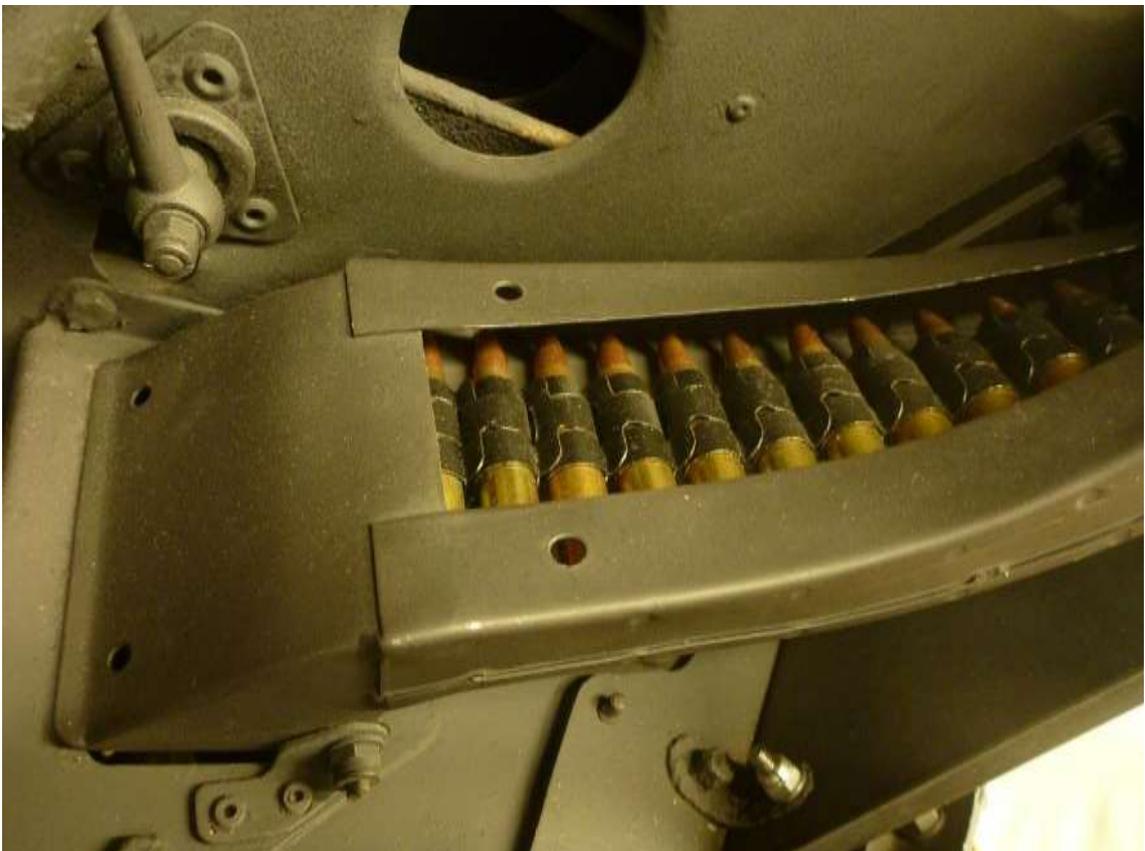
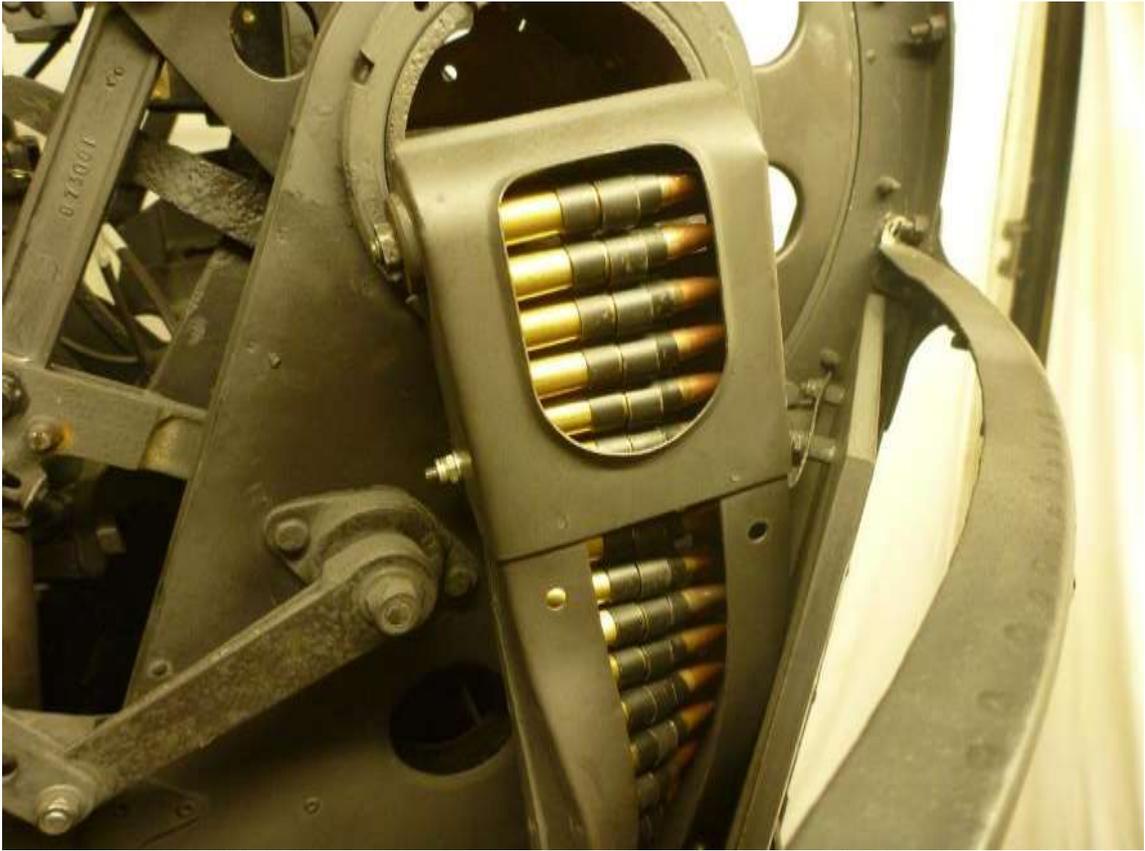
Getting the lowest two bolts into these panels proved an interesting challenge. The cupola had to come off and, even without the perspex fitted, this required a home made long reach spanner. This got me to wonder how on earth the cupola could be fitted after the perspex is installed as appears impossible despite being described in the Air Publications.

The answer is that there should be anchor nuts fitted all round the cupola lower rim, but these have been carefully drilled off. So there's another job for the list – anyone got a box of 2 BA anchor nuts?



Next, the armour came out again for the ammunition chutes to go in. These needed just very slight adjustment to get them to sit correctly and then each was loaded with 50 rounds on inert .303 inch ammunition just for effect.

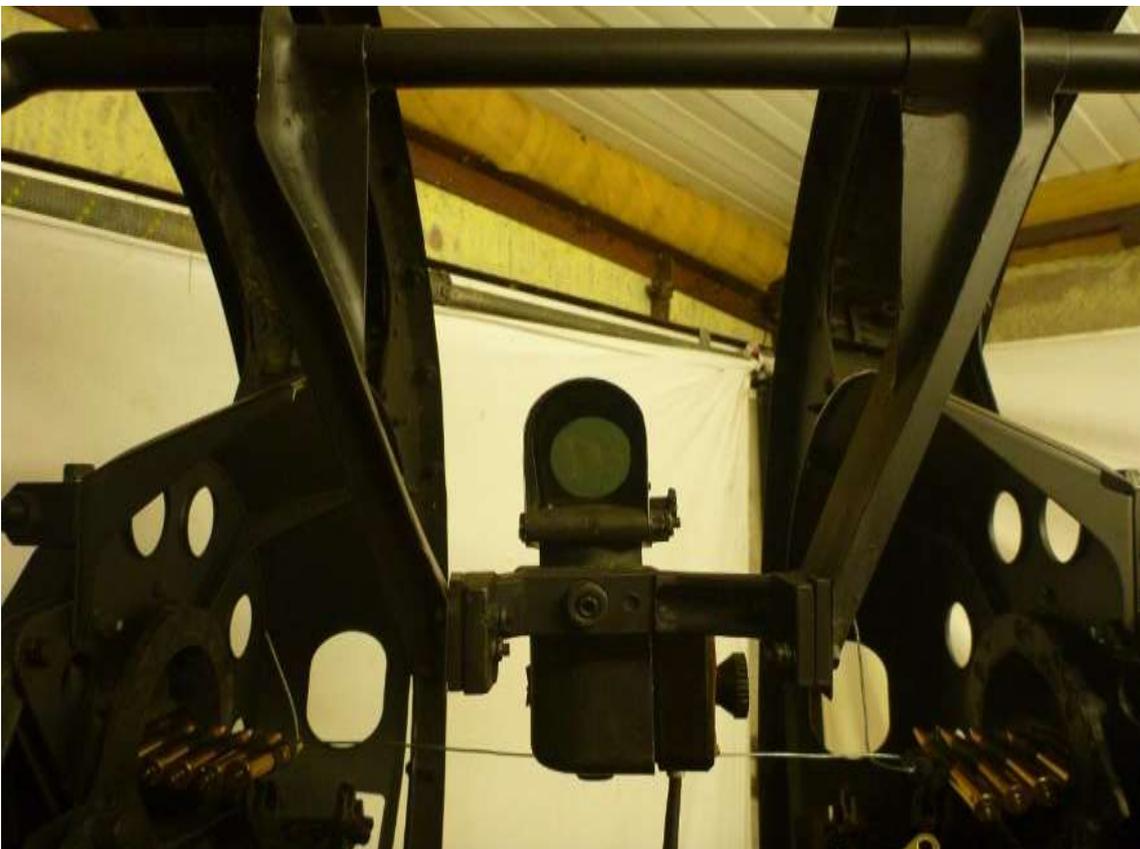
At this point I realised why the Air Publications show a spacer at the top of the armour, this being to stop them fouling the chutes.

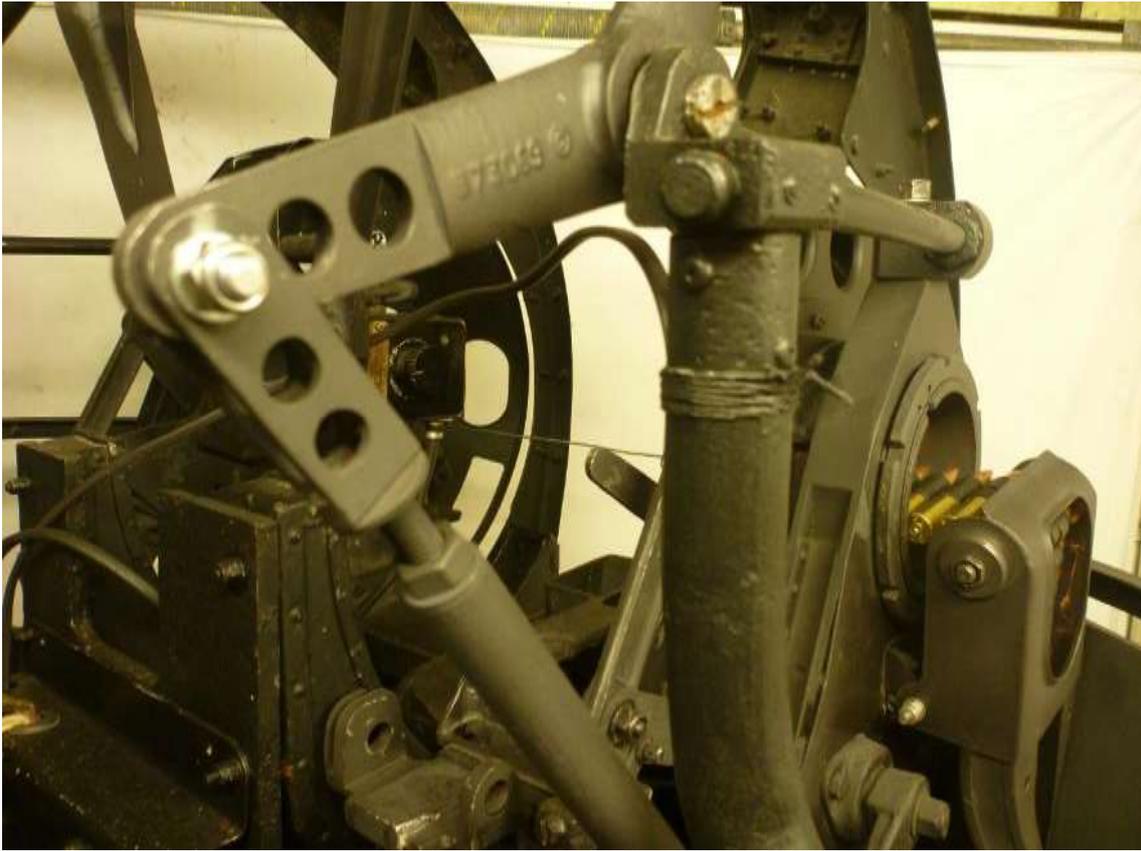


If the right side is tight for space, then the left is really tight as it also has a couple of hydraulic pipes to squeeze in. Unsurprisingly, these needed to be removed and adjusted a few times to get everything to fit, but we got there.



Next job was to get painting some of the many parts that had been installed over the last couple of months. With this done, the turret was really beginning to look complete.





So far so good and now I am down to just one page of A4 for the list of things to do.