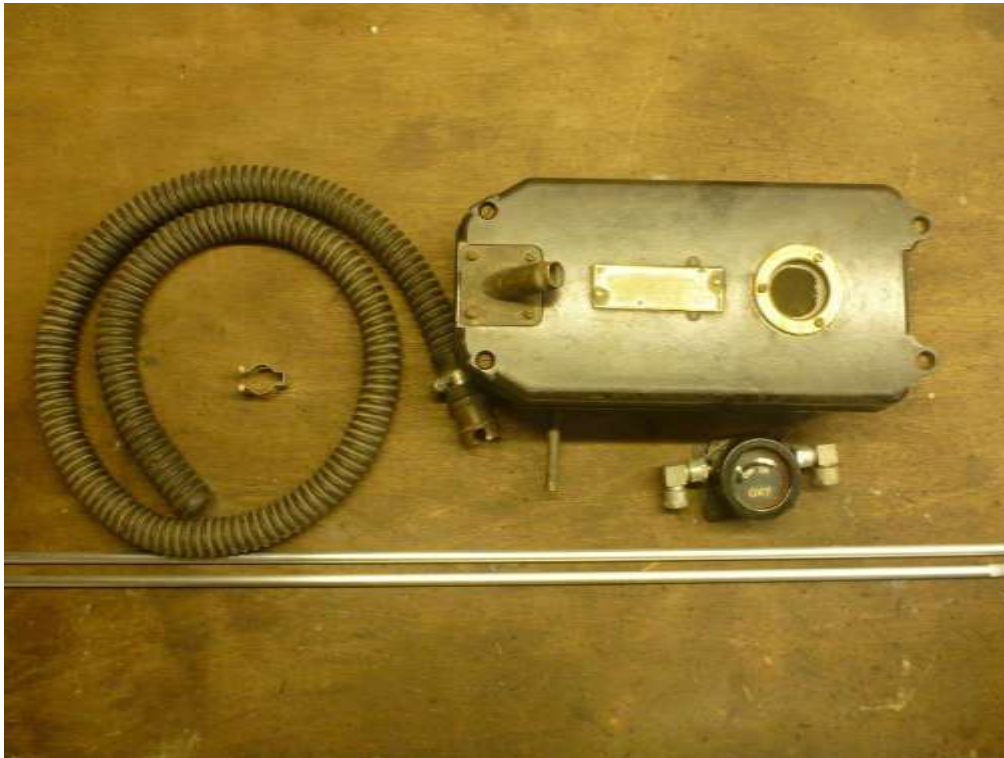


## FN-150 Turret update September 2019

The project for August was the oxygen system which is a relatively simple task, although I had to borrow the majority of the AGS parts from my FN-5 turret. In short, the system comprises of an alloy pipe going to the Oxygen Indicator, another going from the Indicator to the Economiser and then flexible hose going to the gunner's mask.



The indicator was fitted to the mounting on the left side support tube and then the 90 degree alloy adaptors from the FN-5 were fitted. The alloy pipe refused to behave and so a rudimentary mini pipe bender was made to form the tight complex bends that were required to align them with the original holes in the turret ring. I have no idea why FN decided to put these holes out of line with the indicator inlet and outlet positions, but the hole are original and so I concluded that they should be used as they are.



The left hand pipe comes up through the turret floor from the (missing) Rotating Services Joint whilst the right hand pipe heads down to the Economiser. There were no fixtures or fittings in the Economiser position which is near the floor by the gunner's left foot. The mountings were produced following inspection of similar installations and reference to the turret manuals. Once done they were riveted to the turret skirt.



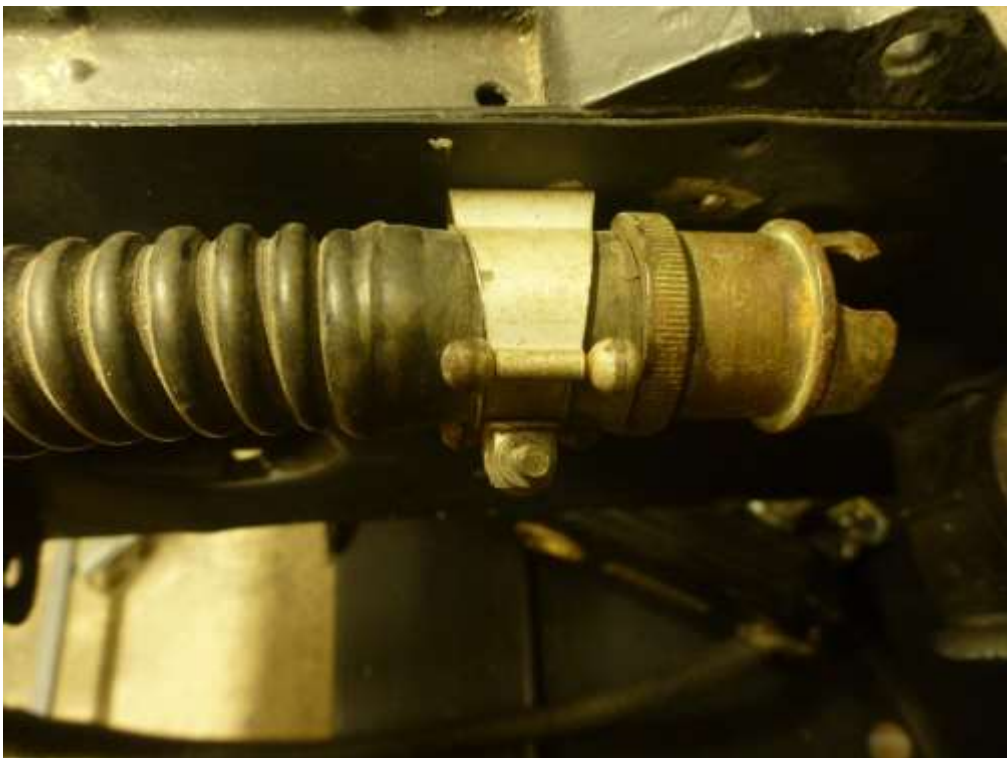
The Economiser is then simple to bolt in and the right hand pipe can be connected. The 90 degree alloy adaptor seen here is borrowed from the oxygen indicator to get the correct fit. The turret actually needs three of these adaptors if anyone has any. The flexible oxygen hose then runs off up to the gunner.



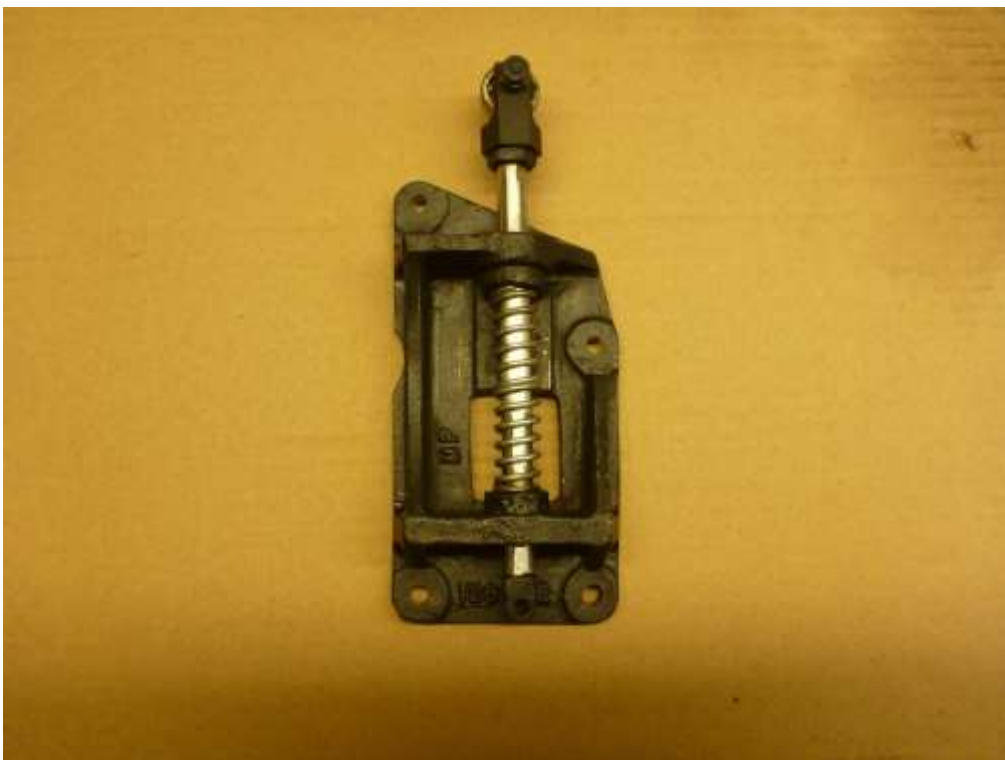
Next comes the protective cover – not a bad idea given the position of the Economiser. This is a large alloy box that I made using the schematic drawing in the manual – the box is then bolted to the turret skirt.



Finally for the oxygen system, a clip was fitted to the original position by the gunner's left elbow to store the oxygen connector. Again, this hose and connector are borrowed from the FN-5, so another example will need to be found.



That done, I went back to the interrupter cam follower that I had tracked down in June. Following a good soak this was relatively simple to dismantle with the alloy casting, in particular, being in pretty good condition. The cam follower, actuating rod and spring all had to be replaced resulting in a tidy, fully functional item.



Fitting this actually proved slightly harder than had been predicted with access being one of the main problems. Also, two of the four bolt holes were occupied by siezed, sheared bolts which had to be carefully drilled out.



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.