

FN82 update April 2021

The plan for April was to progress the hydraulic components and small detail items in preparation for the turret re-build. This seemed likely to be a painstaking business and I was not disappointed. Seen below are the two rotation motors which had collected a thick layer of paint, hydraulic oil and dust. This gave up reasonably easily to reveal un-corroded motors and perfect data plates.



The view above is of the main (elevation) ram which also benefitted from a good clean before being prepared for painting.

Below are several of the major components that fit around the turret rings pictured with the travel stop, knee guard and control panel. All of these items are now bubble wrapped and stored away to await rebuild.



Next on the agenda were the components removed from the damaged drum and floor assembly. Within the floor assembly there is a fixed floor that does not rotate with the turret and so has a number of horizontal and vertical rollers to allow this to happen.

Installed right in the bottom of the turret, I was concerned that these bearing assemblies might well be corroded and stuck. However, a lifetime spent coated in very thick grease had saved them in perfect condition.

Similarly, the actual fixed floor assembly, the bearing race and the doubler plates were found to be perfect under a very thick layer of paint, oil, grease and dirt. Once cleaned, these could be packed away to await the rebuild.





Seen below are the cleaned and packed components from the main turret rings. In bags there are the special bolts, vertical rollers and horizontal rollers. Above them the turret rotation stops and turret lock castings. Again, these were in very good condition especially given the corrosion found on the actual turret rings.



Next on the list were the hydraulic pipelines, filters and check valves. These were in slightly poorer state as they are easily damaged when entering or leaving the turret. That said, they all cleaned up well and proved very fiddly to spray.

The final image shows the last of the small detail components to be restored. With these items finished, the main assembly of the turret has progressed as far as it can go until the turret can be built onto the turret rings.



The plan for May is to progress the cupola rear half. This half of the cupola has the access doors, fire axe, oxygen economiser, spare bulb holders and ten transparent panels of which two are secured by Dzus fasteners. Whilst not hugely complex this assembly does feature a seized door locking mechanism, several missing minor components and no serviceable fasteners. May should be fun then.