

FN82 Turret update March 2021

The plan for March was to rebuild the turret control unit. This unit is comprised of three sub-assemblies, these being the control column, the valve box and the rotating service joint. This complex assembly was in poor condition generally and at some stage had suffered damage. Some of the damage had been repaired and several parts were reproductions that had to be made to accommodate the damage.

We have a spare turret control unit which also has problems but, in general, had the parts required for the original unit



The first job here was to strip down both of the units and identify the best components to build one to use on NX611 and a second for display purposes.

Once this had been done the components were cleaned and sprayed before the assembly could be re-built. The best of the components after having been sprayed can be seen below.



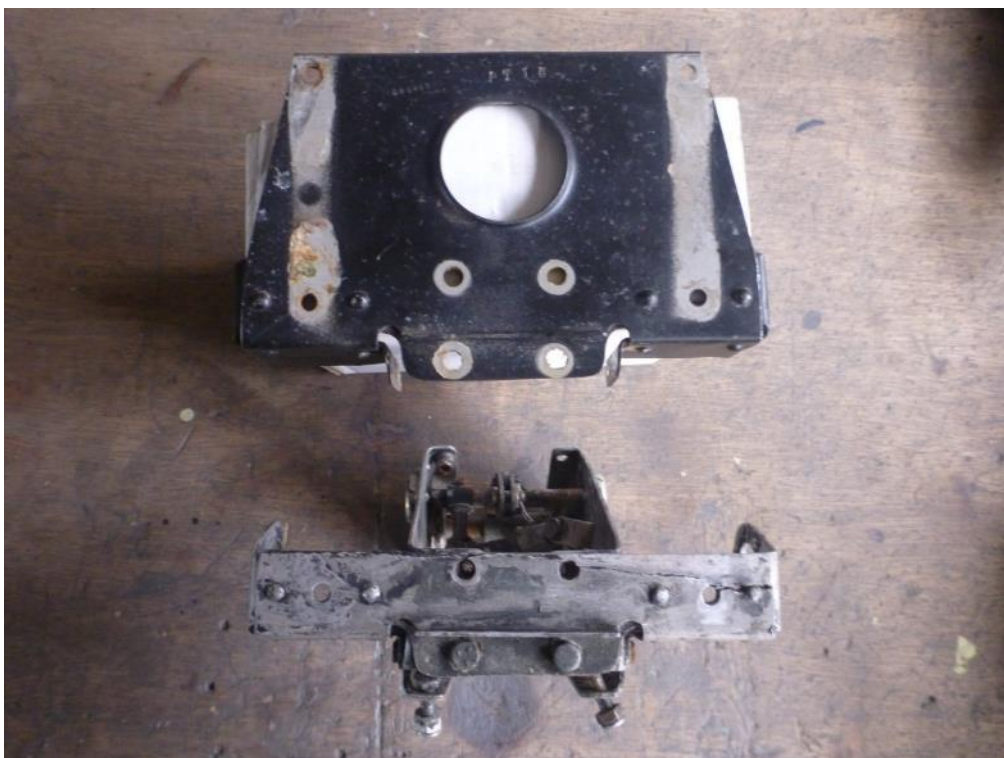
The unit was then assembled and then given a final dusting over in preparation for being finally fitted at some time in the future.



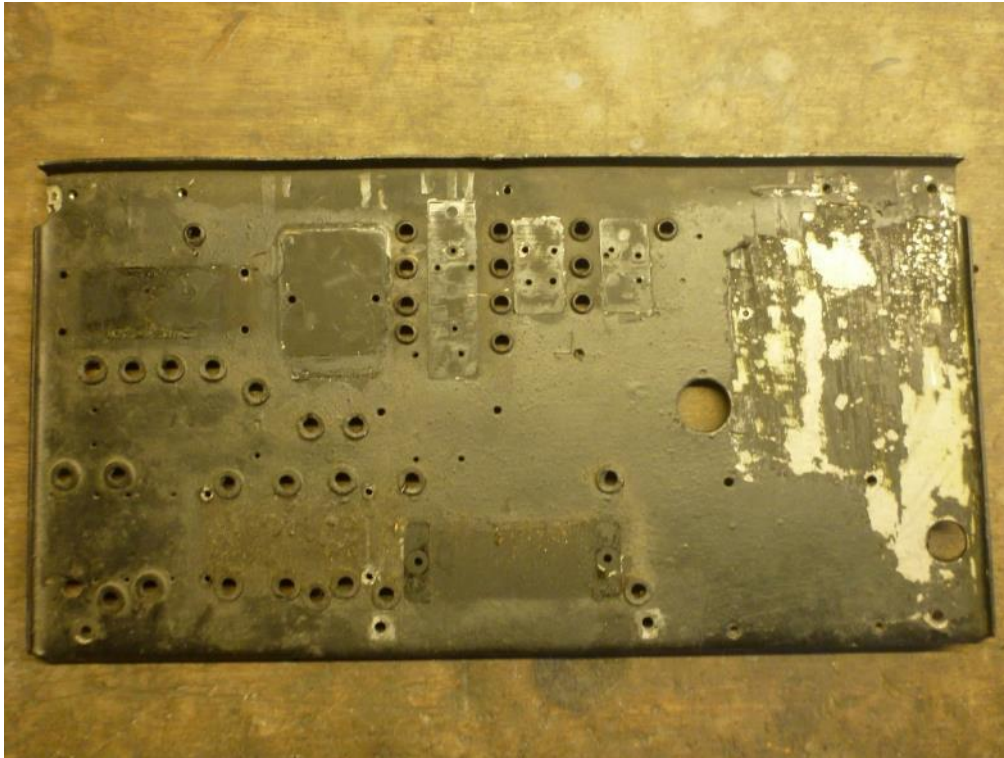
That then left the matter of all of the damaged and reproduction parts that need to be built into the display turret.



Shown below is an example of the damaged parts. Both are the same part, but the lower example is missing about the top two thirds of the azimuth controller bracket.

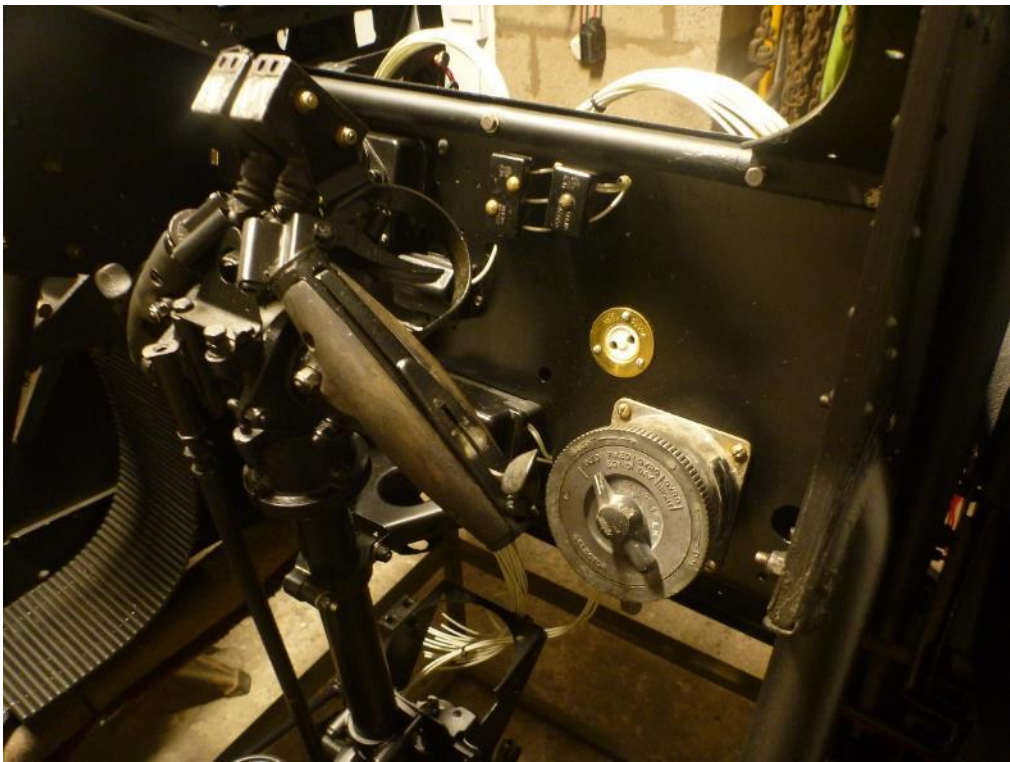


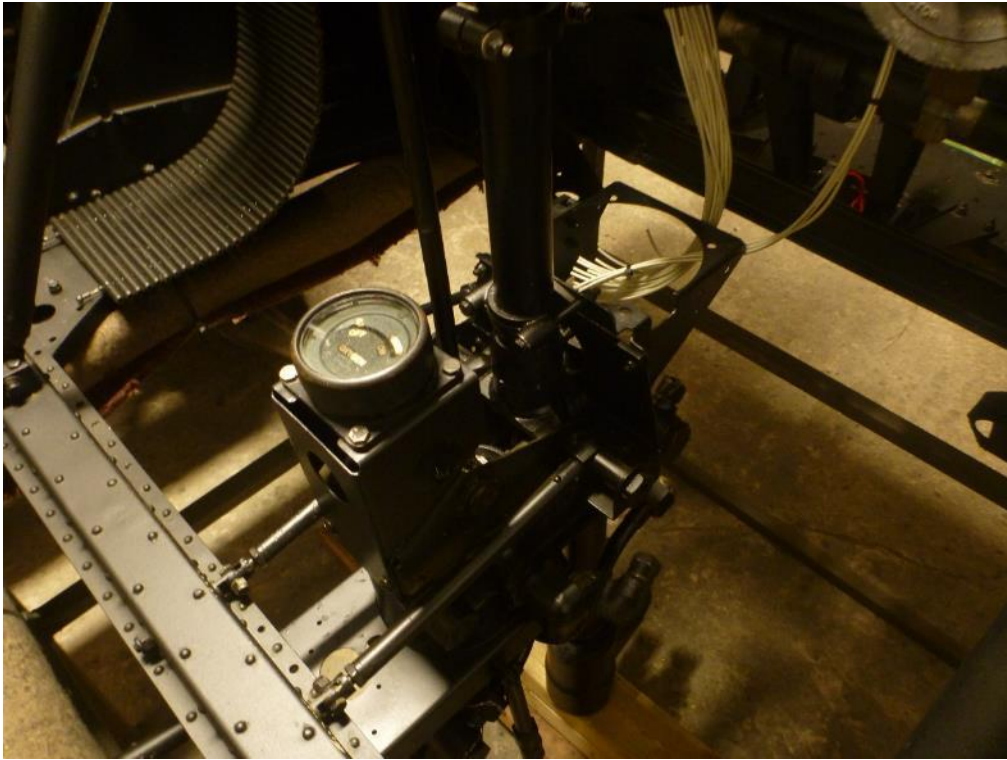
With the turret control units completed as far as possible, there was still time in March to launch into the control panel. Although in not too bad condition, the panel had been modified over the in-service years. With the panel stripped back it was possible to clean up and re-spray it and then identify the components that were fitted in accordance with the original Air Publications.



Once the various components were found, they were built into the panel and then the wiring was installed. This wiring is for appearance only, but is actually all connected to the correct components and then tucked back behind the panel.

All that remains to be done with the panel is to fit the grommets where the cables pass through to the back. With the control panel and the turret control unit complete, it was possible to temporarily install them into the turret as seen below.





The plan for April is to get working on the plethora of hydraulic components and small detail items that connect the turret control unit to the servo feed unit, hydraulic motors and elevation ram. This is going to be a fiddly process but at least the weather is now getting warmer and the workshop is more comfortable.