

FN-150 Turret update December 2018

November finished with a good amount of the control system built, but needing painting. There was also the matter of sorting out the control rods and building the shaft centre support and solenoid mount.



Dismantling, painting and re-building went well, the major difficulty being fitting lock pins to the control rod ends which is very fiddly.

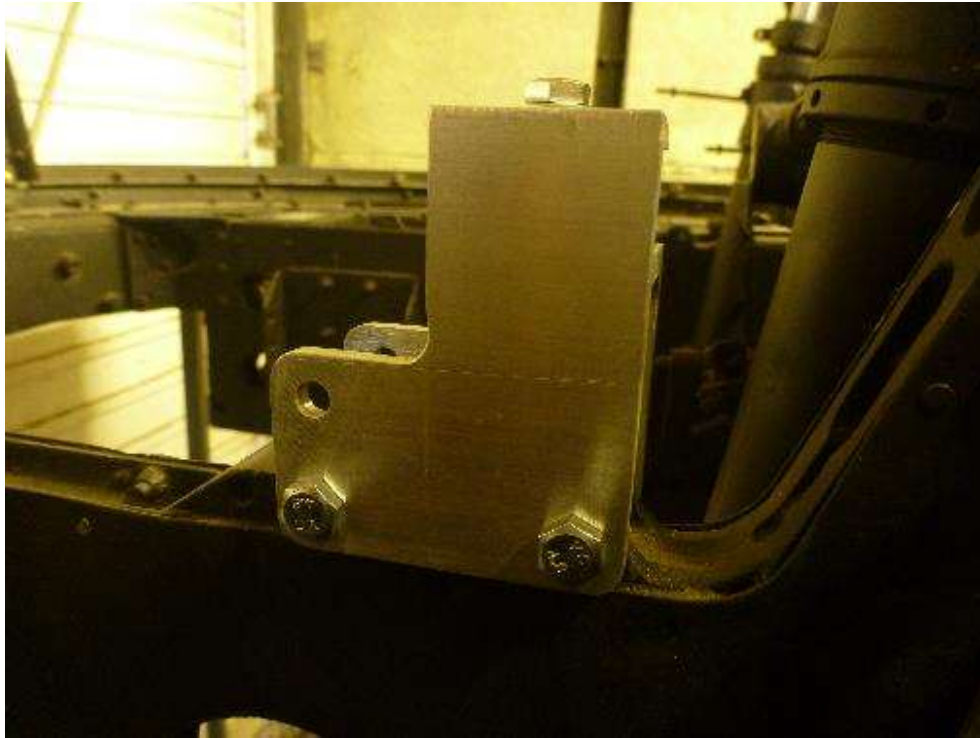




With the left side control handle, control rods and the control shafts all (hopefully) finally fitted, I turned my attention to the right side control handle. This apparently crash recovered handle was in a very poor state with many parts missing.



There was still the matter of the missing mounting bracket for the control handle. This was fabricated from alloy angle and took considerably longer than expected – in the order of three days! (The sharp eyed will notice it is fitted backwards, below)



Luckily, over the Christmas break I met up with another turret enthusiast who was able to trade some of the parts I was missing for some of my surpluses. Before long the right side control handle was freed off, cleaned up and the process of grafting on the missing parts was forging ahead. In an incredible coincidence the trigger that I traded was an exact fit across the crack line and must have come from the same turret many years ago. Next came the re-manufacturing of any shortfall. There is still a lot to do to finish this handle, but it is slowly getting there.



Then came that control shaft centre support and solenoid bracket. The one from my FN5 had been dismantled and (oddly) mostly flattened out. In some respects this turned out very convenient as it was now possible to do some CAD (Carboard Aided Duplication). Patterns were made for the parts before the FN5 bracket was re-built and then used to check for correct size and fit. Just need to make another one then.



So, for January it is going to be the continued saga of the control system. If that goes well, the armour should be next so the cupola will have to come off.

Speaking of cupolas – December saw the arrival of an FN-120 cupola bought by CH2A for their Lancaster in Canada. The turret equipped Ford Fusion turned considerably fewer heads in Carlisle than I would have expected, but then we do live in the “Debatable Lands” once ruled by hords of Border Reivers.

