

Re: How to freeze the balls off a brass monkey

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-11/msg03158.html>

- *From:* "Roger Hamlett" <rogerspamignored@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 24 Nov 2005 22:12:07 GMT
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"Walter Harley" <walterh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:DtOdndv_c9DFrRveRVn-uw@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> "martin griffith" <martingriffith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> news:fc7co19c6q1sgv3jpb8otlku1rnf0sanp@xxxxxxxxxxxx

>> Britain is facing a cold spell, and possible gas shortages so "freeze
>> the balls off a brass monkey" is a commonly used phrase.

>>

>> Apparently this is where the phrase originated

>> http://www2.gol.com/users/coynerhm/cold_enough_to_freeze_the_balls_.htm

>>

>

>

> Nice story, but BS. <http://www.snopes.com/language/stories/brass.htm>

> points out some of the many flaws. One more flaw they don't mention:

> where did all those "brass monkeys" go? How come you can't find any

> pictures of 'em, and they don't turn up in antique stores?

>

> Sorry!

Yes. People in the 'know', reckon that the story is fiction.

However there was a 'brass monkey' on ships. The monkey, was a particular type of cannon, and some were brass, so there may be an origin there. The earliest records, actually have the phrase as 'freeze the tail off a brass monkey', rather than the balls, making the 'source' even more unlikely to be this.

Actually, storage plates for cannon balls do exist, but they are rare, and rather like a pastry tray, rather than the collar design visualised for the 'brass monkey' story. These were used on some land forts, where a small supply of balls could be placed under cover, without having them rolling away. These do turn up in antique stores.

I is a nice story though. :-)

Best Wishes

Re: How to freeze the balls off a brass monkey

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: How to freeze the balls off a brass monkey**
◇ From: zwsdotcom

- *References:*

- ◆ **OT: How to freeze the balls off a brass monkey**
◇ From: martin griffith
- ◆ **Re: How to freeze the balls off a brass monkey**
◇ From: Walter Harley

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