

Friday the Thirteenth

Most British sailors have a superstition that Friday is an unlucky day, and Friday the 13th — particularly so. There is a legend about how the British Admiralty decided to expose the absurdity of this notion (30) _____. Most likely, it is untrue, but it doesn't stop the sailors from religiously believing in it.

Sometime in the 1800s, as the story (31) _____, the Royal Navy decided to demonstrate the falseness of the belief that beginning a voyage on Friday would bring you bad luck. They commissioned a ship and named it the HMS Friday. Her keel was laid on a Friday, she was launched on a Friday, and she (32) _____ sail on her maiden voyage on Friday the 13th, under the command of Captain James Friday. She was never (33) _____ or heard from again.

As you can imagine, the Admiralty has consistently (34) _____ the truth of this story. They claim there has never been a Royal Navy ship named Friday, or any other day of the week, (35) _____.

But the Navy's claims are unimportant because generations of British seamen have (36) _____ every word of the story as true. It confirms their superstition and superstition cannot be overcome by logic.

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