

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.

Вставьте пропущенное слово.

1. No matter.
2. No matter what.
3. For that matter.
4. To make matters worse.