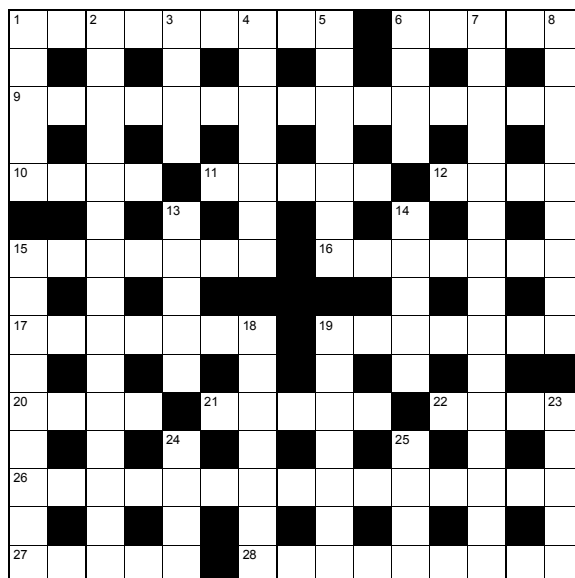


Crossword No XC254307



ACROSS

- 1 Military plane carrying soldiers from cargo ship (9)
- 6 Hospital department at first shows intensity (5)
- 9 Weird Polish perv could be a disciple of Beelzebub (5-10)
- 10 Nobleman is soon cut short (4)
- 11 Break off relations with European city (5)
- 12 Lover boy initially wants French water (4)
- 15 Horseman posted, we hear, to a city of old (7)
- 16 Issue title retrospectively at end of June (7)
- 17 Plentiful support given to Chinese dynasty (7)
- 19 On return, ensnares an austere character (7)
- 20 Singer featuring in phenomenal Tosca (4)
- 21 Murderer goes across river to find dog (5)
- 22 Woman eats oriental meat (4)
- 26 Mischievous little fellow involved in sex scheme, a Conservative it's obvious (4-11)
- 27 Elegance of street unknown by the French (5)
- 28 Observer treats cop badly (9)

DOWN

- 1 Sweet fellow dug out Elgar's first (5)
- 2 All money vintner distributed is for the ecology (15)
- 3 Girl wants a celebration (4)
- 4 Soldier falsified report, gaining nothing (7)
- 5 Take breath, about to go on tall building (7)
- 6 Dude arriving in station heads for platform (4)
- 7 That pipe stopped Rocky getting beaten at the last minute (6,2,3,4)
- 8 Rebuilding bottom of missile launcher is very difficult (9)
- 13 Sink in area drained by river (5)
- 14 Is a student able to find Suez, say? (5)
- 15 Wounded young women with swords (9)
- 18 Marine creature of little weight protected chiefly by America (7)
- 19 Top champion of wave-riding (7)
- 23 Hen party initially missed by actor? (5)
- 24 French sea with English lake (4)
- 25 Tempt one into club (4)

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SOLUTION

1	F	R	E	I	G	H	T	E	R		6	D	E	P	T	8	H	
	U		N		A		R		E		A		I		E			
9	D	E	V	I	L	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	P	E	R			
	G		I		A		O		P		S		P		C			
10	E	A	R	L		11	S	P	L	I	T		12	B	E	A	U	
			O		13	B		E				14	C		D		L	
15	C	E	N	T	A	U	R			16	E	M	A	N	A	T	E	
	U		M		S							N		T		A		
17	T	E	E	M	I	N	18	G		19	S	P	A	R	T	A	N	
	L		N		N		R		U		L		H					
20	A	L	T	O		21	C	A	I	R	N		22	V	E	A	23	L
	S		A		24	M		M		F		25	B		P		A	
26	S	E	L	F	E	X	P	L	A	N	A	T	O	R	Y			
	E		L		R		U		C		I		S		E			
27	S	T	Y	L	E		28	S	P	E	C	T	A	T	O	R		

ACROSS

1 freighter. 6 depth. 9 devil-worshipper. 10 earl. 11 split. 12 beau. 15 centaur. 16 emanate. 17 teeming. 19 Spartan. 20 alto. 21 cairn. 22 veal. 26 self-explanatory. 27 style. 28 spectator.

DOWN

1 fudge. 2 environmentally. 3 gala. 4 trooper. 5 respire. 6 dais. 7 pipped at the post. 8 Herculean. 13 basin.
14 canal. 15 cutlasses. 18 grampus. 19 surface. 23 layer. 24 mere. 25 bait.