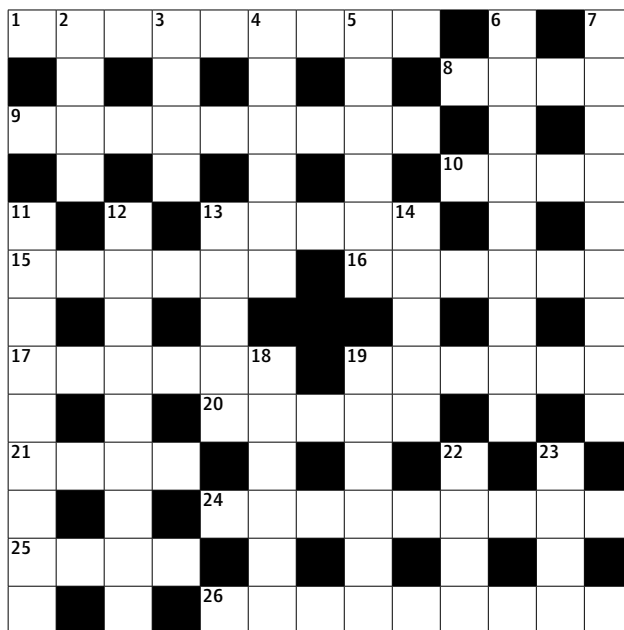


Quick crossword no 12,715



Across

- 1** Non-commissioned officer in charge of part of a military band (4,5)
8 Guru Nanak follower (4)
9 Anyway (2,3,4)
10 One of four at the same birth (4)
13 Flowering tree of the olive family (5)
15 Where the gullet and windpipe are located (6)
16 European capital (6)
17 Drawing influence? (6)
19 Excessively enthusiastic (4-2)
20 Sideless, backless couch (5)
21 Cheerful song (4)
24 In which coats are left, temporarily (9)
25 Jokes – silences (4)
26 Verbal dispute (4-5)

- 13** Did nothing (5)
14 Native of Louisiana descended from 18th-century Acadian immigrants (5)
18 Rudder's steering handle (6)
19 System of stars – assembly of talent (6)
22 Operatic song (4)
23 Medal – dinner bell (4)

Down

- 2** Piccadilly hotel (4)
3 Weasel relative (or its fur) (4)
4 To raid (anag) (6)
5 Bandit (6)
6 Subtraction indicator (5,4)
7 Fight without an opponent? (6-3)
11 Study of the origins of words (9)
12 French delicacy (5,4)

Solution no 12,714

H	A	P	P	Y	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y
A	E	A	A	C	O	O	U					
D	O	T	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L	
E	R	H	R	H	T	E						
S	H	O	O	T	O	U	T	M	O	L	L	
	L	I	S	L	R	O						
R	E	S	E	N	T	Z	I	G	Z	A	G	
A	T	G	Z	S	H							
K	H	A	N	Q	U	I	T	T	I	N	G	
E	T	R	R	E	V	R						
O	X	I	D	A	T	I	O	N	A	W	E	
F	O	J	C	E	G	E						
F	I	N	N	A	N	H	A	D	D	O	C	K