ACROSS
1 Article on eccentric American mum that's spicy (8)
6 Hour in work giving excitement (6)
9 World – go after it! (6)
10 European member in time to assign (8)
11 Reserve some still water (4)
12 The French people submit – it's awful (10)
14 Little fellow to hitchhike covering miles (3,5)
16 Composer drops in for mutton slice (4)
18 Doomed sewer in Herculaneum I'm inside (4)
19 Root finally cracked Belgian concrete (8)
21 Supports deal reportedly? Not in a big way! (10)
22 Horseless champion succeeded in love (4)
24 Confusing note with others? (4-4)
26 Title accepted by the Spanish Crown Protector? (6)
27 One smooth student's to get in for Easter? (6)
28 27 town boy holsters weapon (8)

DOWN
2 Mission accomplished – like another mission – on all fronts (5)
3 Orwellian concept from twin not convincing king (11)
4 Spartan king elevated among usual enemies (8)
5 Passionate sailor snares me – totally captivating female? (6,9)
6 Story books for able people (6)
7 Heroin perhaps unopened in wrap (3)
8 Flyer unusually low after drop (6,3)
13 Geographical mix-up missing capital in Philippines? (11)
15 As some layers – over six – on Greek island that ships uranium (9)
17 Spilt ink and water that often covers blouses etc (8)
20 When news is on TV daughter's to listen (6)
23 Public upset after vase lost (5)
25 Muse having to leave for day (3)

Solution 15,896