



The precise art of naval history

MARINE artist, Peter Power from Frensham has just completed his latest commission, *The Bombardment of Algiers, 27th Aug. 1816*, for a client in Spain.

The painting has been meticulously researched by Mr. Power, who spends many hours ensuring the accuracy of the battle movements. Attention to detail (he was formerly a surveyor) is a hallmark of his work and he has developed an enthusiastic following among both the business and entertainment worlds.

He spent his early career in the Army, serving with the Airborne Forces, mainly in the Middle East, and after settling down developed his interest in painting, inspired by the Surrey countryside.

He began to specialise in marine painting, with the occasional landscape, and won several commissions. With 172 private commissions on order in 1977, he gave up his career to paint full-time.

The Mary Rose Trust and Victory museum were so impressed by his work that limited edition prints of his major paintings, *The Mary Rose*, *Victory Breaking the Line* and *the Battle of Cape Trafalgar* have been produced. These, together with other reproductions on post cards and greetings cards, are sold to visitors at the respective museums and at the Greenwich Maritime Museum. Arrangements have also been made to print and market four more of his marine subjects.

At their annual major fund raising event, the RNLI auction one of his paintings or prints and his work is regularly purchased for sale in the USA by a west coast gallery.

Peter's paintings have recently been used for a commemorative issue of stamps in the British Commonwealth West Indies.

One regret, Peter told the *Herald*, was that his almost monastic seclusion in his studio has prevented him from joining in the varied social opportunities which the area affords. Painting often until 2am, he feels that his range of conversation is becoming somewhat limited! One of his few contacts with the "outside world" during his working day is his wife, Yvonne.

Although he would like to exhibit his work locally, Peter has calculated that it would take him at least two years to produce enough paintings for his own show, so detailed and painstaking is his art.