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805-983-3495  
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# ***MILITARY ENCAMPMENTS AT THE PIERPONT INN***

## ***Local Inn recalls role in World War II. WWII Memorial to be dedicated May 29, 2004 in Washington, D.C***

In February of 1942 a Japanese submarine fired on an oil facility on the bluffs of Goleta. In nearby Ventura, where oil tankers loaded up regularly at the pier, people became fearful that the same thing would happen to them. The Pierpont Inn, situated on a bluff overlooking the sea, was an ideal place to set up defenses. Tents were setup on the lawn to accommodate soldiers who manned searchlights by a large Cypress tree that still stands. Field artillery was setup for defense on the beach below the Inn.

Mattie Gleichmann, Inn owner, was accustomed to taking an evening stroll near the Inn. One night, as she came to the ends of The Pierpont grounds, she was suddenly stopped by armed guards telling her she could go no further! The Pierpont was equipped with blackout curtains and alarms. Certain restrictions were placed on guests for their safety and emergency instructions were made in case of attack.

Mattie's son, Ted, was in the Air Force during the war. He remained in the States as a flight instructor. Military officers would stay at the Inn with their families. Mattie ate at the Inn every evening at a table with "the regulars." Although the Inn had a restaurant, Mattie thought it would be inappropriate to have a cocktail bar – so it wasn't built till after the war.

When the war ended, Ted returned and assumed management of the Inn, carrying out his plans for modernization. Athletic Ted died unexpectedly in 1975 and 80-year-old Mattie again took charge of The Pierpont.

The Pierpont celebrates its rich history and envelopes guests with costumed docents, historic tours and dinner theatre re-enactments, such as a 1942 War Bond Drive.

For more information please contact Emily Raab @ CMS (805) 983-3495 or Vicki Dussaigne @ The Pierpont Inn (805) 653-6144 x 180 [www.pierpontinn.com](http://www.pierpontinn.com)