1-27-15

HORVITZ, DR ABRAHAM

PROVIDENCE

HORVITZ, ABRAHAM

103, of Providence, RI, passed away peacefully on January 27, 2015 at his home at Laurelmead on January 27, 2015.

The first child of Jacob and Fanny Horvitz of Providence, he was a graduate of Classical High School and Brown University. He decided to become a doctor as a teenager and earned his MD at Columbia Medical School in 1936. When he went to Washington University in St. Louis to do his residency he was joined by his new wife, the former Eleanor Feldman. He was working at Harlem Hospital in New York when Pearl Harbor was attacked and although exempted from the draft because he was a doctor, he felt that it was obligation to enlist. By the end of 1942, now a lieutenant in the Third Army Surgical Corps, he was on board a transport ship headed for England. (He was subsequently promoted to captain.) On D+1 – June 7, 1944 – on Utah Beach in Normandy, he was in a surgical tent, operating on wounded American and German soldiers. Months later, he would come under fire in the Battle of the Bulge but nothing could have prepared him for the horror that awaited him when he witnessed the liberation of a concentration camp, a searing experience that almost certainly strengthened his identity as a Jew and made him an ardent supporter of Israel. What he remembered most especially was an ambush of U.S. battleships by U-boats in the English Channel during a practice run for the