Harry R. Saftel

Retired real estate developer was a veteran of World War I

MIDDLETOWN — Harry R. Saftel, 97, formerly of 173 Otis St., Newtonville, Mass., a real estate developer until his retirement, died Wednesday at the Grand Islander Health Care Center. He was the husband of the late Helen (Liberman) Saftel.



Born in Russia, he was the son of David Saftel.

Mr. Saftel was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire where he was awarded the Harvard Prize. He was a 1917 graduate of Harvard University. While attending Harvard he edited the Sunday real estate section of the former Boston Record-American. After graduation he was commissioned an Army first lieutenant. He served in France where he was wounded and a victim of mustard gas at Chateau-Thierry.

After the war he entered the real estate business. Mr. Saftel participated in the development of the first shopping centers in the Boston area, including the Chestnut Hill Mall. After his retirement he lived in St. George's, Grenada, West Indies, for 30 years.

He leaves two daughters, Susan Rothenberg of Newtonville and Rodie Siegler of Middletown; a son, Alan Saftel of Providence; a brother, Perry Saftel of Cranston; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be private.

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SAFTEL, HARRY R.