

SOBANSKI, Winslow S.

“Mike” “The Pole”

B: 29 July 1919 New York City, NY

D: 6 June 1944 near Evreux, FRA



“I fired a few short 1/2-second bursts closing in, and was just going to position myself better on him, as I saw no strikes. Much to my surprise, he jettisoned his canopy and bailed out. I watched his a/c half-roll and crash, and then took a picture of him in the parachute. I claim this ME-109 as destroyed, and a scared Hun.”

- Mike Sobanski, from his combat report of 28 May 1944

Hometown: New York City, New York

Rank: Major

MOS: 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

Unit: 334th Fighter Squadron

336th Fighter Squadron

Aircraft:

Spitfire Mk. VB AB988 MD-

Spitfire Mk. VB BL383 MD-

P-47D-1-RE 42-7924 QP-F *Mike III*

P-47D-10-RE 42-75120 QP-F *Mike IV*

P-51B-7-NA 43-7002 QP-F

P-51B-7-NA 42-7158 QP-F

4th Service: 9 October 1942 – 6 June 1944

25 MAY 43 Transferred to the 334th Fighter Squadron

29 NOV 43 Designated Flight Commander A Flight

15 MAR 44 Designated Squadron Operations Officer

15 APR 44 Designated Squadron Commanding Officer

13 MAY 44 Promoted to Captain

1 JUN 44 Promoted to Major

6 JUN 44 After striking some wires while strafing, his damaged a/c was set upon by a gaggle of Luftwaffe fighters.

KIA. (MACR 5603)

Buried at Ardennes American Cemetery
Neupre, Belgium
Plot C Row 33 Grave 1

Victories:

4.16 (2.83 air/1.33 ground)

Decorations:

Distinguished Flying Cross (3 OLC), Air Medal (3 OLC), Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation.