

For Photographic Recon.

New Pictures of the Vickers-Armstrongs Supermarine Spitfire XI Wearing the Stripes of the Allied Expeditionary Air Forces

IN order that no mistake should be made between friendly and hostile aircraft during the early stages of the invasion it was decided to paint black-and-white stripes on all Allied aircraft taking part. Despite the fact that Spitfires of P.R.U.s earn their living mostly at 30,000ft., these were included in the scheme. The new painting certainly lends a bizarre touch.

Much of the photographic reconnaissance work demands high speed and long range. The Spitfire XI has a 1,650 h.p. Rolls-Royce Merlin engine which may be either Mk. 61, 63, or 63A. Nearly the whole leading edge of the wing is a long-range fuel tank and the two main tanks are carried in the fuselage.

