

DESTROYER ESCORT (DE) IN SHANG-HAI AREA CHINA

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DESTROYER ESCORT (DE) IN SHANG-HAI AREA, CHINA

The recent discovery of an unidentified DE in Shang-hai, China, has lead to speculation as to whether the ship represents new constuction or the modification of an already existing Riga-class DE. In an attempt to answer these questions, the major shipyards of China (Figure 1) have been searched to determine where the vessel (Figures 2 and 3) was constructed or, if modified, where it was modified.

The following major shipyards, capable of producing a ship as large as or larger than

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this DE, were searched for construction: Shanghai Naval Base and Shipyard Kiangnan Dock Company ; Shang-hai Shipyard Shang-hai Dockyards (International Dock); Shang-hai Naval Base and Shipyard Hu-tung

Lu-ta Shipyard Darien Wu-chang Shipyard; and the Ta-ku Shipyard Hsin-chiang.

In addition, the Lu-shun Naval Base and Shipyard and the Ching-tao Naval Dockyard were

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searched for evidence of any modification to an existing Riga-class DE.

A search of all available overhead photography from to the present provided no evidence that a DE was under construction at any of these shipyards. A DE was observed moored at Hu-tung in The negation date for the presence of this DE is DE's were observed at International Dock, in the graving dock in and moored at a wharf during No relationship can be drawn between these vessels.

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The first sighting of a DE on either a building or repair way is in Kiangnan (Figure 4). Coverage of revealed this DE to be either a Riga-class DE

undergoing modification or a new-class DE in late stages of construction. Objects which resemble certain sections of the DE's superstructure are alongside the buildingway (Figure 5).

Construction under covered buildingways without detection was considered and only the Wu-chang and Hu-tung yards have these facilities. Hu-tung does have a secured area which encompasses approximately half of the northern 2 buildingways and utilizes weather/concealment sheds. The only time the total length of these sheds approaches the overall length of a Rigaclass DE is in . At this time, an unidentified DE was observed at Kiangnan. Because the launching transverser at Wu-chang is only there appears to be little possibility of DE construction there. In addition, an attempt to account for more than 4 DE hulls at all yards and bases on any one mission proved negative. Only once.

have 4 DE's been observed on one mission.

Gaps of as much as 18 months exist in coverage of each of the major yards and bases. Some examples of these gaps are as follows:

Shang-hai area Wu-chang Ta-ku Ching-tao Lu-shun Lu-ta

at



If this is a completely new DE, no evidence of construction can be obtained from overhead photography, but there is insufficient photographic evidence to definitely negate it as new construction.



FIGURE 2. CHINESE COMMUNIST DE, PENDANT NO 209.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

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