

San Francisco Working on Major Conversion

The conversion of the USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) has expanded into a much larger project than was originally anticipated. The *Oriskany* came to San Francisco Naval Shipyard in November 1956 for a standard \$7,000,000, 7-month conversion. Changes were to consist of a new enclosed hurricane bow, an angled deck to increase her plane-landing area for greater safety, and relocation of her number 3 elevator from the centerline to the port side of the ship.

But now, additional changes are to be made that will turn the job into an approximately \$39,000,000, 2-year project. The old hydraulic catapults will be replaced by two new and more powerful steam catapults, the capacity of the aircraft arresting gears will be increased, and aluminum decking will be added in the landing area. A 2-foot, 9-inch blister will be added on each side of the ship to provide additional buoyancy as compensation for the increased weight of the new installations.

Major revisions and relocations of other spaces will be required in the work. Many type modifications will also be made, including improvements in habitability, increased special weapons capabilities, much tank work, protection of the island against noisy jet sounds, and installation of a modular combat information center.

As a comparison, the *Oriskany* conversion will be approximately two-thirds the size of the USS *Bon Homme Richard* conversion that required 2½ years, cost approximately \$70,000,000, and was completed by San Francisco Naval Shipyard in October 1955.

Enclosed hurricane bow fitted on USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34) at San Francisco Naval Shipyard.



