



# Homer M. Brett

**Military Historian ★ Writer ★ Consultant**

P.O. Box 111 Alexandria, Virginia 22313 USA

Tel. Voice (703) 548-9694 Fax (703) 548-4582



---

**Subject: The Lan-Cay "Commercial Sales Only" Product Improved Bayonets---  
Assembled with the Old Style, Fullered Blade Blanks.**

**\*\*\*\*\*The Unique, Forged Blade, Shallow Fullered, Variant.**

In mid 2002, reflecting the very difficult economic times at Lan-Cay, and at the instigation of some of the company's commercial dealers, the company decided to dig into its scrapped, U.S. Army reject bayonet blade blanks. It sorted these and then completed the ones that could be brought to commercially acceptable standards. These were completed for commercial sales only. All the old blades used were fullered and were definitely milspec rejects.

There were about six metal paint buckets of scrapped blades, and among them were the early blade blanks that were in various stages of completion. The two original major inspection points for most of them were just before the saw teeth were added, and just before the blades were sent to the die marking machine, when they were still unhardened (soft).

Because of these two inspection stops, most of the blades that were commercially completed by Lan-cay in 2002, were not originally marked (die stamped) on their ricassos. Lan-Cay decided that at all blades leaving the factory in completed bayonets would be marked with the company name. Thus these "commercial" blades were stamped with the current ("Lan-Cay") blade stamp:

**M9  
Lan-Cay  
USA**

This resulted in early Lan-Cay M9 blades with the step-down on their spines in front of the crossguard, with blade fullers, and with a long beveled area for the saw teeth, and with no flat in front of the teeth. On the reverse side of each blade was a fuller that was forged into the blade.

Unique among this small group of completed bayonets, was a group with forged blades that included a shallow fuller. These were produced, by forging, during the period that Lan-Cay experiment with the ½ depth fuller. As far as is known, none of these ever met the milspec requirement, so none were ever completed for Army, and until 2002, none were ever believed to have been completed at all.

These unique shallow fuller bayonets were finished in two distinct variations. One **with completed saw teeth**, and one **with no saw teeth** at all. These blades were assembled with current (2002) military production parts, including Product Improved scabbards with the Product Improved webbing, and standard guards, grips and latch plates. Both the cutter plates and latch plates were "Lan-Cay" marked.

2.

This entire group of bayonets was absolutely not milspec, and was intended exclusively for the commercial/collector's market. They were also a practical way for Lan-Cay to use up existing, paid for, materials to raise additional funds, without using the valuable time and resources required to manufacture new blades.

Respectfully submitted,



Homer M. Brett---November 2002