

## Hans Heinrich Baasch

Born: Aug 6, 1898  
Denmark

Died: 1976

Period of Service: WW II

Sources: Monument  
B10 F2, JG, JE, CS

Service # 0530484

Entered service on September 24, 1943.

Discharged on October 21, 1944.

He was with the Allied Military Government in Occupied Countries as Housing Manager, specifically in Germany. He spent six months in England in the Rehabilitation Corps. When back on the Island he gave a talk to the school children about life in England. He said that during the 'blitz', the children were sent to the countryside: sixteen year old girls were sent to help the farmers, and sixteen year old boys were sent to factories. He talked of the air raids and the carnage that people somehow became accustomed to. The people learned how to dismantle time bombs by assigning one man to begin unscrewing parts all the time telephoning his actions to other men standing 300 yards away. When he was blown up, the next bomb would be dismantled using the information that had been learned from the first man while also phoning additional information as the second man continued undoing parts of the bomb. That continued until they finally learned all that needed to be known to disable the bombs, using the sacrificed lives of the former volunteers to complete the knowledge.

He joined American Legion Post 402 in 1945 and was commander in 1962.

He had been in charge of Indian Affairs in Washington DC and died there.

His wife Synnove was from Norway. They were married on June 20, 1929 near St Louis, and late in life she went back to Norway to die. Hans himself was from Denmark.

They lived in the house on Main Road now owned by Jack and Lorna Cornell.

Their daughter was Anna Tina Katerina, an opera star in California.

Hans spent his life in government service, joining in 1935 to aid in resettlement programs for landless farmers and day laborers during the Depression, a cooperative undertaking by government and private citizens. He was cited by the Dept of Interior for "commendable service" on June 20, 1961.

Hans' brother Carl was murdered by the Japanese early in World War II on Wake Island where he was working construction. He and 98 other Americans were shackled and assassinated on October 7, 1943 when the Japs feared an American attack on the Island.