

**ANNA  
WALLIS  
SUH  
1900-1969**



**KOREAN  
WAR'S  
SEOUL CITY  
SUE**

During wartime, governments stream propaganda through servicemen's radios. They broadcast misinformation using a woman's gentle voice with a background of soft music. This 'siren' is used to get into the heads of servicemen. Like Tokyo Rose in World War II, the Korean War's Seoul City Sue read the names off dog-tags of dead soldiers, called out servicemen by name and rank, identified units, gave locations, and predicted the attacks of each side.

But 'Sue' was not Korean. Her name was Anna Wallis, born in 1900 in Arkansas. After her parents died, she relocated to Oklahoma to join her sister's family while she completed high school. Anna attended Southeastern State Teachers College in Durant and Scarritt College in Nashville, training as a Methodist missionary. She graduated in 1930 with a Bachelors in Ministry and was assigned to missionary work in Korea.

By the early 1930's, the Japanese colonial administration had largely banned foreign missionaries so Anna relocated to China in 1938 to teach at the Shanghai American School (SAS), where she met Korean-language teacher Suh Kyoon Chul. Anna came back to America sometime in 1939 for a visit, at which time she unsuccessfully attempted to regain her American citizenship.

She had lost it due to a somewhat arbitrary application of United States law when she married a foreign national and was living in his country with him. This, coupled with America's freeze on Asian immigration with the 1924 Immigration Act, meant that her application for citizenship was rejected.

Americans in Shanghai began to slowly depart around 1939, as tensions rose in the city, with the United States and Japan going to war. Those remaining like Anna were forced into the Chapei Civilian Relocation Center. Late in World War II, Suh was released from the internment camp after two years and joined the staff of the reconstituted SAS.

Unable to earn a living in post-war Shanghai, the Suhs moved to Seoul in 1946, where Anna tutored at the United States Diplomatic Mission School. She was fired in 1949 when her husband was investigated for left-wing activities. They were trapped in Seoul when North Korea invaded in June 1950. The speed of the advance caught most residents by surprise – and unprepared to evacuate. In a July 1950 meeting in Seoul with some North Korean politicians, the Suhs pledged their loyalty to the North Korean regime.

Soon Anna began working for Radio Seoul, announcing the names of recently captured American soldiers, threatening new arriving units, welcoming warships by name, or taunting African-American soldiers about their limited civil rights at home. Before American forces entered Seoul, the Suhs fled north. Anna joined the staff of Radio Pyongyang, and eventually the Korean Central News Agency.

American defector Charles Jenkins, who lived in Pyongyang until 2004, recognized Anna in a store in 1965. She seemed extremely nervous and quickly disappeared. Was Anna a volunteer or captive? We will never know. Jenkins heard Suh was shot as a South Korean double agent in 1969.