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'Fascinating Job' In Saigon Costs U.S. Girl Her Life

Denver, March 30 (AP)—A 21-year-old Denver girl lost her life today while engaged "in a fascinating job in a fascinating place."

Barbara Robbins, a secretary for the United States State Department, was one of two Americans among the 17 persons killed in the bombing of the American Embassy in Saigon.

Her father, Buford M. Robbins, told today of the way the girl described her work in the South Vietnamese capital. She had been there about eight months.

First Trip Abroad

Asked if his daughter has discussed the fighting in Vietnam in her letters, Robbins said:

"As far as the war was concerned, Barbara said very little more than to describe the weather.

"Her letters were chiefly about her work, about the people she worked with and the city and the people of Saigon. It was her first trip to a foreign country and she seemed to find it fascinating."

Miss Robbins spent six hours with her family here last May during a brief vacation. She had joined the State Department in July, 1963, after two years at Colorado State University.

"She had planned to be in Saigon for a total of two years," the father said.

"Barbara had talked for several years about trying to get into some kind of work that would take her into foreign countries. For a time, she considered enrolling for



BARBARA ROBBINS

training as an airline stewardess.

"Then this job with the State Department came up after she had had two years at the university and she grabbed it."

Robbins, a meat cutter for a Denver supermarket, said his daughter always was interested in secretarial and business work throughout her high school years.

She liked to swim and bowl and was an excellent seamstress.

The father said, "as far as we know," Miss Robbins was not engaged and had no steady boyfriend. He said she appeared to enjoy her work in Washington.

The Robbins' only other child is a son, Warren, 18, a student here.

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