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Losing Their Hats

The Army brass hates any special forces, any group in a special type of uniform, regardless of how good these people may be.

Col. Otto Skorzeny explains this very well in "Commando Extraordinary", a book on the German special forces of World War II. * We are seeing the same thing in the American Army in the killings done by the special forces on order of the CIA.

Our Green Beret boys have had to be tolerated until now for they were created by President John Kennedy, but they were not liked by the brass, we can assure you. Now, it appears to this editor, they were trapped by their enemies. Changing orders about murder! Even if you are wrong, you don't admit it in the services. The scandal could have been contained, could have been stopped long ago, if the high command had wanted it stopped. Enough was allowed to leak to ruin the Green Berets, which is exactly what the military wanted.

There was no danger to any of us here at home, over this scandal, for the Green Berets had no long tradition, no long list of powerful friends. But the danger will reach us if the ruling cliques really start fighting among themselves over something they really care for. And this may happen.

Samuel Johnson put it best when he said: "Combinations of wickedness would overwhelm the world by the advantage which licentious principles afford, did not those who have long practiced perfidy grow faithless to each other."

* By Charles Foley, Ballantine. 1954.