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Cesarani, David. *Major Farran's Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish the Jewish State*. Cambridge, England: Da Capo Press, 2009. 290 p. \$26.00 (ISBN 978-0-30681-845-5).

In 1947 sixteen-year-old Alexander Rubowitz disappeared while putting up posters for the Lehi underground. Based upon the evidence in this book, he was abducted and murdered by British policeman Roy Farran. Farran was eventually court-martialed and acquitted. All this was a cause célèbre at the time, though it is little remembered these days outside of Israel. According to the author, it contributed to uniting the Jewish population of Mandatory Palestine against continued British rule. Professor Cesarani does a good job of putting this incident into context. He discusses the British struggle to defeat the Jewish fight for independence, including the creation of special police units, by importing British army personnel with experience in commando activities behind enemy lines during the Second World War. The book soft-pedals the anti-Zionism of Foreign Minister Ernst Bevin and contains some minor errors (e.g., Doris Katz was a member of the Etzel underground not Lehi). Still, it is a solid work overall. Recommended as a good, though not essential, item for Israeli history collections.

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