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Abstracts

GIORGIO SECCIA, Un generale dimenticato: Max Hofmann (1869-1927)

«The man who perhaps more than any other general of World War I approached the military genius», this is the judgment by the British historian Liddel Hart on German general Max Hoffmann. Still Hoffmann, despite being one of the main protagonist of war, it is little known in historic studies. This paper aims to rescue from oblivion his simple and consistent figure, his successful military career and magnificent service to foreign policy of Germany.

In 1904 he sent to the Russo-Japanese War for to report to the General Staff his impressions about materials and tactics used. At the beginning of the European war, the Lieutenant Colonel Hoffmann as Chief of the General Staff to the Commander-in Chief, Army of the East, was not merely a fine soldier but a very remarkable man. His is the merit of the plan that leads to the great German victory over the Russians at the battle of Tannenberg and of next Masurian Lakes. From that time forward all the important military events on the German Eastern Front are closely bound up with Hoffmann's military work.

In Brest-Litowsk Treaty, again, he played a part quite different from that assigned him. He was at once the representative and the interpreter of the views of the Supreme Army Command and the Secretariat of State, undisputed leader of peace talks.