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At a time when few Americans had visited Australia, journalist John Sommario/riassunto Lardner sailed down under with the U.S. armed forces as one of the first American war correspondents in the Pacific theater. With his excellent

> sense of humor and gift for narrative, Lardner penned vignettes of MacArthur's arrival and his reception in Melbourne and a flight with the

daring Dutch flier Capt. Hans Smits. More frequently, Lardner wrote about the ordinary day and the average person. Traveling throughout the country, in Southwest Passage Lardner offers a glimpse of Australia in the 1940s and generates war