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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The western gunboat flotilla: "a mongrel service" -- USS Carondelet and Fort Henry -- Fort Donelson -- Island No. 10 -- Securing New Orleans -- The Battle of Plum Point Bend -- The Battle of Memphis -- On to Vicksburg! -- CSS Arkansas -- The Mississippi Squadron -- The First Vicksburg Campaign -- Arkansas Post and Fort Hindman -- The Steele's Bayou Expedition -- The Yazoo Pass Expedition of 1863 -- Port Hudson -- Grand Gulf -- Blockade and siege: Milliken's Bend and Simmesport -- Final push to victory -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Drawing heavily on the diaries and letters of officers and common sailors, Barbara Brooks Tomblin explores the years during which the Union Navy fought to win control of the Mississippi. Her approach provides fresh insight into major battles such as Memphis and Vicksburg, but also offers fascinating perspectives on lesser-known aspects of the conflict from ordinary sailors.