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Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the early years of European settlement in Australia, focusing on the New South Wales government fleet of small sailing vessels essential for setting up remote military posts in the north and west from 1824 to 1831. It delves into the challenges faced by these ships, including attacks and wrecks, and provides insights into the people involved, such as naval and military governors, settlers, and Aboriginal Australians. The book argues that these vessels formed Australia's first navy and examines their vital role in the country's early development. The work is a significant contribution to Australian history, emphasizing maritime connections and the colonial experience.