

# Private Lucky

Written by Melissa Guzzetta  
As told and lived by Hank Gillebaard

*One Man's Unconventional Journey from the Horrors of Nazi Occupation to the Fulfillment of a High-Flying American Dream*

As a boy, Hank wanted nothing more than to fly like the fighter pilots in the skies over Amsterdam. When the lives of Dutch citizens are turned upside down with the Nazi occupation of Holland, his dreams will have to wait as he witnesses the tragic unfolding of events affecting those around him before finding himself in a fight for his own life, going into hiding as a teen despite the fact that he is not Jewish.

After the war, he enlists in the American Army in Germany where his inability to speak English results in missteps at every turn. He can roll with the punches if the Army will teach him to fly, but he learns that pilot training stopped with the end of the war. It seems he'll never reach his goal.

Undaunted, Private Hank evolves into a popular soldier and learns what it means to be American, arriving broke but determined to pursue his lofty goals, flying by the seat of his pants to the highest levels of aviation.

## ***Live reading events are being very well received!***

*Thursday, August 11th, Irvine Senior Center*

*Private Lucky Reading and Slideshow*

*Thursday, August 18th, Museo Anaheim Cultural Ctr*

*Private Lucky Reading and Book Signing*

*Thursday, September 15th, Lake Forest Senior Center*

*Private Lucky Reading and meet the Book Club*

*Annual Author Fair & Art Night*

*October 21st, Pasadena Library*

*Thursday, November 10th, Pasadena Library*

*Private Lucky Reading and Slideshow*

**See website for times and addresses.**

[WWW.PrivateLucky.com](http://WWW.PrivateLucky.com)

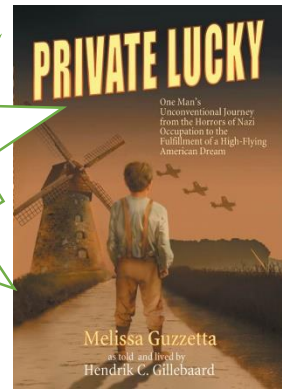
**Categories: Memoir/Biography, WWII, Aviation**

**Audience:** Older adults (40+) who enjoy history, aviation, and true stories of triumph and WWII in an era gone by.

**To plan events call: (949) 533-8400**

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**Schedule a  
Reading  
and  
Slideshow  
Today!**



\$16.99

Reading events include a drawing for a free book and a possible personal meeting with Hank and wife Lola.

***"Private Lucky* comes out of the gate establishing a fascinating, hilarious and determined tone that catches the readers eye and doesn't let go...I warn you now, you will have trouble putting this book down."-- *Allie Sumner of alliesopinions.wordpress.com***

***"Guzzetta relates Gillebaard's varied experiences in an engaging and affable voice. -- Kirkus Reviews***

### ***Amazon Reviews from Readers:***

***For those who like a little history with daring adventure.-- L.H., Lake Forest, CA***

***What a delightful, engaging, and inspiring story! Hank has indeed led a lucky, even a charmed life as he emerges from one near-miss after another.-- Flora M. Brown, Anaheim Hills,***

***A fast-paced memoir of aviation and more that will touch, inspire, and amuse. -- M.Harrell, WA***

Author Melissa Guzzetta is a professional speaker and owner of The Computer Tutor, a training company based in Irvine. She has been an accomplished trainer and writer in the technical field since 1998.

An avid fan of unique true stories that inspire and contribute to knowledge of events in history, Melissa expanded to writing memoirs when she heard the story Hank Gillebaard told about his life – a story to be shared with the world.

***"I can only marvel that the author is not a full-time writer and put together the compelling, real-life story of Private Lucky because she was inspired by the subject."***

***--Judge's comment, Bill Fischer Awards Best First Nonfiction***

Hank Gillebaard is a long-time resident of Laguna Beach. Despite the challenges he faced in WWII Holland, he pursued a dream, eventually becoming a trainer of fighter pilots, and later a successful entrepreneur.

