

DUTCH GOLDEN JUBILEE.

Amsterdam - and all Holland gaily celebrates a great week in Netherlands history - the Golden Jubilee of Queen Wilhelmina and, following her abdication, the inauguration of her daughter Juliana. Flags, bunting and happy crowds give Amsterdam a jubilant look. At night, the City is brilliantly illuminated. For seven days and nights, the bright lights and the colours lift (if only momentarily) the gloom that hangs over Europe. After the tragic years of foreign occupation, the Dutch (so often mistakenly regarded as a phlegmatic people) are making the most of this rare festive occasion.

A great reception greets the Queen as she arrives at the Royal Palace for the last week of her reign. Her Jubilee coincides with her birthday, for Wilhelmina was a young girl of 18 when she was crowned a Queen. Her youth, and the fact that she was a woman, never prevented her from displaying the spirit of a King. Now, as in failing health she retires, the people's affection for her, and her family, has never been greater. Princess Marijke - the youngest of her four grandchildren joins in the crowds tribute to a grand lady

Wilhelmina retires - happy in the knowledge that her rule has enhanced the good name of the Dutch people throughout the world.