

**Arabian Sport Horse History: Bloodlines**  
**Silent Wings (Oran x Silfina)**  
**By Kat Walden**



Silent Wings, 1954 chestnut mare bred by Lady Wentworth, Crabbet Stud.

The English mare, Silent Wings, was a 7<sup>th</sup> generation tail female descendant of the desert-bred foundation Crabbet Stud broodmare Dajania. The mares of this family have been exceptional and prolific producers.

**The Family**

Silent Wings' dam Silfina (Indian Gold/Sharfina) also produced the exported half-brothers Electric Silver and Sindh, who have been strongly influential in Australian Arabian breeding. Silfina's full sister \*Serafina is best known in the U.S. as the dam of the full brothers \*Serafix and \*Silver Drift (by Raktha) and Silent Wings' full brother in blood \*Oran Van Crabbet.

In addition to these full sisters, Sharfina produced ten other fillies and two colts. One son, Shafreyn (by Royal Diamond), was exported to Australia where he sired many good endurance horses. Two half-sisters to Silfina also came to the U.S.: \*Sharafa (by \*Silver Vanity) and \*Shades of Night (by Rissam). \*Shades of Night produced a son \*George Washington, who in turn sired Lady Asfur (ASHAI registry #M00175), an outstanding hunter over fences, and her full brother Dargee (ASHAI #S00220). \*Shades of Night produced Al-Marah O Rapturous Night (by Rapture), whose grandson UF Tall Tales (ASHAI #G00114) helped to launch the ASHAI Year End Awards Program. Dressage stallion Ta'ez+// (ASHAI #S00586) has two lines to Silfina through his imported Australian sire, \*Ralvon Elijah, and two lines to \*Serafina through \*Serafix on his dam's side. [Author's note: Ta'ez has shown at Grand Prix level in 2006.]

Silent Wings, foaled in 1954, upheld her family tradition splendidly. Some of the most notable of her 15 foals were: Yemama (by Indian Magic), a 1959 grey mare; \*Zilla (by Indian Magic), a 1960 grey mare; Azrak (by Blue Domino), a 1964 chestnut stallion; Bright Wings (by Bright Shadow), a 1965 chestnut stallion; and Golden Wings (by Bright Shadow), a 1968 chestnut gelding. Yemama, dam of 16 foals, produced among them Silent Dove and Ludomino. \*Zilla, exported to the U.S., carries on through her \*Nizzam daughter Lewisfield Nizila. Azrak sired the well-known British sire Silver Blue in his one foal crop prior to his export to South Africa, where he was also a successful sire. Bright Wings, exported to the Netherlands, sired \*Odessa NSB (she having a second line to Silfina through her maternal grandsire), who in turn produced U.S.

National Stallion Halter Champion \*Padron. This leaves Golden Wings, whose legacy was a high profile career as a dressage horse.

### Golden Wings

Golden Wings was a 16 hand chestnut with a blaze, his near foreleg white above the



knee and a hock-high stocking on the off hind, and his mane and tail lighter than his coat. He was bred by Mrs. E.M. Thomas from all Crabbet lines, and his sire, Bright Shadow, was noted for siring offspring with exceptional gaits.

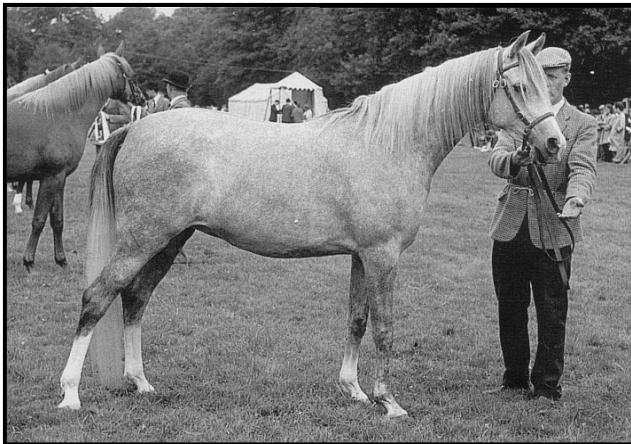
Purchased as a young horse already under saddle by Claire Murray-Threipland, he was ridden through most of his career by Carol Pearce (pictured together at left). Pearce had trained under Olympian Jennie Loriston-Clarke. Coached by Paul Fielder, the pair advanced quickly in British Horse Society competition, although at first there was some strong prejudice against "that PINK A-rab!"

At the height of his career, Golden Wings represented Great Britain in Belgium

and at Goodwood, where he won the prize for the highest placed British entry competing in Prix St. Georges and Intermediare I. He was also well-placed in Grand Prix, was the British National Ridden Champion at his breed show, and gave many exhibitions—including once side-saddle. He was retired from competition due to arthritis of one knee, spending his last years as a schoolmaster at Jennie Loriston-Clarke's farm.

### Yemama

Yemama (pictured at age three winning 1962 Junior Female Champion. Photo credit:



Photonews) passed the family sporting talents down to her daughter Silent Dove and son Ludomino, both sired by Ludo. Silent Dove, a 1969 grey mare, was undoubtedly too busy having 15 foals to be ridden much, but she produced Silent King (by Dancing King), a 1974 chestnut gelding, and Silent Fire (by Naxif), a 1980 chestnut stallion, to carry her torch. Silent King was a show jumper graded J.A. in England, a multi-champion at novice and intermediate levels. At the 1980 Junior International event in Copenhagen, he had two wins, two seconds and a third. A versatile horse, he

also won a flat race for Arabs and the first British Ride and Tie ride.

Silent Fire became a star performer for the Sherif Pyramid Stud of Jack and Valerie Woodall in Wales, which combined a breeding operation with an equestrian holiday facility where students could go for intense instruction in small groups. As a five year old, he was performing shoulder-in, half-pass, passage and pirouettes in exhibition to classical music. Valerie's previous dressage horse, stallion Indian Magician, had also been trained to perform some of the Classical

“airs above the ground,” and Silent Fire was expected to eventually reach that level (the author does not know what became of him. As of December, 1996, his youngest daughter had been foaled in 1988.)



L. Silent Fire at age five. Rider is probably owner Valerie Woodall.

R. Lurex by Ludrex out of Yemama. The stallion was exported to the Netherlands and later to Germany. He was trained in dressage, but author has no competition history for him.

Ludomino, Silent Dove’s brother foaled in 1964, was a popular sire, with approximately 60 get and 250 grandget as of December, 1996. Among his offspring are Ahmoun, a stallion siring many Arabian sport horses in multiple disciplines, and \*Magic Domino AHS (ASHAI #S00497), the first purebred Arabian to be approved for Canadian Sport Horse breeding. \*Magic Domino has been trained and shown successfully in dressage.

#### **\*Zilla**

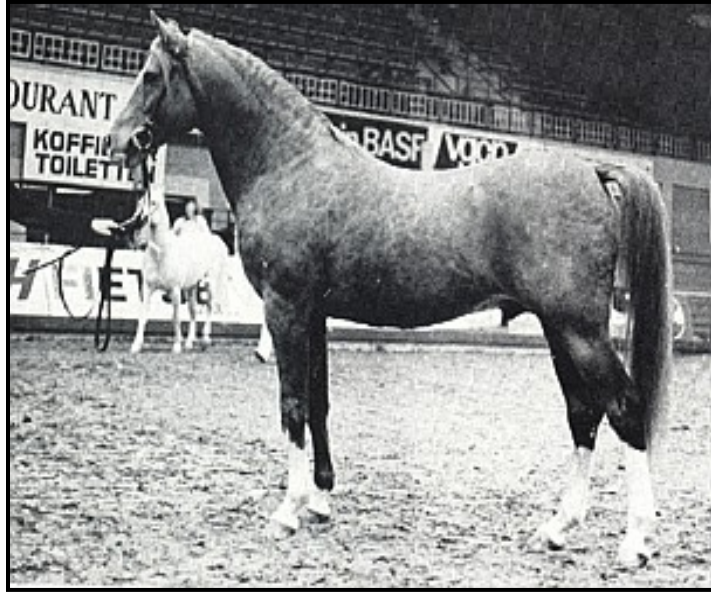
\*Zilla, a full sister to Yemama, was exceptional in her very prolific family for producing only five foals. Of these, the only one with a line breeding on is Lewisfield Nizila (by \*Nizzam). Nizila’s bay daughter by RAS Royal Bay, MC Bint Nizila, foaled in 1985, has produced three grey geldings—all perhaps budding sport horses—and in 1995, a bay colt by English import \*Seffer, but so far no filly. [Author’s note: As of 2006, she has produced one more gelding foaled in 1997. Her son Revelle by \*Seffer was gelded after siring two daughters; one of them, Brazen Secret (x Rosalaina) has to date produced two daughters, Revellaina by her own sire, and Brazen Angel by \*Dandaloo Kadet.]

#### **Silent Wings’ Breeding Sons**

It is rare for a mare to produce both exceptional breeding daughters and breeding sons. For a mare to produce one son who is influential as a sire is an achievement and such mares are accordingly highly valued. Silent Wings was a mare whose daughters that bred on did so in an impressive manner, but she also produced three sons that bred on, two of them with outstanding success.

Her son Azrak got Silver Blue (foaled 1969 x Silver Sheen), who has been a popular sire in England. Silver Blue’s son \*Senecio is now standing in Canada. Although \*Senecio has not been shown in North America due to the remoteness of his owner’s ranch, he is ridden on trails regularly. He is known for passing on his own athleticism and good temperament to his offspring, 23 get in three countries and four grandget [increased to 30 get and 18 grandget by 2006. Few of his offspring are currently breeding on, however.].

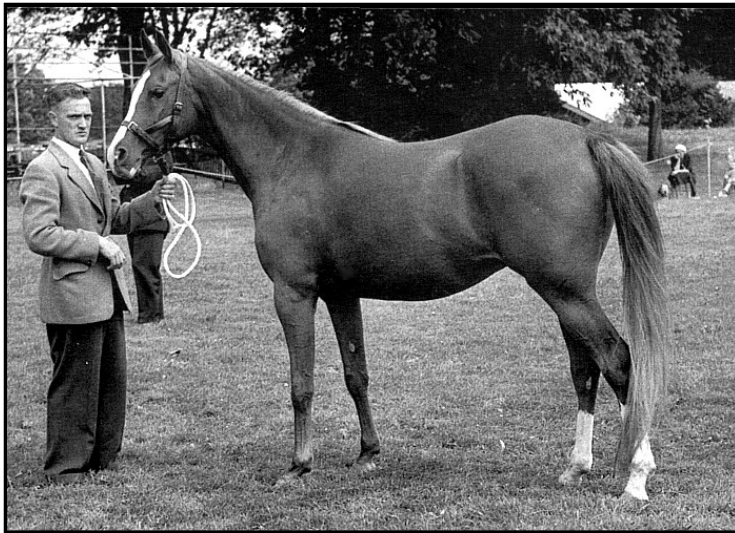
Bright Wings (by Bright Shadow), a full brother to Golden Wings, was known in Belgium as a sire of good riding horses, especially jumpers. As far as the author knows, he was never shown under saddle. His grandson \*Padron has primarily been utilized by breeders aiming for halter and saddle seat horses, so it is difficult to predict if this offshoot of Silent Wings' family will figure in future Arabian sport horse breeding. Although \*Padron often passes on his less than sterling underpinning, many of his offspring have good, strong legs and might hold up to work in sporting disciplines or breed on in this tradition. Only time will tell.



Bright Wings as a mature stallion, apparently in Belgium. Photo from a listing of Belgian Arabian stallions.

Although the main focus of this article has been athletic ability, the Silent Wings' family is also known for beauty. From 1953 to 1992, horses having one or more lines to Sharima, Silent Wings' great-granddam, earned at least 65 British National in-hand championships. Silent Wings won Junior Female Champion at the 1957 British Nationals, one of four Sharfina granddaughters to earn National honors. The other three were: Sirella, out of Shalina, Junior and Supreme Female Champion in 1956, Supreme Female Champion in 1959 and 1962; Crystal Magic out of Royal Exchange, Junior Female Champion in 1961; and Lyvia, out of Extra Special, Junior Female Champion in 1966. Yemama followed in her dam's hoof prints by taking Junior Female Champion in 1962.

Coming from a strong mare family, Silent Wings proved herself to be a worthy broodmare as well, with her influence in the first three generations spanning several countries and sporting disciplines. Many of her descendants have been as noted for their beauty as for their athletic abilities, and there is not much more than one could ask of a breeding horse.



Silent Wings in 1957, shown winning Junior Female Championship from *40 Years of British Arab Horse Champions* by Deirdre Hyde. This is probably the most commonly seen photo of her. Photo credit: Photonews

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[Author's note, 2006. Current revision includes minimal updating and the addition of several photos not originally available to the author. Photos are reproduced for educational purposes only.]

**Sources:** Various writings of Rosemary Archer, the *Arab Horse Society News*, the Arabian Horse Registry's CD-ROM *Bookshelf '97*, the ASHAI Registry, Arabian Horse America's DataSource, the 1997 *North American Crabbet Bloodstock Stallion Guide*, and *40 Years of British Arab Horse Champions: 1953-1992*, compiled by Deirdre Hyde.