

**SILK WAY RALLY 2017**  
**NEWS ACCESS**  
**STAGE 12 (JIAYUGUAN – ALASHAN YOUQI) – 483KM TOTAL, 254KM SPECIAL**

**SCRIPTING INFO**

The overall leaders both survived a scare on Stage 12 as the Silk Way drivers battled their way through some tricky dunes.

In the cars, Cyril Despres was forced to stop late on with a hydraulic problem, but the Frenchman only lost 20m31s on stage winner Christian Lavieille, and still has a lead of 43m22s over Han Wei heading into the final two stages of the rally.

Bryce Menzies was second overall at the start of the stage, but lost his way in the dunes and eventually came in 21m16s down. Worse – he was handed a 20-minute penalty for missing a waypoint and is now fourth overall, almost half an hour off the podium.

Frenchman Lavieille took a first stage win for Chinese manufacturer Baicmotor, just 19 seconds ahead of Geely's Liu Kun. He is now third overall, and has cut the gap to Han Wei (3<sup>rd</sup> today, +6m24s) to just 3m15s.

Trucks leader Dmitry Sotnikov got stuck in the dunes and struggled with an engine that wasn't producing much power, but the Kamaz driver still managed to finish sixth, 14m05s behind teammate and stage winner Airat Mardeev.

Anton Shibalov (also of Kamaz) came second (+2m15s) and now trails Sotnikov by just 3m04s in the overall standings. Third-placed Mardeev is 17m54s back. Disaster though for Martin Kolomy, who was third this morning. The Czech suffered a mechanical problem in the desert, and even if he isn't forced to abandon, he will pick up severe penalties for failing to finish the special.

There is another tough stage to come tomorrow, from Alashan Youqi to Zhongwei, with two specials of around 160km each.

**SHOT LIST**

10"	COUNTDOWN
9"	SHOTS OF DUNES + CAMELS
26"	SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108
34"	SHOTS OF LIU KUN #121
30"	SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107
10"	SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100
8"	SHOTS OF DESPRES & STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106
35"	SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300
28"	SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

34" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

**20170720 SILK WAY RALLY  
12-MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS  
STAGE 12 (JIAYUGUAN – ALXA YOUQI)**

1. INTRO + POSTCARD
2. HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS
3. MAG: TORPEDO TRUCKS VS. CAB-OVER TRUCKS
4. HIGHLIGHTS CARS
5. SLOW-MO
6. TOMORROW + OUTRO

**INTRO + POSTCARD (1'10")**

10" COUNTDOWN

18" INTRO CREDITS

Don't speak

42" SHOTS OF ALASHAN YOUQI (INNER MONGOLIA)

Welcome to Inner Mongolia!

As the Silk Way Rally winds its way towards the finish line in Xi'an, the competitors arrived here in Alashan Youqi at the end of today's 12<sup>th</sup> stage.

The town is located in one of the three leagues that make up Inner Mongolia, one of China's five autonomous regions, on the southern fringes of the Badain Jaran Desert.

300 kilometres from the border with Mongolia itself, Alashan Youqi is a centre of manufacturing and agriculture.

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**HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS (3'09")**

9" MAP OF STAGE 12

254 kilometres of special on the menu today, with some very tricky dunes to navigate on the road to Alashan Youqi...

2" GRAPHIC TRUCKS

17" SHOTS OF DUNES + DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

We kick off with the trucks – and it was set to be a tough day for overall leader Dmitry Sotnikov.

The 2013 champion getting caught out in the dunes – and his Kamaz engine not packing enough punch to stay with the frontrunners.

He came in 14 minutes and 5 seconds down on the day's winner...

6" SHOTS OF DUNES + CAMELS

Not everyone is as well-adapted to desert travel...

13" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Anton Shibalov had a better day than Sotnikov, coming in second.

The gap between the two in the overall standings is now just three minutes and four seconds...

19" ITW DMITRY SOTNIKOV IN RUSSIAN

"We had some problems today. We got stuck in the dunes, and we didn't have enough power. The engine was only producing low revolutions, so it was hard to overtake. The dunes were very tough, especially in the last 50 kilometres. We weren't expecting such big dunes."

15" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311 RACING

Sotnikov wasn't the only one to struggle on the sand ... in fact, it turned out to be a much worse day for Martin Kolomy.

The Czech has been keeping the Kamaz honest since the start of this Silk Way – he won his third stage yesterday, staying within half an hour of Sotnikov overall...

17" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311

But things fell apart just after the 200k mark...

A mechanical problem putting an end to Kolomy's hopes of pushing the Kamaz all the way to Xi'an.

3" ITW MECHANIC IN ENGLISH

"It'll be impossible to get to the finish."

15" SHOTS OF SIARHEI VIAZOVICH #304

Kolomy's woes pushed Siarhei Viazovich up to sixth place overall...

The Maz driver losing a little bit of time but still coming in ahead of Sotnikov. He was in fifth place on the stage.

15" SHOTS OF GERARD DE ROOY #302

Gerard De Rooy had one of his best performances of the week, in spite of landing on the nose of his truck at one point.

The two-time Dakar winner in 4<sup>th</sup>, around 10 minutes off the pace.

9" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

Speaking of the Dakar, it was another strong run from this year's winner Eduard Nikolaev... the Kamaz driver only three minutes back in third.

10" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

But nobody could match Airat Mardeev

The defending Silk Way champion mastering the dunes to claim his second stage win of the rally...

10" ITW AIRAT MARDEEV IN RUSSIAN

“We really enjoyed today’s special, it was a great stage. We hope there will be more of the same tomorrow – as long as it’s not more difficult!”

10” SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

Can Mardeev hold on to his crown? He’s only 17 minutes and 54 seconds back – and as we’ve seen, anything is possible in the desert.

15” STANDINGS TRUCKS STAGE + OVERALL

Confirmation of the stage standings ... only three minutes separating Kamaz trio Mardeev, Shibalov and Nikolaev ... a rare off day for Sotnikov.

With Kolomy out of the picture, it will be a three-way Russian battle for Silk Way glory.

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### **FEATURE: CAB-OVER TRUCKS VS TORPEDO TRUCKS (3’08”)**

1” CAPTION

18” SHOTS OF TRUCKS AT SCRUTINEERING / ON PODIUM

They come in two distinct types...

Classic cab-over trucks, with a flat face, where drivers sit directly above the front axle...

And the newer torpedo trucks, where the bonnet emerges from the front.

But what exactly is the difference between the two? Here’s Gerard De Rooy to take us through it.

20” **ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN DUTCH**

“Essentially, the biggest difference between these two trucks is comfort. In terms of the chassis, the engine and the suspension, everything is actually the same. But with the cab-over truck you’re sitting right on top of the axle, so when you’re racing you feel every bump, every impact going straight up.”

25” **ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN DUTCH**

“With the Torpedo, your axle is here, but you’re sitting here, so a metre and a half further back. The front axle is also lighter, which means there is a bit more weight in the back, and better traction. Overall it’s more balanced – it’s like being in the middle of a set of scales. And it is certainly more comfortable.”

15” SHOTS OF IVECO IN ACTION

Comfort is one thing, but De Rooy has certainly had a few teething problems with his new Iveco Powerstar at this Silk Way...

Reliability issues aside, though, he believes torpedoes are the future...

10” **ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN DUTCH**

“Nowadays, a lot more truck manufacturers are making Torpedoes... And once you’ve driven one, you’ll never go back to cab-over trucks.”

6” SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV USING TORPEDO AT SILK WAY 2016

De Rooy not the only man who’s a fan of Torpedoes...

**4" ITW EDUARD NIKOLAEV IN ENGLISH**

"I prefer bonnet truck!" (laughs)

**20" ITW EDUARD NIKOLAEV IN RUSSIAN**

"Seriously though, I like torpedo trucks very much. If I had been driving a torpedo in yesterday's special, I would have got on better than I did with an ordinary cab-over truck. We're going to keep working on both kinds of truck, but when I return to the Dakar, it will be in a torpedo."

**5" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311**

Not everyone, though, is a fan of the newer style of truck...

**7" ITW MARTIN KOLOMY IN CZECH**

"We overhauled the cabin suspension after I had an accident in 2011, so comfort isn't a problem."

**3" DON'T SPEAK**

**9" ITW MARTIN KOLOMY IN CZECH**

"My truck has another advantage – I have a better view of what's going on. Personally, I prefer the cab-over style to the torpedo."

**5" SHOTS OF IVECO & KAMAZ RACING**

**20" ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN DUTCH**

"With a cab-over truck, you can see maybe one metre closer in front of you. But when you're driving at 100 kilometres an hour, you're obviously not looking down, you're looking ahead, 50 metres in front of the truck. So as far as I'm concerned, it doesn't affect the view."

**2" DON'T SPEAK**

**5" ITW GERARD DE ROOY IN DUTCH**

"I can use this one to go shopping, but for rallies, for the Dakar, it will always be the Torpedo."

**10" SHOTS OF IVECO ONBOARD**

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**HIGHLIGHTS CARS**

**2" GRAPHIC CARS**

**10" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100 – 8<sup>TH</sup> (+20m31s) + STEPHANE PETERHANSEL – 9<sup>TH</sup> (+22m33s)**

Defending cars champion Cyril Despres came into this stage with a 55-minute overall lead.

The Frenchman quickly past teammate Stephane Peterhansel, who once again showed his sense of self-sacrifice...

**5" ONBOARD WITH PETERHANSEL & JEAN-PAUL COTTRET**

Don't speak

**14" SHOTS OF DESPRES AND PETERHANSEL**

Despres was forced to stop twice towards the end of the special with a hydraulic problem.

But in spite of enduring a tough day, he more or less limited the damage, coming in 20 minutes down on the day's winner.

**11" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH**

"A one-and a half tonne car without power steering, it's like trying to turn with 500 kilos in your arms. It's exhausting. My hands and arms really hurt!"

**10" SHOTS OF DUNES + CAMELS**

Despres heads into the final two stages of the rally with an advantage of just under 45 minutes.

**11" SHOTS OF JEROME PELICHET #110 – 7<sup>TH</sup> (+20m16s)**

Another Frenchman, Jerome Pelichet, had a slightly better day in his Toyota...

He came in 15 seconds ahead of Despres, and sits 9<sup>th</sup> overall – but he's only five minutes off 7<sup>th</sup>.

**11" SHOTS OF YAZEED ALRAJHI #101 – 5<sup>TH</sup> (+9m56s)**

Yazeed Alrajhi knows the dunes like the back of his hand ... The Saudi driver fifth here, just under 10 minutes off the pace.

**8" SHOTS OF LU BINGLONG #130 – 4<sup>RD</sup> (+9m42s)**

Lu Binglong snatched fourth place for Baicmotor, 14 seconds ahead of Alrajhi ...

The Chinese drivers showing that they are very much at home here in the Gobi Desert.

**10" SHOTS OF LIU KUN #121 – 2<sup>ND</sup> (+0m19s)**

Liu Kun moving up to 8<sup>th</sup> overall with an excellent second-placed finish... and he was only 19 seconds off the stage win.

**15" SHOTS OF BRYCE MENZIES #105 – 9<sup>TH</sup> (+21m16s)**

Bryce Menzies had a nightmare day after losing his way late on.

The American over 20 minutes back, and also handed a 20-minute penalty for missing a waypoint ... he slips from second to fourth overall.

**6" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH**

"We're still going to fight hard in tomorrow's dune stage. We'll try to make up as many minutes as possible."

**18" SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107 – 3<sup>RD</sup> (+6m24s)**

Han Wei took full advantage... moving back up to second behind Despres.

The Geely man coming third in his yellow buggy, around six and a half minutes back.

**7" SHOTS OF CAMELS**

Don't speak

17" SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108 – 1<sup>ST</sup>

But no doubt about the day's big winner...

Christian Lavieille taking a first stage victory of the Silk Way for Chinese manufacturer Baicmotor, and moving to within 3 minutes and 15 seconds of Han in the battle for second.

We're set for a grandstand finish to this year's rally.

**11" ITW CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE IN FRENCH**

"I'm happy for the whole team, and for our Chinese manufacturer. It's the first time they've invested in a big rally raid, and now they have their first major win, so it's a nice reward."

15" CAR STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

Lavieille with his first stage win, just 19 seconds ahead of Liu Kun. Han, Lu Binglong and Alrajhi completing the top five.

Despres with a lead of 43 minutes and 22 seconds ... only two stages to go.

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**SLOW-MOTION (1'16")**

1" GRAPHIC

1'15" SLO-MO SHOTS OF MECHANICS + VEHICLES IN ACTION

There's more than just driving involved when it comes to rally raid.

Without their dedicated crew of mechanics, the 54 vehicles of this year's Silk Way Rally would have struggled to get out of Russia, let alone reach the finish line in central China.

Not all of them have made it through unscathed, and some competitors won't even see Xi'an.

But for those who make it to the summit, victory will be a result of the hard work, dedication and determination of those who work in the shadows...

(Don't speak)

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**TOMORROW (0'49")**

24" ITW LUC ALPHAND IN ENGLISH

This is Stage 13 on the Silk Way, between Alxa Youqi and Zhongwei. It's in two stages, and the first one is absolutely magical. The two specials of around 160 kilometres are very different, but the first one – in the middle of the dunes, with the lakes – it's pure magic. And I think the racers will really enjoy this part. The second part of the day will be small dunes and more navigation, which could be really tricky to pass."

7" DRONE SHOTS OF ALXA YOUQI BIVOUAC

Don't speak

**5" ITW KAMAZ GIRL IN RUSSIAN & ENGLISH**

“See you on the Silk Way in Zhongwei!”

13”                    END CREDITS

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END OF PROGRAMME