

## **SILK WAY RALLY 2017**

### **NEWS ACCESS**

#### **STAGE 13 (ALASHAN YOUQI - ZHONGWEI) – 690KM TOTAL, TWO SPECIALS: 162KM & 156KM**

#### SCRIPTING INFO

In this penultimate stage of the 2017 Silk Way Rally, Cyril Despres closed in on his second straight overall victory in the cars, while Dmitry Sotnikov resisted his Kamaz teammate Anton Shibalov in the trucks.

Today's stage was split into two distinct specials – the first involving some of the highest and most spectacular dunes of this year's rally, the second featuring smaller dunes but with some tricky passages to navigate. It was wet during the first part of the day, but the temperature was over 30 degrees during the second special.

Stephane Peterhansel won his 5<sup>th</sup> stage in the cars (one more than retired teammate Sebastien Loeb, the most of anyone at the Silk Way), while Despres finished 1m39s back in second, extending his overall lead to 1h04m39s. Stage 12 winner Christian Lavieille finished third (+19m41s), leapfrogging Han Wei (5<sup>th</sup>, +29m46) into second place overall.

A bad day for Bryce Menzies. The American, who was battling with Lavieille and Han for second a few days ago, lost almost three hours after getting stuck in a dune. He slips to 9<sup>th</sup> overall, while Eugenio Amos moves up to fourth.

There's a three-horse (or possibly two-horse) race in the trucks, where Sotnikov and Shibalov traded blows today. Shibalov won the day's first special ahead of Sotnikov, and at that point the two Russians were virtually separated by just six seconds.

Sotnikov hit back though to win the stage (his fourth of the rally, and first since Stage 8) by exactly three minutes and retain his overall lead (held since Stage 5). The gap is therefore 6m04s going into tomorrow's final stage. Airat Mardeev was third today (+5m18s), but he's 23m12s behind Sotnikov overall. Either way, it is going to be a sixth win for Kamaz in seven editions of the Silk Way.

Tomorrow's final stage (Zhongwei – Xi'an) involves what should be a straightforward 100km special, before a long road section to Xi'an to celebrate the 2017 winners.

#### SHOT LIST

10"	COUNTDOWN
7"	SHOTS OF DESERT DUNES
25"	SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106
8"	SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL #106 & CYRIL DESPRES #100
38"	SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100 + ONBOARD
18"	SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108 FOLLOWING HAN WEI #107 & LIU KUN #121
17"	SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108
9"	SHOTS OF KAMAZ TRUCKS
35"	SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

42" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312  
22" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300  
7" SHOTS OF HORSES + CAMELS

END

**20170721 SILK WAY RALLY  
12-MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS  
STAGE 13 (ALASHAN YOUQI – ZHONGWEI)**

1. INTRO + DUNES
2. HIGHLIGHTS CARS
3. FEATURE: SETTING UP THE BIVOUAC
4. HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS
5. PROFILE: CYRIL DESPRES #100
6. PROFILE: KAMAZ
7. TOMORROW + POSTCARD + OUTRO

**INTRO + DUNES (1'24")**

10" COUNTDOWN

18" OPENING CREDITS

Don't speak

1" GRAPHIC

55" SHOTS (INCL. SLO-MO) OF DRIVERS STRUGGLING IN DUNES ON STAGE 12

Drama in the dunes.

Yesterday's 12<sup>th</sup> stage was one of the most arduous of this Silk Way Rally, with many drivers failing to master the rolling sands.

Today will see more of the same, as the front runners battle for overall victory in the Gobi Desert.

Will it be lucky number 13 for rally leaders Cyril Despres and Dmitry Sotnikov? Stay tuned to find out.

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**HIGHLIGHTS CARS**

9" MAP OF STAGE 13

Two tough specials to tackle in this penultimate stage... with some of the rally's most spectacular dunes and some tough navigation on the menu...

2" GRAPHIC CARS

19" SHOTS OF GENGHIS KHAN STATUE + BRYCE MENZIES #105

The Silk Way Rally approaching the lands of Genghis Khan, but those without proper experience of the dunes would go on to pay the price.

Bryce Menzies losing almost three hours after getting stuck at one point.

A real shame for the American, who has had such a promising first experience of rally raid.

13" SHOTS OF EUGENIO AMOS #116

Eugenio Amos has been firing on all cylinders since his first stage win several days ago.

He dropped from second after the first special to eighth on the stage, but still moves up to fourth overall.

8" SHOTS OF LAKES BETWEEN DUNES

A bit of rain in the first special, but the temperature was set to rise steadily throughout the day, both off the track and on it...

20" SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108

Here's Christian Lavieille, powering towards second place overall.

The stage 12 winner coming in third on the day, 19 minutes and 41 seconds off the pace.

That was enough to overhaul Chinese driver Han Wei.

**8" ITW CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE IN FRENCH**

"We started first today and obviously we didn't win, but it was tough to open the piste. We're still happy."

13" SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107 & LIU KUN #121

Here comes Han Wei, along with Geely teammate Liu Kun...

Han - who was sixth overall last year - is once again the top Chinese driver on the Silk Way.

But he lost around 10 minutes on Lavieille, and slips to third overall.

7"

Some of the most breathtaking scenery of the Silk Way in this 13<sup>th</sup> stage...

22" SHOTS OF STEPHANE PETERHANSEL

Well when it comes to experience, one man stands head and shoulders above the rest: Stephane Peterhansel, the 13-time winner of the Dakar Rally.

The Frenchman guiding his teammate Cyril Despres here.

Peterhansel took the stage victory, his fifth of the rally - but Despres was perhaps the day's big winner...

**15" ITW STEPHANE PETERHANSEL IN FRENCH**

"I think that Cyril must be a lot more stressed than us, because he's almost got overall victory in the bag. So we're handling things a bit differently in terms of mechanics, and how we treat the car. But then we don't have much to lose!"

10" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100

Despres endured a tough day in the dunes yesterday, but managed to find his groove here, coming in only a minute and 39 seconds behind Peterhansel...

5" ONBOARD SHOTS OF DESPRES

Don't speak

6" SHOTS OF DESPRES & PETERHANSEL

The defending champion increasing his lead to over an hour, and closing in on a second successive Silk Way victory.

15" CAR STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

This is how they lined up on Stage 13... the Peugeot pair well ahead of the rest.

Despres with a lead of 1 hour, 4 minutes and 39 seconds over Lavieille... Amos up to fourth.

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### **FEATURE: SETTING UP THE BIVOUCAC (1'00")**

1" GRAPHIC

7" SHOTS OF IGOR ON BIVOUCAC

The Silk Way wouldn't function without him...

**3" ITW IGOR IN ENGLISH**

"My name is Igor, service park officer."

6" SHOTS OF IGOR SPEAKING TO TRUCK DRIVER

Don't speak

**20" ITW IGOR IN ENGLISH**

"My day is from 6am until 6pm, and it's totally crazy. I'm constantly running around, or I'm on the bike, and I'm working all the time. I have to be everywhere, every day."

**2" ITW IGOR IN ENGLISH**

"The sun is very strong!"

**18" ITW IGOR IN ENGLISH**

"Look, I'm planning the bivouac in advance, but it always changes – because the Chinese government changes the rules, and that changes the situation. I try to do my job as quickly and efficiently as possible, so that the teams and mechanics can do their job."

**2" ITW IGOR IN ENGLISH**

"Have a nice day!"

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### **HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS**

2" GRAPHIC TRUCKS

12" SHOTS OF TRUCK BY LAKE + BEAUTY SHOTS + HORSES

On so on to the trucks, where a storm has been brewing over the past few days ... a blue storm...

The Kamaz of Dmitry Sotnikov and Anton Shibalov separated by just three minutes going into this stage.

12" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

Not such a good day for their teammate Eduard Nikolaev ... he had been battling for fourth place overall, but ending up abandoning the stage with a mechanical issue.

2" SHOTS OF GENGHIS KHAN STATUE

Don't speak

14" SHOTS OF ARTUR ARDAVICIUS #310

Fourth place looks destined for Artur Ardavicius, barring any accidents tomorrow...

The Petronas De Rooy man 37 minutes back today, but he has nearly four hours on fifth place...

15" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311

Martin Kolomy's hopes of pushing the Kamaz all the way came crashing down yesterday, after he also stopped in the dunes with a mechanical problem, and failed to finish the special.

A slightly better day for the Czech today, in sixth place...

26" SHOTS OF ALEKSANDR VASILEVSKI #309 + SIARHEI VIAZOVICH #304

Maz had a pretty decent 13<sup>th</sup> stage. It hasn't been the easiest Silk Way for the Belarusians, but they came in fifth and fourth.

Aleksandr Vasilevski managed to get going again after getting stuck in the dunes. He came in just behind his teammate and leader Siarhei Viazovich.

Viazovich set to finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall, but around six and a half hours back...

18" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

Airat Mardeev was only 18 minutes off the pace this morning and looking to close the gap on Sotnikov and Shibalov.

The defending champion unable to match their pace though... he was third, and now has 23 minutes to make up in the final stage.

30" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312 & DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

But the real battle was here, between Shibalov and Sotnikov...

Shibialov – who's the only Kamaz driver yet to win then Silk Way – took first blood by winning the first special... the gap between the two Russians at that point was just six seconds.

But 2013 champion Sotnikov is made of sterner stuff. He managed to recover the time he'd lost and even snatch the stage victory by exactly three minutes.

His fourth stage win of the Silk Way - but Shibalov isn't surrendering just yet.

**3" ITW ANTON SHIBALOV IN RUSSIAN**

"Of course we still have a chance to win!"

6" SLO-MO SHOT OF SHIBALOV #312

Don't speak

15" TRUCK STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

Once again, the Kamaz dominating on the dunes... Sotnikov ahead of Shibalov and Mardeev, Viazovich a distant fourth.

Just look how close it is going into the final stage – only six minutes and four seconds between the top two.

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**PROFILE: CYRIL DESPRES #100**

1" GRAPHIC

14" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES WINNING SILK WAY IN 2016

Cyril Despres... on the verge of winning his second straight Silk Way Rally.

**13" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH**

"Starting a rally as defending champion, it's something I'd been waiting for since I swapped bikes for cars. I'm comfortable being the leader of the Silk Way Rally, and I'm sure the last 100 kilometres will be fine."

3" DON'T SPEAK

25" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH

"I like the endurance side of rally raid, the long days in the car. The Silk Way is 14 stages, so you have a lot of opportunities to showcase your abilities. It's true that 900-kilometre days are physically exhausting, but at the same time I think that stamina is one of my strengths. That's one of the reasons why I get on well in this rally, in the middle of the year."

4" DON'T SPEAK

27" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH

"The fact that we've progressed, and that we're now fighting for victories with David [Castera], that's down to the staff. It's the guys who work on the car throughout the year, the mechanics who are here with us, and who can rebuild a car overnight if necessary. It is a big advantage. Being part of Team Peugeot Total means you have what you need to compete for victory."

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**PROFILE: KAMAZ (1'56")**

1" GRAPHIC

11" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV ON WINNERS' PODIUM IN 2016

In 2016, Airat Mardeev triumphed for Kamaz in the trucks ...

One year on, not much has changed...

7" QUICKFIRE SHOTS OF KAMAZ

Don't speak

5" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

The Russians set to claim their sixth Silk Way crown from a possible seven.

**3" ITW AIRAT MARDEEV IN RUSSIAN**

"Three of us are ahead, with a big advantage."

10" SHOTS OF MARDEEV & DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

This time Dmitry Sotnikov leads the way, just ahead of Anton Shibalov and Mardeev ...

But it's the team that comes first.

**9" ITW AIRAT MARDEEV IN RUSSIAN**

"Of course we will fight, but the most important thing is to keep our positions for the team. It doesn't matter who ends up on top of the podium."

7" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Kamaz are renowned for their ability to handle the toughest terrain...

**13" ITW ANTON SHIBALOV IN RUSSIAN**

"I'm not a huge fan of off-road sections, where you just go straight - that's only a physical challenge. I prefer tracks with tough navigation, where finding your way is a real quest."

4" SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

Don't speak

**16" ITW DMITRY SOTNIKOV IN RUSSIAN**

"Of course, these dunes aren't easy to pass. Today we stuck together and helped each other out. But they are very tough, and not easy to conquer. It's a great feeling when you manage to get the better of them."

5" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300 + ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Six minutes separate Sotnikov and Shibalov – so who will win?

18" ITW AIRAT MARDEEV IN RUSSIAN

"It's hard to say. Dmitry has a good chance, he just has to find the right tempo, especially after getting stuck in the sand yesterday. Anton is only three minutes back, so it's very close, I think one of them will win. We will try to close the gap, but as I say, we won't jeopardise the team result."

5" SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Whoever comes out on top, it's win-win for Kamaz.

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**TOMORROW + POSTCARD ZHONGWEI + OUTRO (1'04")**

**15" ITW LUC ALPHAND IN ENGLISH**

"This 14<sup>th</sup> stage on the Silk Way Rally is the last one! Only 100 kilometres of pure pleasure. It's going to be very fast in some parts, and there will also be narrow roads, river beds and small canyons. So it'll be some welcome relief for all the guys going to Xi'an."

**31" SHOTS OF ZHONGWEI**

And so to Zhongwei, the final stop on the Road to Xi'an...

Located near the Yellow River, and home to around one million inhabitants, it is best known for the Gao Miao temple.

After an epic journey of almost 9,000 kilometres, the Silk Way Rally is almost over ... but there is still time for a final flourish before heading home.

**5" ITW PODIUM GIRLS IN CHINESE**

"See you tomorrow in Xi'an!"

**13" END CREDITS**

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END OF PROGRAMME