

SILK WAY RALLY 2017

NEWS ACCESS

STAGE 10 (HAMI – DUNHUANG) – 517km total, 360km special.

SCRIPTING INFO

It's official – Sebastien Loeb has pulled out of the Silk Way Rally because of a dislocated finger. The 9-time WRC champion sustained the injury in a crash yesterday, which had at any rate ended his chances of winning a first rally raid (112 hours' worth of penalties for failing to complete special, missing checkpoints etc.).

Loeb's Peugeot teammate Cyril Despres – the defending champion – is now in top spot overall, and finished 4th today. The stage was won by Eugenio Amos of Two Wheels Drive – the Italian's first ever victory in a special. He came in 46 seconds of Yazeed Alrajhi and is now running fifth overall (+1h43m13s on Despres).

Alrajhi – who blew his overall chances as early as Stage 2 – finished second ahead of Mini teammate Bryce Menzies. American rookie Menzies is third overall, only around 4 minutes behind second-placed Han Wei.

Eduard Nikolaev won his second stage of the rally in the trucks, although he remains 2h24m24s off leader Dmitry Sotnikov (his Kamaz teammate) after losing two hours on Stage 3.

Tatra's Martin Kolomy was only 1m29s back in second place – impressive given that he drove the last 15km of the special with a burst tyre. The Czech remains fourth overall.

Sotnikov, third today, leads teammate Anton Shibalov by 15m12s in the standings.

SHOT LIST

10" **COUNTDOWN**

12" **SHOTS OF LOEB CRASHED IN DUNES + ARRIVING AT BIVOUAC**

15" ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB IN FRENCH

“We need to analyse the extent of the damage and see if it can be repaired – the chassis was affected. And we'll need to look at my finger as well, because it's hurting quite a bit. The objective is to keep going tomorrow, but we'll see.”

7" **WIDE BEAUTY SHOTS OF STAGE 10**

25" **SHOTS OF EUGENIO AMOS #115**

27" **SHOTS OF YAZEED ALRAJHI #101 + ONBOARD**

20" **SHOTS OF BRYCE MENZIES #105**

23" **SHOTS OF AMOS ARRIVING AT BIVOUAC + CELEBRATING WITH TEAM**

26" **SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307**

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

25" **SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303**

END

12-MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS

1. INTRO + LOEB ABANDONS + STAGE 9 CRASHES
2. HIGHLIGHTS CARS
3. SLO-MO SAND
4. HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS
5. POSTCARD DUNHUANG
6. TOMORROW + OUTRO

INTRO + LOEB ABANDONS + STAGE 9 CRASHES (2'23")

10" COUNTDOWN

18" OPENING CREDITS

Don't speak

11" SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104 ARRIVING AT BIVOUAC

It's official... Sebastien Loeb has pulled out of the Silk Way Rally.

It was nearly midnight yesterday when the Frenchman arrived at the Hami bivouac, having rolled his Peugeot in the dunes.

10" SHOTS OF LOEB EXITING CAR + MECHANICS

Don't speak

13" ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB & BRUNO FAMIN

LOEB: "Did you see the onboard images?"

FAMIN: "Yes, we saw the steering wheel go, it looked pretty spectacular."

LOEB: "At the time I didn't notice my finger, it was only afterwards..."

30" ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB IN FRENCH

"Physically, I'm more or less fine – it's just my shoulder, and especially my finger. The shoulder is OK, but the finger is painful, it got caught by the steering wheel. It took us a while to repair the car, because had to wait for the assistance truck. It's a shame, because only the damper support was broken – if it wasn't for that we could have carried on. But that's how it goes! We've lost a fair amount of time, and we didn't even finish the special, so we'll get a joker penalty."

12" SHOTS OF PEUGEOT MECHANICS + LOEB

Even if the Peugeot mechanics were able to fix the car, in the end it came to nothing. Loeb was forced to abandon the rally this morning due to what turned out to be a dislocated finger.

8" SHOTS OF ZHOU YONG #116

Loeb wasn't the only one to get into trouble on Stage 9...

Zhou Yong rolling his Toyota, and also forced to quit the rally this morning...

13" ITW ZHOU YONG IN CHINESE

"When I got here, I didn't notice the second slope. The back of the car lifted up, flipped over, and then rolled sideways."

3" SHOTS OF TRACKS

Don't speak

10" SHOTS OF BALAZS SZALAY #114

Balazs Szalay also failed to complete yesterday's special due to a broken shock absorber, but the Hungarian was at least able to go on today.

HIGHLIGHTS CARS

2" GRAPHIC CARS

7" MAP OF STAGE 10

So, a 360-kilometre special to be tackled in Stage 10, on the gravel tracks from Hami to Dunhuang...

5" BEAUTY SHOTS

Don't speak

6" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100 AT START

Cyril Despres is the new overall leader... five stages standing between the defending champion and a successful defence of his Silk Way crown.

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

The Frenchman is around 45 minutes ahead of Han Wei, who has really been impressing in his Geely Buggy... meanwhile, his teammate Liu Kun came in third yesterday on a good day for the Chinese drivers.

2" DON'T SPEAK

15" ONBOARD SHOTS OF HAN WEI

We pick up Han Wei here early in the special...

Another solid drive from the highest-ranked Chinese driver in last year's rally (6th)... he was a little over five minutes down on the winner, and remains second overall.

16" SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108

It was an interesting stage for Christian Lavieille...

The Frenchman completing the entire special with a flap open on the side of his Baicmotor...

But nothing to unsettle an old pro ... especially as he wasn't even aware of it.

21" ITW JEAN-PIERRE GARCIN (CO-DRIVER) IN FRENCH

"I think that we forgot to close this little door, where the spare tyre lives. I noticed it very quickly in the special. I thought it would be torn off, but luckily it wasn't. I certainly didn't mention it to Christian, because it might have distracted him, he might have wanted to stop. It was nothing, really, and in the end everything was fine."

9" BEAUTY SHOTS + SHOTS OF DEER

The Silk Way drivers not the only ones enjoying the Chinese countryside...

19" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100

Nice and easy does it for Despres... The Peugeot man coming in just 2 minutes and 20 seconds off the pace in this tenth stage... he was in fourth place.

He even increased his overall lead to around 47 minutes...

16" SHOTS OF BRYCE MENZIES #105

After a tough day in the sand yesterday, this was more like it from Bryce Menzies.

The American rookie is fighting for second place overall – and by finishing third today, he cut the gap to Han Wei to just under four minutes.

11" SHOTS OF YAZEED ALRAJHI #101

Menzies's Mini teammate Yazeed Alrajhi cruising along nicely... coming in second.

The Saudi may be out of the running for top spot, but he can still grab a place in the top 10 overall.

16" SHOTS OF EUGENIO AMOS #115

But the surprise winner was Eugenio Amos, of Two Wheels Drive.

The Italian taking his first ever stage victory, 46 seconds ahead of Alrajhi...

He also becomes the second non-Peugeot driver to win at this year's Silk Way, after Menzies.

26" ITW EUGENIO AMOS IN ITALIAN

"It's the first stage victory of my life, so it's a very emotional moment, very special. This morning I could never have imagined this would have happened, because I had to follow another car that was throwing up a lot of dust, making it difficult to see. But after a long time we finally got past, and it turned out to be a great day."

5" DON'T SPEAK

15" CAPTION CAR STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

So a first win for Amos and a good day for Mini ... it's the first time in the rally there hasn't been a Peugeot in the top three.

Despres with a comfortable lead, but it's mighty close between Han, Menzies and Lavieille.

SLO-MO SAND (1'20")

1" GRAPHIC

1'19" SLOW-MOTION SHOTS IN THE SAND + DUNES

For some, it's the ultimate challenge... for others it's a playground.

Love it or hate it, navigating the desert dunes is an iconic part of rally raid.

And as we've already seen in this 2017 Silk Way Rally, it can be the difference between success and failure.

While the sand takes a back seat in Stages 10 and 11, it will return with a vengeance in 12 and 13.

Those that manage to tame the Gobi Desert could well find themselves on top of the podium in Xi'an come Saturday.

(Don't speak)

HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS

2" GRAPHIC TRUCKS

8" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

Onto the trucks, and a second stage win of the Silk Way for Eduard Nikolaev, the winner of this year's Dakar.

9" ONBOARD SHOTS UNDERNEATH TRUCK

Don't speak

6" ONBOARD SHOTS OF ANTON SHIBALOV #312

Here's Anton Shibalov, currently second in the standings behind Kamaz teammate Dmitry Sotnikov...

14" WIDE SHOTS + SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

He was in fourth today, and remains just over 15 minutes off the pace.

Airat Mardeev was a short way back in fifth... the defending champion just about holding onto third place overall, only 42 seconds ahead of Martin Kolomy.

15" WIDE SHOTS OF KAMAZ + DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303

Dmitry Sotnikov remains the top dog...

The 2013 champion came in third on Stage 10 to marginally increase his overall lead – it now stands at 15 minutes and 12 seconds.

10" SHOTS OF TERUHITO SUGAWARA #314

Teruhito Sugawara still plugging away for Hino ... he could have had a very different rally without that incredible crash back on Stage 2.

13" WIDE SHOTS OF MAZ + SIARHEI VIAZOVICH #304

Maz haven't had too many major mechanical issues, but the Belarusians simply can't match their rivals for pace.

Their top driver Siarhei Viazovich was 47 minutes back today – and he's almost six hours adrift overall.

19" SHOTS OF TON VAN GENUGTEN #306

Iveco have also had their problems ... Gerard De Rooy is rock bottom of the trucks classification, after skipping two stages.

Things not going quite as badly for Ton van Genugten, although he's over 8 hours back overall.

The Dutchman eighth on this stage, 19 seconds ahead of De Rooy.

17" SHOTS OF ARTUR ARDAVICIUS #310

Artur Ardavicius is having a much happier time of things, in the truck that De Rooy himself drove last year ... the tried and tested Powerstar.

Reliability has proven the key for the Kazakh, who came sixth today, and is running fifth overall.

3" BEAUTY SHOTS

Don't speak

16" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311

Martin Kolomy took the fight to the Kamaz today – the Czech looked set for a third stage victory in his Tatra, only to be denied by a late puncture.

No question of stopping though... even on three tyres, he took a remarkable second place...

20" ITW MARTIN KOLOMY IN CZECH

"The stage was really beautiful, just how I like them. But 70 kilometres from the end of the special, we had a puncture - and we decided to continue instead of fixing it. 15 kilometres from the finish line, the tyre burst, but we thought, we're only 15 kilometres from the end – it'll be quicker to go on three wheels than to stop and change."

30" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307

Rock-and-roll tactics from Kolomy but not quite enough to get the better of this man Nikolaev.

The 2010 champion pouncing late to snatch the stage victory, his second of the rally.

Had he not lost two hours on Stage 3, Nikolaev would be right in the thick of the battle for Silk Way glory...

Even so, he's determined to keep putting the hammer down all the way to Xi'an.

10" ITW EDUARD NIKOLAEV IN RUSSIAN

"I already said yesterday that we're going to fight until the end. The battle will continue until the finish line."

15" STANDINGS TRUCK STAGE + OVERALL

So the usual suspects in the top six... the four Kamaz and Kolomy, followed by Ardavicius. Only 8 minutes and 37 seconds between them.

Sotnikov's lead is 15 minutes and 12 seconds, with four stages to go.

POSTCARD DUNHUANG (0'45")

1" GRAPHIC

44" SHOTS OF DUNHUANG

Welcome to the ancient city of Dunhuang. With traces of civilisation stretching back over 4000 years, it boasts some of China's richest cultural heritage.

Formerly a key military and trading outpost on the old Silk Road, it later became an important place of Buddhist worship.

To this day it remains popular with tourists, as a gateway to Mongolia and the signing dunes of the Gobi Desert.

(Don't speak)

TOMORROW (0'50")

25" ITW LUC ALPHAND IN ENGLISH + MAP OF STAGE 11 [MODIFIED]

"This eleventh stage between Dunhuang and Jiayuguan was normally in two parts, but one of them is cancelled, so there will be 237 kilometres of special stage. Really nice driving style, some canyons. No sand, which is maybe good news for some racers! But the finish is very nice. So it's on the way to the big dunes."

4" SHOTS OF BIVOUAC BAR

Don't speak

8" ITW PODIUM GIRLS IN ENGLISH + RUSSIAN

"Hi! Thank you for joining us on the Silk Way! See you tomorrow!"

13" END CREDITS

END OF PROGRAMME