



Team DESSOUDÉ



PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

Leg 5 : Copiapo - Antofagasta (01/08/2015)

Liaison: 174 km - SS: 458 km - Liaison: 65 km

Fesh-fesh and the Pacific for Team DESSOUDÉ...

This second Chilean stage, between Copiapo and Antofagasta, saw an identical route for the three categories in this 38th edition of the Dakar, cars, bikes and trucks. Between fast tracks and some more tricky or more technical sections, it was not easy to find bearings to maintain a consistent pace. Nor was it always possible to avoid the sharp rocks hidden in the fesh-fesh.

But the finish point at the Antofagasta bivouac, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, not far from the biggest town in northern Chile, was a perfect reward for a long and hard day, with a fantastic view of the Portada rock, the natural archway over the ocean...



It was a case of mission accomplished for the Team DESSOUDÉ crews, who managed to get through the timed stage with no major problems, except for two punctures for Thierry Magnaldi. Hats off to Liu Kun in the Dessoude Proto N05 for his 37th position, while Zhong Lei finished 53rd.

The first sector allowed the three Team DESSOUDÉ crews to get in the right group, all finishing in the top 40. But the fesh-fesh did not make their life easy, significantly reducing visibility, making overtaking difficult and hiding any rocks that might have been on the track.



Thierry Magnaldi and Guy Leneveu, with the Juke Buggy, were among the victims of this, with two punctures, who needed a clever repair in order to reach the bivouac.

" I would describe today as really awful due to the fesh-fesh ! To take care of the car, we were driving in 'eco' mode, but even that does not necessarily avoid punctures...

We had stopped to remove the dust that had accumulated in the air filter when we noticed a first slow puncture. We changed the front left wheel and continued. I should mention that the front and rear wheels are different sizes, and that we carry one spare of each type.

So, when we saw that we had another slow front puncture, we had to really think to find a solution. I had around twenty kilometres to come up with something, before the tyre was completely flat... We stopped again, and waited for the two quad bikes that we had overtaken shortly before. We borrowed some tyre repair rope from them, and with a bit of patience, it eventually worked. We were stationary for about half an hour, but by being careful, we were able to finish the stage.

Tomorrow's start will be a mixed one for cars and trucks. It will not be much fun, because as we finished quite a way back today, we're going to be right in the middle of the pack."



It was a very satisfying day for the Chinese crew of Liu Kun and Liao Min who finished in 37th position, having really enjoyed himself today. As for Zhong Lei and Ma Miao, they were 53rd with the second DESSOUE Proto N05.

Tomorrow will see them continue up the Pacific coast heading for Iquique, with a foray into the heart of the dunes that run along and dominate the coast. But this year they will not take the usual vertiginous descent to the final bivouac. For the first time, the finish line will be in the centre of the town of Iquique.

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