

## NEWS

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## Kidnapped

## by aliens

## Chilling close encounter turns macho truck driver into a whimpering child

By DICK DONOVAN

Truck driver Ruben Meneses was kidnapped and held prisoner aboard a shimmering starship by incredible-looking alien creatures from outer space.

The skin-crawling encounter has transformed the once-robust he-man into a whimpering, sobbing child who may never be able to face the real world again.

"He seems now to be a helpless mixture of child and man," declared a doctor who treated him hours after his nightmare encounter with the aliens on

a lonely road in Corrientes Province, Argentina.

"He cries all the time — sobbing like a little child. It will take much time and patience before he will be a normal man again.

"But, still, the possibility is great that he may never recover from his incredible experience — the horror that always accompanies the unknown."

That horrifying experience — classified as a "close encounter of the third kind" by top scientists — unfolded shortly after dark one evening as the 41-year-old father of six was driving his truck on the outskirts of San Luis del Palmar.

"I was driving home from work and thinking how wonderful that soon I

would be with my family," Meneses told The NEWS. "Suddenly, the night became day and I wondered how the sun could be shining at such an hour.

"For some reason, I felt my skin crawl and my blood ran like ice water in my body. Something deep inside me was warning me of disaster soon to strike."

The glaring light stabbed into Meneses' eyes like red-hot ice picks. Blinded, he desperately slammed on the brakes and the truck lurched to a stop.

"I couldn't open my eyes to that light," he said. "I just sat there in my truck with terror filling my pounding heart like a flood. Then I began to feel a tingling sensation all over. I half-fainted and though I had some consciousness, I saw things as if they floated.

"Then it was worse. I don't remember how I got there, but I was suddenly inside a great ship with red, green and blue flashing lights. The walls were mirrored, like shiny steel.

"I kept my eyes closed, but yet I could see that I was floating — lying face down but suspended in the air. I began to have terrible thoughts that I had gone mad or that I would soon be murdered. Then I saw the space creatures!

"They were standing all around me. Little man-like people about three feet tall. Their skin was pale green and very wrinkled. They had very small foreheads and thin arms that reached almost to their feet."

Meneses believes the space creatures somehow managed to erase most of the agonizing experience from his mind. He remembers little of what happened to him inside the spaceship.

"I only have a dim recollection that they talked to me — asked me questions — and that I answered them. I didn't move my lips, but we talked with our



minds. I pray to God that He will be merciful and let me know what happened — what they did to me. The torment of not knowing is more than I can bear."

As suddenly as his nightmare encounter began, it ended and Meneses found himself standing beside the road near the town of Paso de la Patria, miles away from where he stopped his truck.

"I have known Ruben for many years," his family physician, Dr. Alberto Vidal, said. "I have never seen anybody in his state of mind. He must have had the most terrible experience that can be imagined."

Government investigators said that Meneses' truck was scorched by some incredible source of heat. Soil samples taken from the area where the spaceship may have hovered are undergoing laboratory analysis.

"There is little doubt that something not of this planet had been in the area," declared Pedro Veracia. "The soil had been turned to glass by temperatures of 1,500 to 1,600 degrees.

"And that is to say, the impossible happened and Ruben Meneses has lived to tell about it."