

Gunman shoots Spence's wife

The wife of one of the most wanted men in Northern Ireland—Gusty Spence—is in hospital after being shot in the back on Friday night.

Mrs. Spence was travelling with two other men and a woman along Joy Street, in the Markets area, when she was wounded.

One of the men in the car was shot in the ear and back in the same incident.

The other two passengers slipped away from the scene of the shooting without speaking to the security forces.

The wounded couple are in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

There were unconfirmed reports in the city last night that Spence himself was one of the other passengers in the car.

The Army says that troops engaged IRA gunmen on several occasions in Joy Street on Friday night. It was after the shootings that four people were rushed to hospital suffering from gunshot wounds — Mrs. Spence and the other man, and two people from the Markets area.

Spence disappeared at the beginning of July when he was on parole to attend his daughter's wedding. The car in which he was travelling was rammed and he was taken away by a number of men.