‘I spied on Jersey for French secret service’

Ex-finance worker claims that he:

- Spied for five years for ‘French MI6’ in Jersey and Luxembourg
- Played key part in Island’s ‘blacklisting’ by France in 2012
- Extracted confidential information from friends and lovers
- Helped French hackers target the Island
- ‘Profiled’ potential agents, who have formed a network

A former Island finance worker has published a book claiming he acted as a spy for the French secret service and stole information from his employers for half a decade.

In his book Là où est l’Argent, which approximately translates as ‘Where Lies the Money’, French national Maxime Renaby says that he operated undercover for the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure, the French equivalent of MI6, while working at one of the Island’s largest firms.

Mr Renaby, whose father was a left-wing radical and grandfather a French Resistance operative during the Second World War, was an employee of Mourant International Finance Administration, which was later bought by State Street Bank, between 2007 and 2012.

I really liked Jersey. Its people welcomed me but I betrayed it

Maxime Renaby

He worked in Jersey for more than three years before moving to the company’s Luxembourg branch.

Speaking exclusively to the JEP at the offices of his publishers in Paris, he claimed that during that time he:

- Mapped confidential corporate financial structures, indicating asset ownership of multinational companies and billionaires, for the DGSE, which shared the information with the

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Maxime Renaby, an ex-finance employee, has claimed that he passed confidential information to the French secret service while working in Jersey.
New Cl Air Search plane to be blessed at Airport

By Ed Taylor

The new plane is more technologically advanced and can search and rescue aircraft.

And Mr Fitzgerald added that the incident had highlighted how essential the service was.

‘We can get to areas far more quickly than other assets. In the recent air crash in the Channel, we managed to get to the scene within minutes. All of the islands have pulled together extraordinarily well to raise the money we need and get to this point. I am really pleased.’

Finance worker claims he was spy

(Credit from page 1)

Financial authorities.

- Regularly smuggled information to Paris using encrypted memory sticks.
- Befriended and seduced lawyers, accountants and compliance managers, and obtained confidential information from them, which he relayed to his agents.
- Duped the DGSE, recruiting further agents in the Island by propping other people he felt may be suitable.
- Assisted French hackers in targeting confidential information held on Jersey servers.

Mr Renahy, who was a French lawyer, said that he was extracted information while at social events and on nights out with colleagues, as well as from other female lawyers and businesswomen with whom he had relationships.

The 40-year-old, who now works as a legal counsel, campaigner and author, claims that his work has been influential in tax cases in several European countries and helped prompt France’s blacklisting of the Island seven years ago, a move which was revoked shortly afterwards.

The French government has had long-standing issues with Jersey’s finance sector and blacklisted the Island as a non-co-operative tax jurisdiction, along with Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands, in 2012 under the administration of socialist president François Hollande.

Mr Renahy, who claims that networks of secret agents from several countries including the USA and Russia are also active in Jersey, said that he greatly enjoyed his time in the Island but betrayed his colleagues and firm due to his left-wing political beliefs.

It is probably a paradox, but really liked the people of Jersey and I have no sign according feelings towards even capitalism. I really liked Jersey. Its people welcomed me but I betrayed it, he said.

‘But just thought that I need to share this information with my people to help them. The British do the same thing and are the best at it, so it is a fair game.’

He added that a history of dissident and covert action in his family, including his father being a member of the illegal Parti Marxiste-Léniniste de France, shaped his views, moulding him for espionage work in Jersey. ‘My grandfather was a member of the (French) Resistance in 1941 at 21 years old. He saved lots of Jews and British aviators, he said.

‘In our family we have to help not just the country, but also the people. My father was, far ten years, working in a forbidden extreme-left political party during the 1980s. He was a high rank, so was used to living and working undercover.

‘My grandfather and my father are my role models in a kind of way and when I went by curiosity to Jersey, I programmed it (that), so it was easy for me to take these actions.

His book was published by Les Arènes yesterday and is currently only available in French. An English translation has been planned.

He has used false names in the book to protect his colleagues in Jersey, although some senior members of staff have been named. Mr Renahy was interviewed in a number of reports by French national media agencies this week.

• Full interview in tomorrow’s JEP.

Maxime Renahy’s book is published today

New Royal Court Jurat sought

NOMINATIONS are being sought for three vacancies for the role of Jurat of the Royal Court to replace Jurat Sally Sparrow, who is due to retire. The deadline for nominations for candidates is noon on 10 April. If there is only one candidate for the position, the hearing will take place on 2 May. If there is more than one candidate, the new Jurat will be selected by an Electoral College, which is made up of the Chief Jersey, Jurats, States Members and lawyers. The successful candidate would then be sworn in on 2 May.

Commissioners for tax appeals

AN International tax lawyer and a former vice-chairman of the Appointments Commission has called for appeals on taxes by taxpayers, if States Members agree. Heather-Anne Hubbell, who is a barrister and solicitor in Canada and the UK, is a non-executive director of the Jersey Data Protection Authority and is currently seconded to serve as Commissioner for Appeal for the States. If the States Assembly, they will join four other Commissioners and serve for three years. A stipend of £100 is paid per sitting.

Witnesses to crash wanted

A 30-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested while driving his car and fleeing the scene, police say. Officers are now appealing for witnesses or anyone with dash-cam or CCTV footage to come forward following the incident at the bottom of Queen’s Road at about 6:10pm on Saturday 6 April. A States police spokesman said a green Mercedes was driving down the hill towards the roundabout at Roche Boillon when it skidded and stuck a granite wall. Two men, who did not see in time, were injured when they fell into the car and leave the scene before officers arrived on the scene. The man was arrested on suspicion of failing to stop and report driving without due care and attention. He has been released on police bail. Anyone with any information should contact the force on 112 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.

Get on your virtual bike

COMPANIES are being encouraged to take part in a virtual cycle challenge, which is in aid of Jersey Cancer Relief and Bernsford Street Kitchen. Prosperity Day, now in its fifth year, is due to take place on 14 June in Bernsford Street, and the event has so far raised £70,000 for good causes. More information, including details of how to sign up, are available at facebook.com/ProsperityDay.