

## Charles BELCHER

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Charles Frederic Belcher was born in Geelong on 11 July 1876, he attended Geelong Grammar School and completed his law degree and Master of Arts at Melbourne University in 1901. He was admitted to practice in 1902 and worked with legal firms in Geelong, including Harwood and Pincott. Later he went into practice with Charles Birdsey as Birdsey and Belcher. He journeyed to England and joined the British Colonial Service from 1914. His first appointment was in Uganda, and along with legal work, he assisted with espionage work, translating seized German documents from neighbouring German East Africa (parts of present day, Rawanda, Burundi and Tanzania). We believe this may be why he has been included on the Memorial Board, as there is no record of him serving in either the Australian or British military services.

Following his Ugandan appointment Charles Belcher held various judicial posts in Africa, until his appointment as Chief Justice of Cyprus (1927-1930), and then subsequently Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago (1930-1937). Although he retired from the bench in 1937, he was the chief legal adviser to the East Africa command during World War Two.

Belcher never returned permanently to Australia, instead settling in Kenya and then South Africa where he died in 1970.

His true fame, however, rests in his ornithological interests, he published a number of books on the subject including *The Birds of Geelong*, and several birds have been named after him.

