

## RYDE BURIAL REGISTER -

Tetsunosuke SUZUKI aged 32 of the Imperial Japanese Navy,  
Buried June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1897.

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER June 28<sup>th</sup> 1902, page 4

### A TOUCHING LITTLE EPISODE AT RYDE CEMETERY –

It will be remembered that when a Japanese ship was at Spithead about five years ago, one of the crew died and was brought ashore, and interred in the Ryde Cemetery. Since that time a monument has been erected to the memory of the unfortunate seaman who died so far from his native land, and a little incident which occurred this week shows that though their customs and beliefs are different to our own, the Japanese yet possess kindly hearts and refined instincts. The Japanese sailors evidently have not forgotten their old comrade, for on Thursday last, about half-past eight in the morning, a party of about 60 or 70 sailors, with their officers and band, came over to Ryde from the Japanese ships *Takasago* and *Asama*, now at Spithead, and marched to the Cemetery. Proceeding to the tomb of their deceased comrade, they were formed-up around it, and addressed by their commanding officer, after which they filed past the tomb, each man placing upon it some little offering of paper flowers, etc. The touching little ceremony lasted about twenty minutes, after which the Japanese sailors left the Cemetery, and formed up in marching order again outside the Cemetery gates. Their behaviour was most seemly and orderly and they all looked extremely smart and clean. Before leaving, one of the officers thanked the custodian of the Cemetery for having kept the grave of their confrere in such good order. They marched back through High Street to the music of the band. The bandsmen wore a uniform of European pattern, and their brass instruments were of European make. They played in very creditable style, some kind of march, and though Japanese music is so unlike our own, the Japanese bandsmen showed that they had mastered the European system, and could play in a way many Europeans would envy, and kept very good time. All who saw the behaviour of the Japanese at this interesting little ceremony, declared that they were thorough gentlemen, so polite and orderly was their deportment. – On Friday morning another party of Japanese sailors visited the grave. When the interment originally took place, Mr GALLOP (a local amateur photographer) took a photograph of the grave, with the flowers, etc., and this morning one of these photographs was presented to the officer in charge. He showed it to his men, and they all seemed greatly pleased. The officer did not at first understand that it was intended as a present, and offered to purchase the photograph, but when he found it was a gift, his behaviour, and that of his men, showed how greatly they appreciated the little act of politeness.

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