

I once had a friend  
The best of friends  
Anyone could ever have:

We marched together long  
With the sixth, legio Victrix:  
We toiled hard like mules  
Together 'neath the rain  
Building Hadrian's great wall...

We drew swords together  
In the ranks of the first Parthica  
And shared a water-skin  
In the burning deserts of Nisibis...

We were legionnaires  
Under the Aquila of Rome -  
We fought and died  
Laughed and cast the die:  
We, the muli mariani  
A haggard band of brothers!

In Carnuntum, in 60 A.D.  
We were with the fourteenth  
That owned the field that day  
When Boudicca's braves  
Faced a blood-swathed defeat!

We raised a right-arm hail  
To Emperor Augustus  
Inspecting the ranks  
When we of the fifteenth Apollinaris  
Made the Jews rue the day!

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Under the Aquila of Rome -  
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