***Omission of the partitive article***

I have found no clear and definitive explanation. However the following appear to the case:

1. It is preferable to omit (the plural) partitive article when the noun is governed by a preposition
* Mi ha accolto con ~~delle~~ minacce
* Sono andato da ~~degli~~ amici

Unless the noun is then qualified

* … con delle minacce del tutto inaccettabili
* ….da degli amici comuni.
1. They are not used in negative expressions
* Barbara non ha ~~dei~~ fratelli o ~~delle~~ sorelle
* Non ho ~~dei~~ soldi
* Non c’è ~~del~~ sapone
* Non c’è ~~del~~ dubbio, but non c’è alcun dubbio
1. In lists (and this can apply also to the definite article)
* Devo comprare dell’olio but devo comprare ~~del~~ pane, ~~dell’~~olio e ~~del~~ vino

With *avere bisogno di* / *invece di*  etc*/ un po’ di / una mancanza di* and similar expressions of quantity, the di is invariabile (ie the article is omitted) unless the noun is then qualified

* Invece di pane, vorrei del vino
* Ho bisogno di soldi but Ho bisogno dei soldi che tu mi hai prestato.

Translations

1. He had tears in his (*agli*) eyes
2. They don’t have any friends
3. I know some people who don’t have any scruples
4. He did it for love
5. Love is kind but I also feel hatred and jealousy
6. I haven’t seen her for years
7. I need some money to pay for my ticket
8. I want some bread and butter instead of some fruit
9. I like apples, not pears
10. There is a shortage of food
11. She spoke to me with kindness
12. She bought some new shoes.