

COPY

July 8, 1976.

Professor G.C. McVittie, O.B.E., Ph.D.,
74, Old Dover Road,
CANTERBURY,
Kent.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter dated July 4 but I am afraid that I cannot offer you very much help. You will probably know that the records of MacAndrews & Forbes Company, for the period concerned, were all destroyed in the fire at Smyrna in 1922.

Some 16 years ago we compiled a history of the Company's first 100 years in Turkey. There are many references to the Cadoux family but I can find none referring to your father. Nothing can be read into this as my own name does not appear! I am afraid that the history was not professionally undertaken and is largely a compilation of anecdotes culled from the memory of the then oldest inhabitants. We do not seem to have any of the prints that we made in 1950 but I am enclosing a copy of the history in draft. Should you wish to see it there is a parcel of backing correspondence which I can let you have to browse through at your leisure; I would like it back eventually.

I believe that I qualify as the oldest inhabitant these days and although I cannot remember having heard anything about your father I do recall having seen a photograph of him in the past - it may even still be extant. Strangely enough I had always assumed that he was a visiting American.

I should not worry too much about "enemies" and "enmity". In those days before T.V. and radio a good healthy grudge to nurse during the long winter nights was almost essential. Certainly when I went to Turkey in 1936 there was still much internal and inter-branch antagonism; so much so that my first re-action was to try and reconcile it with the fact that everyone was working for the same company. When I came to unravel the feuding, in almost every case it had arisen from the most petty reasons and it just carried on, probably because it gave people an interest in a lonely life.

The late David Forbes to whom you refer died, I believe, just after the last war at the ripe old age of 90 with a reputation of having been the meanest man in the Middle East. Although several people did leave the Company's employ it was usually due to Mr. Forbes' grudging ideas of remuneration and the only person I can recall being dismissed was a secretary who, in transcribing a letter to London expressing how happy and well-off the staff were and indicating no annual increase would be required, appended the words off his own bat, "This is a lot of bloody lies". He did not last long after than but possibly had the compensation of having gone down into Company history.

I am sorry I can offer you so little,

Sincerely yours,

R.G.W. Smith.
Vice President,
Director of Foreign Operations.