## YÜCEL NAMAL\*

# ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH ARCHIVE RESOURCES: HELPS OF HUNGARIANS TO THE OTTOMAN RED CRESCENT ASSOCIATION DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

#### **ABSTRACT**

Hungarians have helped to the Red Crescent Association during the First World War as being during the Balkans War. The Ottoman Red Crescent Association had bought the health and medical stuffs (gaseous hydrophilic, cotton hydrophilic, stretcher, dressing packages, gauze bandage, antipyretic) from Hungary many times during the First World War. During the War, the health care teams, consisting of the Hungarian physicians, nurses and caregivers had served to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Istanbul and other Ottoman cities. In addition, since Turks and Hungarians were traditional and historical friends, and the Hungarians were allies during the First World War, in order that Hungarians presented their appreciation, they had passed the hat in many Hungarian cities and had donated it to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association. The Hungarian Prime Minister, Count István Tisza, had provided the significant encouragement and support for passing the hat. The municipal committees of the Hungarian cities (Esztergom, Fejer, Nagy Varad and Györ) presented their sincere greetings to the Ottoman nation that was the loyal ally of Hungarian nation, and the greetings from Istanbul city was also presented to the Hungarian brothers. The aids from Hungarians to the Ottoman Red Crescent were encouraged through the announcements in the Hungarian newspapers. Furthermore, the aids to the Ottoman Red Crescent were increased gradually through the concerts and exhibitions that were organized by the Hungarians. The Hungarians stated especially that these aids were provided by the Hungarian people, the Austria should have been exempted due to the dual monarchy and it should have been stated in the announcements for appreciating in the newspapers that the aids were provided by Hungarians only. During the War, the Hungarians helped to the Turks as if competing with Austria. In this case, the Ottoman Government thanked the Hungarians who helped to the Red Crescent Association by awarding the medals.

Keywords: First World War, Ottoman Red Crescent Association, Hungarians.

#### 1. Introduction

Killing of Ferdinand, the Crown Prince of Austro-Hungarian Empire, by a Serbian nationalist during his Sarajevo visit on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914, was the spark which led to starting of First World War. Gradually increasing affinity of Hungarians to their ally, Turks from the beginning of war was announced in the Hungarian press. In the copy of the newspaper, Pesti Napló, dated November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1914, it was stated that the alliance works between Austro-Hungary and Turkey had been carried out for eight years and had been successful. Participation of Hungarian soldiers in the Ottoman fronts during the First World War was interpreted as "willingly supporting of Ural-Altaic brother Turkey". For this purpose, we see that some Hungarians had been charged in the Ottoman army during the war. The Hungarian artillery units had been charged in the Çanakkale and Palestine fronts and Austro-Hungarian car units, consisting of trucks, in the region between Diyarbakır and Mosul in order to support the Turkish units. Upon Italia left the central powers in 1915, one group, also involving the Budapest Municipality members, University staff, artisan

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associations and military staff, had demonstrated in favor of Ottoman and had prayed that the Sultan lived longer, and the mayor of Budapest made speech against Italy and praising the friendship of Ottoman and Sultan, and notified the friendship sentiments of Hungarian people for Sultan and Ottoman State via telegram.<sup>5</sup> Due to which Italians betrayed their allies, the greetings of the people in Fejer, Esztergom, Györ, Nagy Varad municipalities and Mariskorda, Komarom cities of Hungary had been delivered to the friend and faithful Turkish people in 1916.<sup>6</sup> During the First World War, most of Hungarian statesmen carried out the policy in favor of Ottoman.<sup>7</sup>

# 2. Helps of Hungarians to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association During the First World War

The Hungarians had increased the aids more to the Red Crescent Association during the First World War as being during the Balkans Wars. Since the Hungarians were allies with Turks as well as the historical and traditional liaisons with them, they established the Red Crescent offices consisting of Hungarians' aristocrats and statesmen under the chairman of the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Tisza in order to express their gratitude to Ottoman. Monetary aid amount that was collected from such offices in Hungary until January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1915, was 132.000 crowns. During that term, the Hungarians, who were supplying aid to Turks as if they were competing with Austria, were specially stating that those aids were supplied by Hungarian people, and requested to exempt Austria due to dual monarchy and to be stated that the aid was only provided by the Hungarians in the announcements to be published in the newspapers. The aid to Turks was maintained gradually increasing, especially with the endeavors and sacrifices of Count Tisza. In addition, the Hungarians mentioned that the postcards, which were printed by Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Istanbul, might be sold in a suitable price in favor of Ottoman, if they were delivered to them in the proper quantities.<sup>8</sup>

Upon the aid that was supplied by the Hungarians to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association reached to 313.000 crowns until February 21st, 1914, Dr. Besim Ömer Pasha thanked Hungarians via telegram on behalf of Association. With this telegram, the chairman of Hungarian Red Cross Association replied, "They would do their best in order to remove the grievances from the war and the Hungarians were happy to see and proud of seeing the continuity of amity with Ottoman fellow soldiers". Sales were started in favor of Ottoman Red Crescent Association with the efforts of Austro-Hungarian embassy, Istanbul in some European cities (Budapest, Vienne, Trieste, Prague, Salzburg, Lins, Gras, Inabruck, Abassia, Berlin, Dresden, Frankfurt, Stettin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Cologne, Hannover, Brüme, Munich, Lübeck) on November 11th, 1914.10 187.000 crown aid, which was supplied by the Hungarians to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association on 24 November, was the highest aid in Hungary until that day. Higher amounts are the individual evidence of affection of the Hungarians to Turks. 11 The Hungarian Red Cross transferred 25.000 crowns to the account of Ottoman Red Crescent Association on December 12th, 1914.12 Commander-in-chief of Austro-Hungarian armies, Archduke Fredrick and his wife, Elisabeth, had donated 5000 crowns for the Red Crescent to Embassy in Vienne on 15 December. In addition, Baron Herman in Budapest donated 20.000 crowns through the Deputy of Minister of Finance, Mr. Talat Pascha. <sup>13</sup> The aid amount, which was collected in Austria and Hungary, reached to 350,000 crowns on 21 December. 14

Large mass, involving the people, journalists, aristocrats, deputies and former prime ministers, had participated in the aid that was supplied to Ottoman Red Crescent Associa-

tion in Hungary. Despite of intensive program of the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Tisza in 1915, he participated in the meeting that was held in favor of Ottoman Red Crescent Association and more than eighty Hungarian aristocrats participated in the hall assigned to the delegation assemblies in the Hungarian National Assembly, and in his opening speech, he talked bigheartedly about the traditional and historical friendship of Turks and Hungarians and the Turkey's political location and sacrifice, and said that Hungary should have aided to Ottoman Red Crescent Association. In this meeting, the chairman of Hungarian Red Cross (Croissant Rouge), Count Charles Khuen-Héderváry (Former Prime Minister, private consultant) and the chairman of women branch, Countess Etienne Károlyi had been selected. After the names of the chairman and members of the Hungarian Red Cross Commission were read, Countess Héderváry, who was selected as the vice-chairman, declared in her speech that working on supporting the Turkish-Hungarian friendship would be an honorable duty for her. After her, Gustave Scholtz stated that his father, who immigrated to Turkey, was treated very well, and expressed his gratitude to Turks by granting 2000 crowns to Ottoman Red Crescent Association.

A concert was organized in favor of Ottoman Red Crescent Association with the efforts of Hungarian Prime Minister Count Tisza in the "Musika Academy" hall in Pest within 1915. Tisza spoke about the Turkish-Hungarian friendship in this concert: "...The amity emotion must find its place during this war. We fight against the same enemy only for the single and same purpose. Our success is for Turkey. It is for those who sacrifice themselves with us. The glory and pain that is suffered are ours. "Red Crescent", which was established in order to care the injuries of our fellow soldiers, calls us brotherly. It seeks our support for its noble action. This call will echo in the hearts of our Hungarian brothers and sisters. We have to move in order to extend a friendly hand to the Turkish nation who fights against the common big enemy." The aids, which were collected by the Hungarians for Ottoman Red Crescent Association in that aid night, are as follows:

- 50 crowns from Dr. Alexandre Ardò (advocate),
- 1386 crowns 50 filler from Pester Lloyd newspaper,
- 160 crowns from Hamza Maruf Efendi,
- 25 crowns from Dr. Jacques Puty de Györg,
- 500 crowns from Baron de Forster,
- 1500 crowns from Vas city Red Cross,
- 900 crowns from the concert.

Total 4541 crowns 50 filler were deposited to the Hungarian Bank "Banque Hongroise (Magyar Bank)" for Ottoman Red Crescent Association. In addition, Krausz Simon, the general director of "Banque Hongroise (Magyar Bank)" donated 20.000 crowns, Budapest governorship 10.000 crowns, Budapest Red Cross commission 25.000 crowns to Ottoman Red Crescent Association. The Ottoman ambassador in Pest notified to Istanbul that no Austrian banks shown such generosity against such generous grants from the Hungarians. The aids, which were collected in favor of the Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Hungary, had reached to 256.601 crowns 31 filler on February 17th, 1915, 19 to 285.961 crowns on 23 February, 20 to 338.000 crowns on 14 March. It was informed that even if Italy and Romania declared war against Austria on 28 April, then the monies of Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Austro-Hungary would not be seized, and when they were requested, they would be transferred to Istanbul. The aid amount, collected in Hungary on 7 June, reached to 500.000 crowns.

The Hungarian "Association of Aid to Veteran Soldiers and Poor People" (Ma'lulin-i Askeriye ve Fukaraya Mu'avenet Cemiyeti Umumiyesi) had invited the Ottoman Red Crescent Association to the exhibition which it would be held in Budapest on April 1915. It

was informed that the revenue from the exhibition, consisting of the photographs, which showed the activities of Ottoman Red Crescent in Egyptian, Caucasian and Çanakkale fronts, and health care materials, which it used, would be donated to the Budapest Red Crescent Commission. It was also informed that the photos to be exhibited would be published in "Tarsasag" which was one of the most important newspapers in Budapest in a special edition and all revenues from this edition would be donated to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association. The Consul General in Budapest, Ahmet Hikmet, emphasized in his letter, dated March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1915, "Despite the competition between Hungarians and Austrians is very explicit, it should be assigned an individual rank to the Hungarians in the gratifications to be granted by us". \*24 8500 crowns of revenue had been achieved from the emblems that were decorated with red and green which were the colors of Turkish and Hungarian flags and were sold in name of Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Hungary. \*25

Ottoman Red Crescent Association and Austro-Hungarian Emperor had insured the soldiers with "War Insurance" which was provided by the "Support Fund for Soldier's Orphans and Widows" (Askeri Eytâm ve Erâmil Mu'avenet Sandığı) in their safeguards, and it was decided that those, whoever desired it among the Red Crescent officers and employees, might make use of this insurance. The Hungarians had caused the people come to the aid of Ottoman Red Crescent Association through the newspaper announcements and assays. Besides, the amount of aids for Ottoman Red Crescent Association had increased gradually with the concerts and exhibitions that were organized by the Hungarians. The journalist from Pest, Edward Kadusa, who was the inventor of campaign of changing the golden rings with iron rings in Hungary, had also carried out the same campaign for the Ottoman Red Crescent in Istanbul. English the same campaign for the Ottoman Red Crescent in Istanbul.

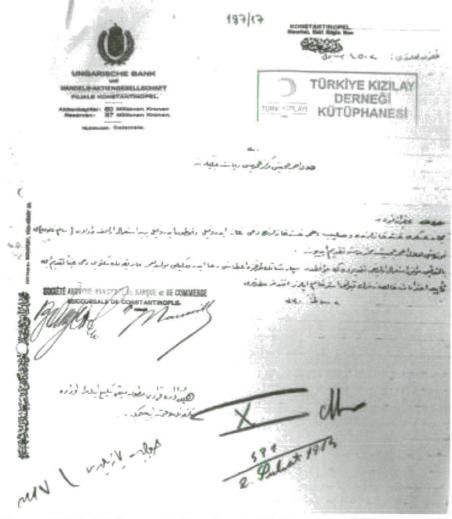
The Hungarian health care team visited Istanbul on February 1916, and started to work in the site that was assigned to them in Şişli Etfal hospital.<sup>29</sup> The Hungarians, who had donated the huge amounts of aids to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Hungary, had been rewarded with the medals from various ranks.<sup>30</sup> On the other hand, Austuro-Hungarian Red Cross had also granted different medals to some Ottoman Red Crescent Association officials.<sup>31</sup> In addition, the Director of Pest Military Orchestra "Chef d'orckestre" of the Hungarian Ministry of "Honved", Richard Fricsay, had organized 25–30 concerts until October 1916 before Hungarian Red Crescent Commission was established, and had donated 40.000 crowns from such concerts to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association. Therefore, he was rewarded with the Mecidiye medal from the fifth rank.<sup>32</sup> 100.000 Crowns had been transferred by the Hungarian Commerce Bank (Société Anonyme Hongroise De Banque Et De Commerce) to the account of Dr. Hikmet Bey in name of Ottoman Red Crescent Association on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1916.<sup>33</sup>

It was decided to issue a calendar in favor of German, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian Red Crosses and Ottoman Red Crescent Association for the year 1918 on January 1917. The Hungarian Artists, Mr. Hubal and Madam Anna Madel, who gave the concert in favor of Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Istanbul, 1917, had been rewarded the Red Crescent medal. Headquarter of Austro-Hungarian Car Corps donated 500 Ottoman Lira to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association on November 1918. One of former Austro-Hungarian ambassadors in Istanbul, Frenc Kulos, had donated 500 crowns to the Red Crescent Association as the indication of his goodwill about the Turks when he was in Istanbul. Count and Countess Etienne Tisza had been rewarded the golden Red Crescent medals due to their aids by Red Cross Commission in Hungary to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association and Baron Moris Herzok and Industrialist, Manfred Vasy, who had donated 500 crowns, had been rewarded the golden medal upon the recommendation of Ambassador Ahmet Hikmet in Budapest.

#### 3. Conclusion

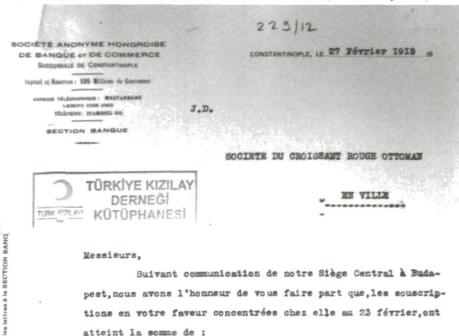
Due to the traditional and historical friendship between the Turks and Hungarians and since they were allies during the World War I, Hungarians have helped to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association in order to express their gratitude to Ottoman. For this purpose, it has been collected the subsidies in many Hungarian cities during the World War I, and they have been sent to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association. In addition, the health teams, consisting of many Hungarian doctors, nurses and caregivers, have served to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association in Istanbul and other Ottoman cities during the war. Besides this, the Ottoman Red Crescent Association has procured many health and medical materials from Hungary. The subsidies, collected by Hungarians through concerts and exhibitions, have gradually increased. So that, Hungarians have helped to the Ottoman Red Crescent Association, hence, to Turks during the War as if they were competing with other states.

Document 1. Document, stating that the materials, used substituting with cotton hydrophile and gaseous hydrophile on Hungarian soldiers and in the red cross hospitals, were sent to Ottoman Red Crescent Assosiation



Source: Turkish Red Crescent Archive, Box no: 187, Document: 17, 2 February 1330.

#### Document 2. Document, showing 285.961 crowns of subsidizing which were collected in Budapest for the Ottoman Red Crescent Association.(27 February 1915)



Messieurs,

Suivant communication de notre Siège Central à Budapest, nous avons l'honneur de vous faire part que, les souscriptions en votre faveur concentrées chez elle au 23 février, ent atteint la somme de :

Krs.-285.96I.-

Hous profitons de cette occasion pour vous demander, Messieurs, si vous voudriez pouvoir disposer ici des susdits montante ou d'une partie, -Dans ce cas nous feriens le nécessaire pour obtenir l'autorisation de notre Centrale à Budapest.

> Veuillez agréer, Messieure, nos salutations bien em-SOCIETÉ ANOVITLE 12

J.B.

Source: Turkish Red Crescent Archive, Box no: 229, Document: 12, 27.02.1915.

#### Document 3. Periodical of Hungarian Red Cross, followed by the Ottoman Red Crescent Association (1916)



## Központi igazgatóság.

Legfelsőbb elhatározások. Ő császáríés apostoli királvi Felsége 1916. évi május bó fő-án kelt legfelsőbb elhatározásaval legkegyelmesebben adományozni - a háboru alatt teljesített kiméltóztatott : tünő szolgálataik elismeréseül: a Ferencz József-rend középkeresztjét a katonai érdemkereszt szalagján: Dr. Dollinger tiyula vezértőrzsorvosnak, a rokkantúgyi hivatal tanácsadó orvosának és a magyar voroskereszt egylet igazgatósági előadójának; Ferencz József-rend lovagkeresztjét a katonai érdemkereszt szalagján: Dr. Imrédy Béla m. kir. honvédtörzsorvosnak, a magyar vörös-kereszt egyleti Erzsébetkérház igazgatójánok, Dr. Lumniczer József és Walla Béla m. kir. honvédtörzsorvosoknak, a magyar vörös-kereszt egyleti Erzsébetkórház főorvossinsk; továbbá elrendelni meltóztatott, hogy s legfelsőbb dicsérő elis-merés Dr. Lobmayer Géza ezredorvosnak, a konstantinápolyi vörös kereszt egész-ségűgyi misszió vezető orvosának és a legfelsőbb megelégedés kifejezése Dr. Parádi Ferencz ezredorvosnak, a dési VOTORkeresztes apolónői tanfolyam vezető főorvosának tudtul adassék

Külföldi kitüststések. Ő Felsége Vilmos nemet czászár és porosz király méltőztatott a szófiai egyleti missziónál szolgálatot tevő gróf Szírmay Sándor őrnagy, magyar vőrös-kereszt egyleti főmegbizottnak és ifj. Leopold Lajos magyar vörös-kereszt egyletí főmegbizott-helyettes, tábori raktári pa-rascsnoknak a porosz királyiIII. oszt. vérős-kereszt érmet legkegyelmesebben adományozni.

A bajor király Ő Felsége méltoztatott békei Pirkuer János ny, ministeri ta-nácsossak, a magyar vörös-kereszt egylet főmegbizott-helyettenének a "Lajos király" keresztet adományozni.

Föhercregi szemle. Pörtyénben igen szép modern kórházat építették első sorban a hadszinhelyen megsebesült és megbotegedétt katonák részére, amelyet "Pro Patria" kereszt kórháznak elneveztek, Ennek felavatasa május hó 30-án törtéot és erre az alka-lomra a körház igazgatósága Ó cs. és kir. Fenségét Ferencz Salvator főher-czog, lovassági tábornok urat, az önkéntes ogéntségápolás főfelügyelőjét is meghívts. A Fenséges ur az ünnepélyre báró Lederer Hugó belső titkos fanácsos, főudvarmestet, Sinkovszky Ödön alegredes és Hoffmann Géza százados kiséretében utazott le. honvedelmi muisteriumot a megnyitäsnäl bärö Hazai Samu honvédelmi minister és Karácson Lajos államtitkár képviselte és a magyar várós-kereszt egylet részéről gráf Csekonics Endre királyi biztos, egyleti elnök és gról Széchényi Emil főmeghizott jelentek meg. O Széchényi Emil főmeghizott jerentsa szekérékenéget Pőstyénbe való megérkenésekér Winter Lajos fürdőigargató üdvözlő beszédel fogadta, mire a főherezeg néhány szóval valaszolt és kiséretével, valamint a nagyazamu vendéggel együtt megfekintetté a "Pro Patria" korházat. A földázintes nagyépületben 600 beteg azámára van hely, az alvá azohák szellősek és világosak, az épületen alvó szobák szellősek és világosak, sz épületben még pompás fiirdő is van. A körhizat nagy papi segédlettel Jedlicska Pál praciátus, nagyszombati érseki helynők szentelte

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Source: Turkish Red Crescent Archive, Box no. 553, Document: 7, 10.06.1916.

# Document 4. Telegram, stating 338.000 crowns of subsidizing that was collected in Hungary for the Ottoman Red Crescent Association (14 March 1915)



Source: Turkish Red Crescent Archive, Box no. 101, Document: 133, 14.03.1915.

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- 4. Jung, Ibid, p. 43.
- Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi, (BOA) (Prime Ministry Ottoman Archive), Hariciye Siyasi (HR. SYS), File. 2409, no. 75, 27. 05. 1915.
- 6. BOA, HR. SYS, File. 2417, no. 5, 03. 01. 1916.
- 7. BOA, HR. SYS, File. 2447, no. 2, 25. 01. 1918; HR. SYS, File. 2447, no. 61, 08. 02. 1918.
- 8. The Embassy in Pest stated that this aid amount would reach to half million. TKA, Box no.: 18, Document: 116, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1914; TKA, Box no.: 101, Document: 179, 19. 02. 1915.
- 9. TKA, Box: 193, Document: 57, February 21st, 1330.
- TKA, Box no.: 101, Document: 107, 11. 11. 1914; pls. see TKA, Box no.: 101, Document: 108, 23. 11. 1914. about officials who would collect the aid in favor of Red Crescent in Germany and Austro–Hungary.
- 11. These aids had also been announced to the public via newspaper. (TKA, Box no.: 193, Document: 77, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1914.)
- 12. TKA, Box no.: 94, Document: 82, 12. 12. 1914.
- 13. TKA, Box no.: 193, Document: 131, 15. December 1330.
- 14. TKA, Box no.: 154, Document: 25, 21. 12. 1914.
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- 22. TKA, Box no. 101, Document: 137, 28. 04. 1915.
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- 24. TKA, Box no. 555, Document: 1, 27. 05. 1915.
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- 26. TKA, Box no. 546, Document: 15. (Undated).
- 27. BOA, HR. SYS, File: 2405, no. 53, 12. 01. 1915; DH. EUM. 5. \$B, File 9, no. 1, 22 January 1330.
- 28. BOA, HR. SYS, File: 2407, no. 6, 03. 03. 1915.
- 29. TKA, Box no. 94, Document: 111, 17. 12. 1915. This team could move to from Budapest Istanbul just on February 1916. (BOA, HR. SYS, File. 2176, no. 7, 28. 02. 1916.)
- TKA, Box no. 168, Document: 169, 28. 02. 1916; TKA, Box no. 168, Document: 176, 09. 08.
   1916. The members of Austrian and Hungarian Red Crescent commission, who had been rewarded the various Ottoman medals, are as follows: Mr. Stefan, Mr. Jozef Vanesy, Mr. Zinefrir Louis, Dr. Ferdinand Karminsky, Mr. August, Madam Paula. (TKA, Box no. 545, Document: 2, 17. 03. 1916.)
- 31. TKA, Box no. 168, Document: 173, 11. 06. 1916.
- 32. TKA, Box no. 545, Document: 10, 28. 10. 1916.
- 33. TKA, Box no. 229, Document: 43, 17. 11. 1916.
- 34. TKA, Box no. 177, Document: 43, Annex: 2, 24. 01. 1917. The calendar is in the book form and has the color cover, and will have the emblems of four states. It consists of 12 calendar pages and will have the German, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Turkish parts. The monogram of kings and these four states will be available on the calendar pages. The price of calendars would be maximum 2.5 marks.
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