

The Dellinger Effect of February Twenty-Third, 1956

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WORLDWIDE news about the recent activity on the sun provoked considerable interest in these phenomena and their effects on the earth. Scientists in Tokyo, at Kodaikanal, India, in the United States, in Great Britain, to mention only a few places, reported their observations of the events of February twenty-third. Since the Manila Observatory ionospheric station at Baguio was favorably located for observing the effects in the upper atmosphere, a few brief comments about our records may help to explain what was happening.

On February twenty-third, 1956, an outbreak on the sun occurred. Such an outburst of white light associated with dark spots on the sun is known as a solar flare. The time of occurrence of this particular flare, from an astronomical and geophysical viewpoint, was extremely advantageous to observers in the Philippines. The Baguio records show that the flare disturbed the ionosphere shortly after eleven thirty and before eleven forty five in the morning. It is well to recall that this time corresponds to about three thirty five in the morning or before sunrise in England and to about ten thirty five of the previous night or after sunset on the East coast of the United States. Observers in these and similar regions were on the dark side of the earth. Whatever such observers noticed would indicate the extent of the flare effects as they curved around the earth to those locations. Direct observations were obstructed by