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SOURCE FIVE

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)Letter by a British official in 1759 on the Seven Years War in India  
(PRO ref: SP 54/45/72)

### How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in India. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What does this source tell you about how the British were performing in the Seven Years War?
- How reliable is this source as evidence of the British performance?
- What clues does this source provide about why the British built an empire in India?

[Background](#) | [Worksheet](#)

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My Lords.

Edinburgh. 18 Octob. 1759. 291

I have the Honour of your Lordship's Letter of 12<sup>th</sup> Instant, enclosing an Extraordinary Gazette of the Success of His Majesty's Arms in the Indian Seas, and the Gallant Defence of the Garrison of Madras, which gives me the highest pleasure and Satisfaction; and I beg leave to return my Thanks to your Lordship for the Communication of this good News, and to offer your Lordship my Congratulations thereon, and my sincere Wishes for a Continuance of that remarkable Success, with which His Majesty's Arms have of late been crowned in almost every Undertaking, which reflects great Honour on your Lordship and those eminent Persons joined with your Lordship in the Management of Affairs.

I am with great Esteem & Regard  
My Lord  
Your Lordship's  
most humble and  
most obedient Servant  
G. Beauchamp.

The Earl of Holderness.