

14 June 1984

\$50,000 reward for lead on Gurkha border death

By JENNIFER COOKE

A \$50,000 REWARD was offered by police yesterday for information leading to the successful prosecution of killer or killers of a Gurkha soldier four months ago.

The body of Lance-Corporal Bal Kumar Limbu, 26, was found floating in a fish pond near the border early on February 28.

A soldier with A Company, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, Corporal Limbu had earlier gone alone to investigate a border alarm.

Eight illegal immigrants caught near the scene were ruled out as suspects.

Since the murder, the army's policy of going in pairs to border infringements has been re-emphasised.

"We do insist that our soldiers react in pairs," said Major Steven Bowkett,

commander of D Company, 1st Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, who took over border duties after the murder.

The eastern sector of the border - from Sha Tau Kok to International Bridge near Pak Fu Shan village - is being patrolled by C Company.

Its commander, Major Nigel Price, said yesterday the murder had "rammed the point home that you cannot be complacent".

"Mostly people are not, but you have to be careful."

He said border patrols consisted of four man "bricks" in both observation posts and night ambush positions with soldiers reacting in pairs to border infringements.

"The previous system was that if the alarm went off

one man would remain to man the radio and the other would check the fence with a radio and could call for assistance.

"This is the first case of murder since the border was manned by the army (following the riots of 1967)," Major Price said.

"It has altered our perspective of the threat to ourselves.

"The murder has brought the point home that although we almost never encounter that level of violence, it's nevertheless a possibility and so we have to change our procedure accordingly," he said.

Anyone in the area at the time of the murder or who has information is urged to call the police hotline, 277177.