

A LINK: Chemist ties slain trooper's blood to

By LAWRENCE NAGY

Clothing worn by Joanne Chesimard the night of a 1973 Turnpike shootout was stained with blood from a state trooper who died in the gunbattle, a State Police chemist testified yesterday.

The laboratory analysis showing Trooper Werner Foerster's rare-type blood on Chesimard's slacks and socks was the first direct evidence linking the 29-year-old black activist to Foerster's murder in more than three weeks of testimony in New Brunswick.

Chesimard is charged with murdering Foerster and wounding Trooper James Harper in the May 2, 1973, gun-

battle which also left her companion, James Costan, dead. Clark Squire, the driver of the 1965 Pontiac in which Chesimard and Costan were riding, is serving a life prison sentence for Foerster's murder.

Harper has testified Chesimard shot first from inside the car, hitting him in the shoulder. He said he traded shots with Chesimard and Costan — hitting them both — after he retreated to the rear of his unmarked patrol car behind the Pontiac.

Harper said he saw Foerster struggling with Squire during the gunbattle. After he lost sight of the pair, he staggered to the nearby Turnpike Adminis-

tration Building in East Brunswick.

Prosecutors have indicated they intend to prove Foerster was "executed" with two bullets fired from his own service revolver.

George Hickman, a State Police forensic chemist, told the all-white jury that Type AB bloodstains were discovered on the lower right leg of a pair of black slacks and on the ankle area of a brown sock. Chesimard was wearing both items the night of the shootout, according to previous testimony.

Under questioning by Edward Barone, Middlesex County first assistant prosecutor, Hickman said tests on a vial of whole blood recovered from Foer-

ster's body during an autopsy revealed it was Type AB, a relatively rare blood group limited to no more than 5 per cent of the population.

Hickman said similar tests performed on blood samples taken from Squire and from Costan's body revealed they both had Type O blood, a trait shared by about 40 per cent of the population.

The chemist said tests on a sample of whole blood from Chesimard revealed she has Type B, the blood group found in about 15 per cent of the population.

Hickman testified bloodstains corresponding to Chesimard's blood type were found on the handle and outside

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Chesimard clothing

surface of the driver's door of the Pontiac. Similar bloodstains were also found on right side of the Pontiac's roof.

Bloodstains found on the left cuff of a brown jacket and on a red blouse were also identified as Type B, according to Hickman. Previous testimony from state troopers indicated Chesimard was wearing the red blouse when she was arrested shortly after the shootout.

Hickman said bullet holes in the brown jacket matched similar holes in the upper left arm and right arm of the blouse, indicating Chesimard was wearing the jacket when she was wounded.

Bloodstains on the right cuff of the brown jacket also came from Foerster's

Type AB blood, Hickman testified.

Type O bloodstains were found on an automatic pistol recovered from the scene of Chesimard's capture about five miles south of where the gunbattle occurred, Hickman testified. Similar stains were found on the driver's seat of the Pontiac.

Cross examination of Hickman was delayed when Superior Court Judge Theodore Appleby agreed to a defense request for him to produce the notes he made in the State Police Laboratory in West Trenton when he performed the blood analysis. Chief defense counsel William Kunstler is expected to cross-examine Hickman today.