Sharpeville Funeral, 1960
'I chartered a light, fixed-wing plane and photographed the funeral from the plane as I felt this was the best way to show the magnitude of the event. This assignment was done on a freelance basis.

In March 1960, there was a countrywide campaign organised by the PAC (Pan African Congress) to defy the pass laws by publicly burning them in front of police stations. All Africans had to by law carry a Pass Book at all times, which limited their movement and therefore employment. In a small town called Sharpeville, the police fired on a fleeing crowd and 67 civilians, including women and children, were shot in the back and 150 were wounded.'
Mandela’s return to his cell on Robben Island, 1994

“We believe it was Mandela’s first official visit after his release from prison in 1990 and obviously an emotional visit when he returned to the 2 x 2.5-metre cell where he spent 18 years of his 27-year sentence.

“This was where he studied, did pushups and reflected on the goal of the liberation of his people. He looked out of the bars and when he thought I had finished taking pictures, relaxed somewhat, and turned around to smile. This assignment was done on an independent basis.”

Nelson Mandela in his law office, 1952

He shared it with Oliver Tambo, in Chancellor House, opposite the Magistrate’s Court in Johannesburg. I went to photograph Mandela for Time Life with the writer Ted Hughes. Mandela was on his way out and had files under his arm and I asked if he could wait for a minute… he gave me two minutes and we talked on the way out.”

Mandela’s return to his cell on Robben Island, 1994

While Jürgen Schadeberg was chief photographer, picture editor and art director with Drum magazine in the 1950s, he captured key personalities and events in the jazz and literary world. These included some of the greats of the Sophiatown jazz scene like Dolly Rathebe, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela and Kippie Moeketsi. The photographs show a young Makeba in a tight orange dress standing at a microphone. Taken in 1955 for Drum magazine