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Desire for liberty is the main issue in Sjöberg's second film, *They Staked Their Lives/Life at Stake* (*Med livet som insats*, 1939), a remake of a Finnish movie made two years earlier, and both taken from the short-story by Runar Schildt. Members of a resistance movement are shown in a strange Baltic setting under martial law. Foreboding, depression and pessimism in the doomed feelings of the characters may reveal Sjöberg's own concern that the beginning of the Second World War spelt disaster for all decent-minded people, neutral or otherwise. Sjöberg's stage experience can be seen in the heated discussions of the secretive organisation, although he does switch to quick action-packed scenes where required.