Independence Seaport Museum has compiled some WWII submarine facts featuring our very own WWII submarine Becuna, aka Becky, as a backdrop.

photo: Becuna at Pearl Harbor, circa 1944-45
navsource.org/archives/08/0831913.jpg
Total number of American submarines that made war patrols:

263

photo: Becuna (SS-319), after commissioning in May 1944
USN Archives photo # USN-189867
Submarines were the first ships to carry out offensive missions against Imperial Japan following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

photo: Bow on view of Becuna departing Mare Island on 25 August 1947.

USN Archives photo
USN photo # 1607-47
12 Submarines were present in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.
US submarine losses by the end of the war:

- 52 BOATS
- 3,505 OFFICERS & ENLISTED MEN

This casualty rate of 22% was the highest of any American armed service during the war.

photo: Becuna drydocked at Pearl Harbor, 1949 (ISM)
We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the line against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz
Submarines comprised 2% of the Navy’s strength at the time, but were responsible for sinking 55% of Japanese shipping.
Fleet boats like Becuna were designed to hunt down enemy capital ships, but proved they excelled at commerce raiding. By the end of 1944, Japan’s merchant marine was essentially destroyed, and the country’s vital supply lines severed.