



Merlin Pilot Center Quick-start Manual



IMPORTANT NOTES – MUST READ

Please provide any/all feedback on the forum page set up for that purpose, and “PLEASE” avoid any discussion on that page, just issues/error reporting.

Changes in THIS revision of the manual are highlighted in MAGENTA.

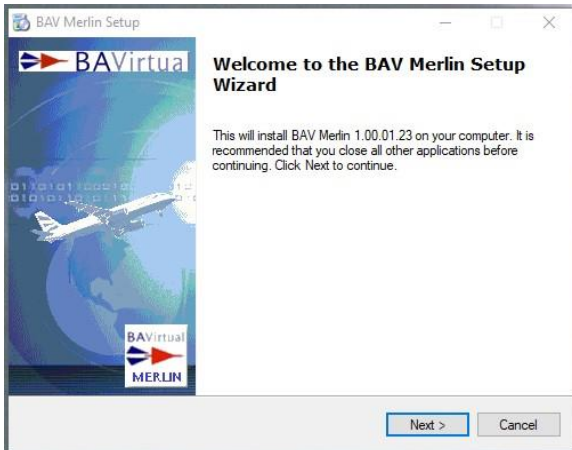
1. Run Merlin AND your simulator as Administrator.
2. Airframe/livery validated and if not a “known” BA airframe and livery you will be unable to start a flight. Aircraft used are tracked in the database and aircraft at present unrecognized but determined to be valid will be added to the database. If you have an issue with something that should be validated, note it in the Merlin forum area – “Merlin Known Aircraft”.
3. PIREP#s are automatically assigned when a flight starts, as opposed to being shown when a booking is placed. The PIREP # will be visible on the ACARS page, and additionally will be shown in the Flight Log on completion of the flight.
4. The folder for Merlin files/documents is C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS
5. **Three** log files are created for each flight flown. These files are located in your C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS/FLIGHTLOGS folder.
6. Log files for a particular flight/problem can be found named as follows;
 - a. If Merlin crashed/was closed with a **flight active** a file exists named **activeflight_state.txt** – **DO NOT DELETE** as this is used to recover your flight.
 - b. Data files for flights are named
<PirepID>_flightLog.txt, <PirepID>_pirepPos.txt and <PirepID>_SESMALog.txt

Merlin is “state” driven, meaning you cannot go back-and-forth between logical steps without completion of and information deemed a requirement to “proceed”.

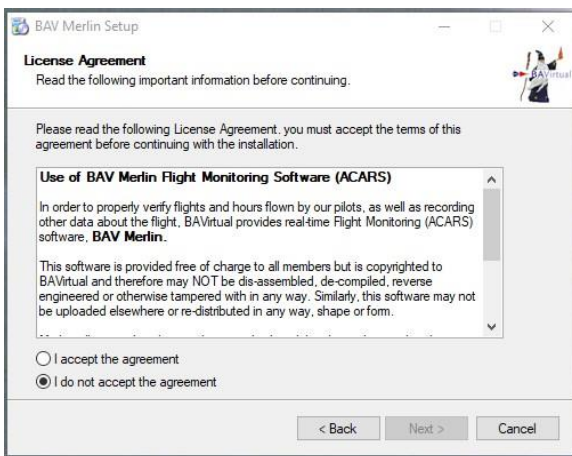
The steps/states are explained below. The left hand TABS indicate availability and provide access to the various options within Merlin – if they are greyed-out the item isn’t currently available typically due to your progress in the Booking/Briefing/ACARS/Debriefing phases of a flight.

Step 1 – Getting Started/Installing

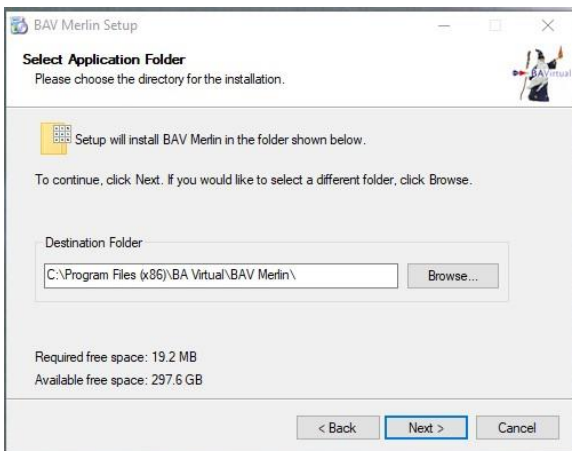
After downloading the Merlin installer, run the installer and you'll see this splash screen.



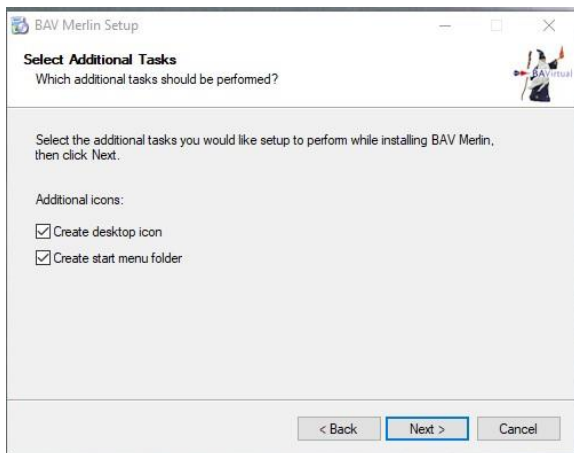
There is a license agreement to accept before you can continue with the install.



Then select the folder where you want to install Merlin.



Choose whether or not you want a desktop shortcut created and Merlin added to your start menu



Once Merlin is installed you can launch immediately if you wish.



Merlin, when first run, will create a set of files and folders in <username>\Appdata\Roaming\BAV_ACARS. This will include a config.ini file as well as some local databases, your BAV logbook and various other files.

ALWAYS RUN Merlin and your simulator as Administrator.

Step 2 – Login

There are two possible informational/error messages you MAY receive when first starting Merlin.

1) BAV Web site or Network Issue/Error.


If the BAV server is down/unavailable OR your local network is unable to connect to the internet



2) A newer release of Merlin is available and you need to upgrade before you can log in



If you receive this message, you can use the link to view the forum notes related to the new version and

also using the  button you can download and install the latest version.

If you choose to download and install, you will be prompted for a location to save the installer file and then asked if you want to RUN the installer now.




NOTE: This same informational dialog will appear when you QUIT Merlin if a new version has been published while you had Merlin open.

Provided neither of the two issues above occurs you will be greeted by the Merlin Login screen shown below.

This is simple enough. Provide your <BAV ID> and <Password> and the “LOGIN” button will be enabled, see below, and so long as your credentials are correct, Merlin will proceed.



If you’re unsure of your password and want/need to view the entry simply click the  to the right of the password entry and you’ll see the field in plain text.



There’s a check box option (Remember Me), to save you credentials if you wish.

You can read the Release Notes at any time by clicking on the hotspot under the title bar release number



During login, the progress bar will show various “activities”, including loading your bookings, if any.

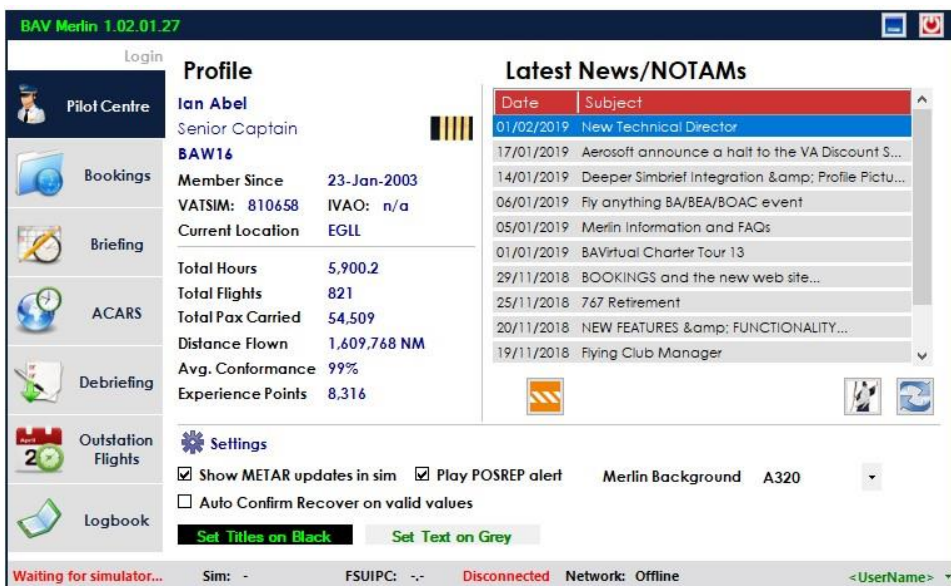
If you are attempting to run Merlin using a currently unsupported simulator/sim version, once Merlin gets to the simulator connection phase you will receive this warning, and Merlin will close once you click OK.



If you are successfully logged on, you will then move to the “Pilot Center” view.

Step 2 –Pilot Centre, Settings, Status bar and Logbook

The landing page, once you LOGIN is the “Pilot Center”.



This page shows your profile details, available settings and Latest News/NOTAMs. Double-clicking an item in the “Latest News/NOTAMs” will open that item on the forum in your browser.

Latest News/NOTAMs can be refreshed using the lower right  button.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Merlin Pilot Center – Quickstart Guide can be viewed using the  button at lower right.

Settings

There are several Settings available, these allow you to;

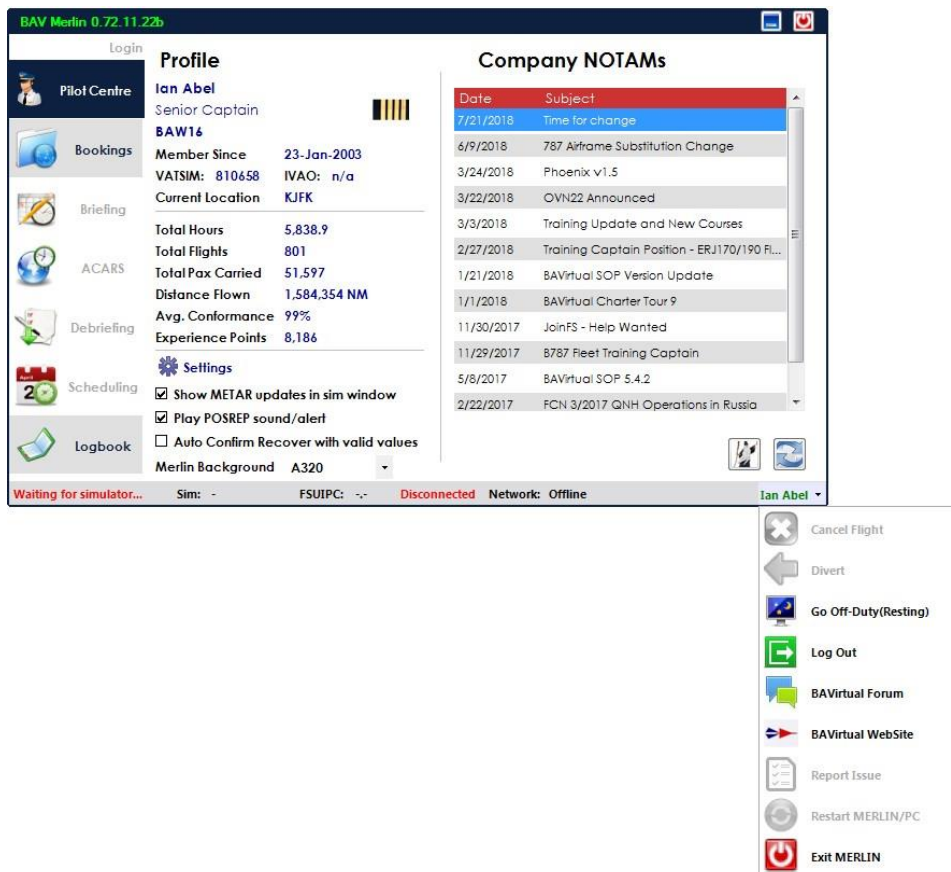
- 1) Choose to show or hide METAR updates in your sim window. Updates are provided regularly for your destination or a diversion airport if you've declared a diversion. Default is SHOW.
- 2) Choose to turn OFF POSREP sound notifications. Default is PLAY.
NOTE: Without this you may miss a POSREP.
- 3) Choose to automatically recover a flight without seeing the "Confirm" window if the sim settings are sufficient to allow Merlin to continue. Default is NOT Auto Confirm.
- 4) Choose a background for the login and various dialog screens. Several BA aircraft are available as well as the option to have NO background. Default is A320.
- 5) **Set Titles on Black** - click to change the colour of Titles presented on a black background.
- 6) **Set Text on Grey** - click change the colour of text presented on a grey background.

Status Bar

All status information in Merlin will provide feedback on the lower "Status" bar.

This includes the connectivity state of your simulator, the simulator version you're running, the FSUIPC version and connection status, and your sim network connection status.

The far right end of the status bar contains your NAME and is also a **drop-down menu**, providing access to various options.



The options include;

- a) **Log Out** – returns you to the LOGIN screen/state. Always available.
- b) **Complete Flight/File PIREP** – available at completion of a flight if the automatic “completed flight” doesn’t occur.
- c) **Cancel Flight** – Cancels an active flight. There IS an “Are you sure” check/confirmation.
- d) **Divert** – brings up the Divert dialog. Only available when a flight is active.
- e) **Go Off-Duty (Resting)** – on long-haul flights, stops recording flight time and disable POSREPs. Toggled to **Return to Duty (Flying)** when activated. Only available for active flight over 5 hours long.
- f) **Log Out** – returns you to the LOGIN screen/state. Always available.
- g) **BAVirtual Forum** link – takes you to the BAV forum. Always available.
- h) **BAVirtual Website** link – takes you to the BAV web site. Always available
- i) **Restart Merlin/PC** – **used to exit Merlin with an ACTIVE FLIGHT, when you need to restart your PC. This preserves your flight so it can be restarted.**
- j) **Exit Merlin**– closes Merlin, during an active flight, there’s an “Are you sure” check. Always available.

From the “Pilot Center” you can proceed to “Bookings” by selecting the tab available Bookings tab.

Logbook

The Logbook page is also available directly after login without your flight simulator being active. Your local logbook contains details of all the BAV flights you have flown.

Date	Flt #	Aircraft	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep
2019-01-03	BA8704	E190	EGLC	EGPH	20:07	21:38	01:31	01:28	1012735
2018-12-29	BA0213	B744	EGLL	KBOS	20:22	04:15	07:53	07:00	1012080
2018-12-28	BA8742	E190	LFLB	EGLC	20:29	22:03	01:34	01:34	1011965
2018-12-28	BA8741	E190	EGLC	LFLB	17:37	19:33	01:56	01:56	1011950
2018-12-27	BA0178	B744	KJFK	EGLL	15:58	22:19	06:21	06:21	1011812
2018-12-25	BA0173	B744	EGLL	KJFK	20:16	04:02	07:46	07:46	1011647
2018-12-24	BA0117	B744	EGLL	KJFK	15:29	18:13	02:44	02:44	1011568
2018-12-23	BA0285	B744	EGLL	KSFO	04:20	18:17	13:57	04:33	1011369
2018-12-13	BA0573	A320	LIMC	EGLL	19:50	21:41	01:51	01:51	1010346
2018-12-13	BA0572	A320	EGLL	LIMC	17:12	19:01	01:49	01:49	1010321
2018-12-11	FC1211	E190	KMSP	KGEG	19:07	22:13	03:06	03:06	1010125

There are three buttons on the logbook page;



to search after you’ve selected the various search criteria, and




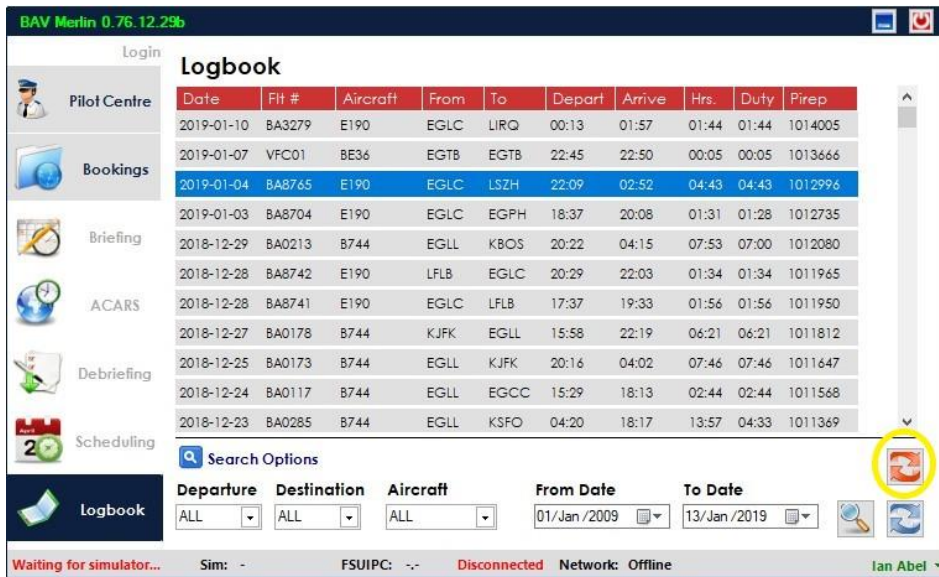
to refresh the page, useful if you have done a search and then want to return to the complete list of flights



to resend a PIREP that appears to have not been uploaded on flight completion.

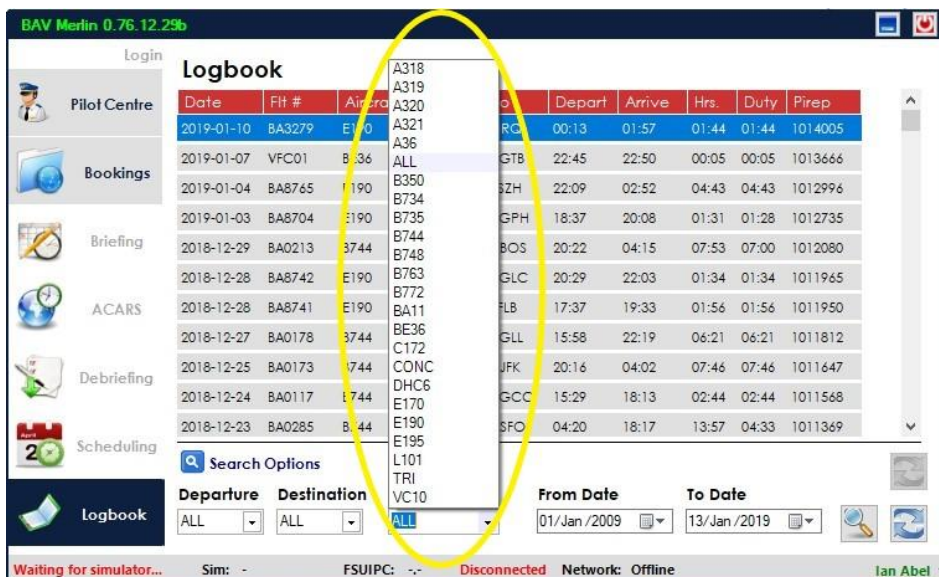


The  will ONLY become available if Merlin had detected a failure when filing the PIREP on completion of a flight and that flight is selected in the list. This will be “infrequent” and most likely on the last flight flown.



Date	Flt #	Aircraft	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep
2019-01-10	BA3279	E190	EGLC	LIRQ	00:13	01:57	01:44	01:44	1014005
2019-01-07	VFC01	BE36	EGTB	EGTB	22:45	22:50	00:05	00:05	1013666
2019-01-04	BA8765	E190	EGLC	LSZH	22:09	02:52	04:43	04:43	1012996
2019-01-03	BA8704	E190	EGLC	EGPH	18:37	20:08	01:31	01:28	1012735
2018-12-29	BA0213	B744	EGLL	KBOS	20:22	04:15	07:53	07:00	1012080
2018-12-28	BA8742	E190	LFLB	EGLC	20:29	22:03	01:34	01:34	1011965
2018-12-28	BA8741	E190	EGLC	LFLB	17:37	19:33	01:56	01:56	1011950
2018-12-27	BA0178	B744	KJFK	EGLL	15:58	22:19	06:21	06:21	1011812
2018-12-25	BA0173	B744	EGLL	KJFK	20:16	04:02	07:46	07:46	1011647
2018-12-24	BA0117	B744	EGLL	EGCC	15:29	18:13	02:44	02:44	1011568
2018-12-23	BA0285	B744	EGLL	KSFO	04:20	18:17	13:57	04:33	1011369

Searching can be performed using any combination of search options. The Departure, Destination and Aircraft lists are built from your flights, so will be limited to only those found. The date range is selectable.



Date	Flt #	Aircraft	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep
2019-01-10	BA3279	E190	EGLC	LIRQ	00:13	01:57	01:44	01:44	1014005
2019-01-07	VFC01	BE36	EGTB	EGTB	22:45	22:50	00:05	00:05	1013666
2019-01-04	BA8765	E190	EGLC	LSZH	22:09	02:52	04:43	04:43	1012996
2019-01-03	BA8704	E190	EGLC	EGPH	18:37	20:08	01:31	01:28	1012735
2018-12-29	BA0213	B744	EGLL	KBOS	20:22	04:15	07:53	07:00	1012080
2018-12-28	BA8742	E190	LFLB	EGLC	20:29	22:03	01:34	01:34	1011965
2018-12-28	BA8741	E190	EGLC	LFLB	17:37	19:33	01:56	01:56	1011950
2018-12-27	BA0178	B744	EGLL	KJFK	15:58	22:19	06:21	06:21	1011812
2018-12-25	BA0173	B744	EGLL	KJFK	20:16	04:02	07:46	07:46	1011647
2018-12-24	BA0117	B744	EGLL	EGCC	15:29	18:13	02:44	02:44	1011568
2018-12-23	BA0285	B744	EGLL	KSFO	04:20	18:17	13:57	04:33	1011369

Note: Avoid being “too specific” especially if you are including a date range, as you may simply not find matching flights.

If you double-click on a logbook entry you will see the flight details as shown below;

BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b

Login

Logbook

Date	Flt #	Aircraft	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep
2019-01-03	BA8704	E190	EGLC	EGPH	20:07	21:38	01:31	01:28	1012735
2018-12-29	BA0213	B744	EGLL	KBOS	20:22	04:15	07:53	07:00	1012080
2018-12-28	BA8742	E190	LEJL	EGLC	20:29	22:03	01:34	01:34	1011965

Flight Log Entry

Date	Flight#	Aircraft	From/To	Depart	Arrive	Flt Time	Duty Time
2018-12-29	BA0213	B744	EGLL - KBOS	20:22	04:15	07:53	07:00

Route
CPT3F CPT UL9 KENET UN14 OKTAD Q60 LANON UL18 LIPGO DCT DW755 DCT MOPOM DCT DEVOL DCT 5413N DCT DOGAL/M084F340 DCT H5417 DCT 5521N DCT 5523N DCT 5525N DCT 5528N DCT 5530N DCT 5532N DCT 5534N DCT 5535N DCT 5537N DCT 5539N DCT H5442 DCT 5445N DCT 5347N DCT H5251/N0486F340 DCT RIKAL/N0490F360 N436A ALLEX DCT KB81G DCT BOYCC DCT EURRO OOSHNS


Pirep # 1012080

Search Options

Departure: ALL Destination: ALL Aircraft: ALL From Date: 01/Jan/2009 To Date: 04/Jan/2019

Ready Sim: P3Dv4 FSUIPC: 5.150 Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel

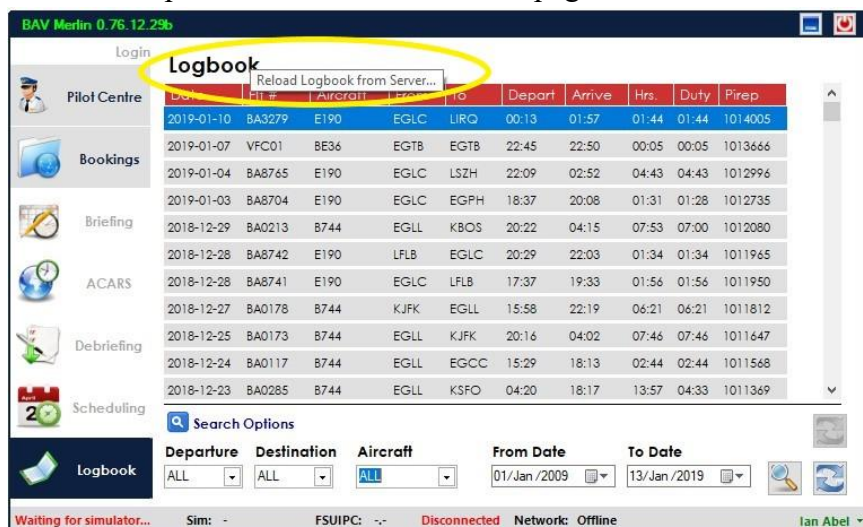
From here you can copy the flight-plan/route if you wish.

You can ALSO try and manually re-submit a PIREP using the  button in this window. Any PIREP can be attempted to be re-submitted in this way if it appears to not have been processed correctly.

If you RIGHT-CLICK on any Logbook entry it will open your Pirep on the BAVirtual web site.

If your logbook appears to be corrupted, OR doesn't seem to match the details on the web page, you can reload the local logbook in two ways;

- 1) Use the hotspot under the "LOGBOOK" page title

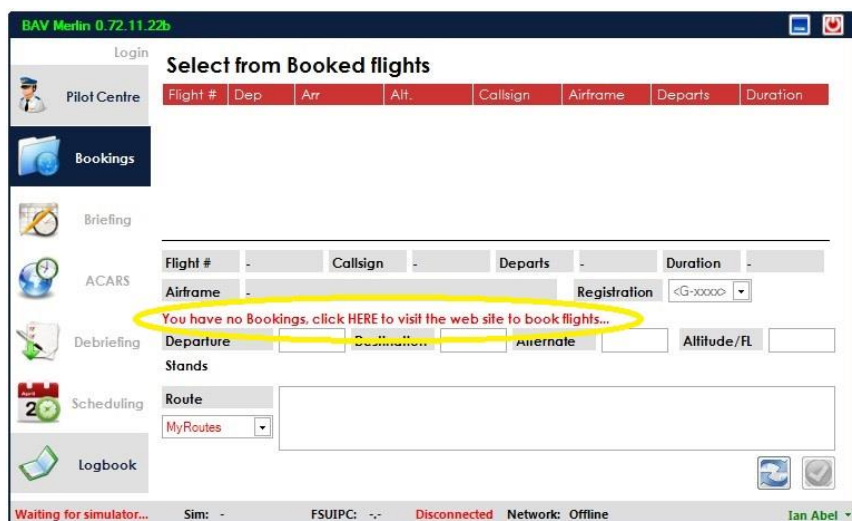


- 2) DELETE your logbook file named <pilotID>_Logbook found in the BAV_ACARS folder.

Step 3 –Bookings

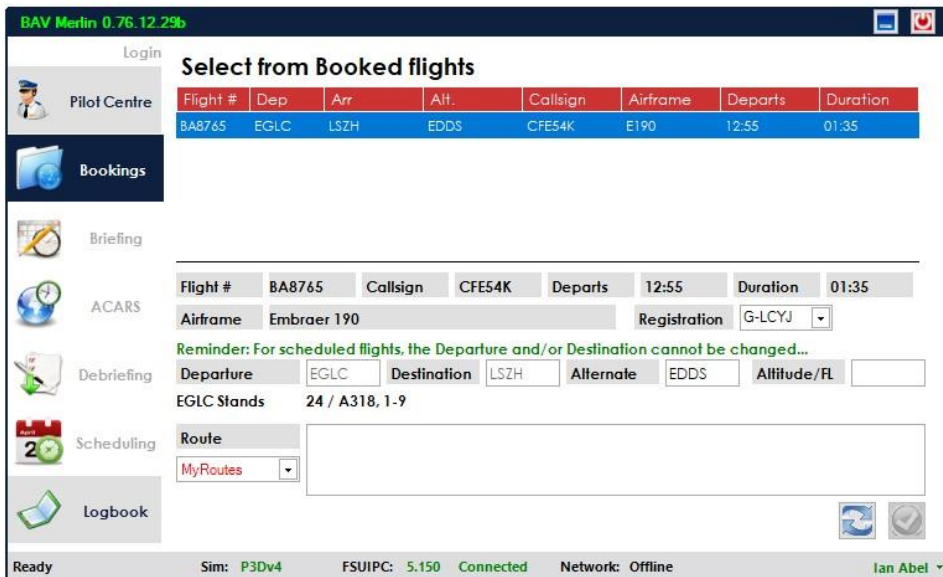
The Bookings page.

Below is an example of the Bookings page if/when you have no bookings set up on the web site.



In that case you can easily access the web site for bookings by clicking on the line;

“You have no Bookings, click HERE to visit the web site to book flights...”



If you have booked flights you then see a scrolling list of bookings to select from as shown above.


You can refresh this list to see any added bookings using the  at bottom right.

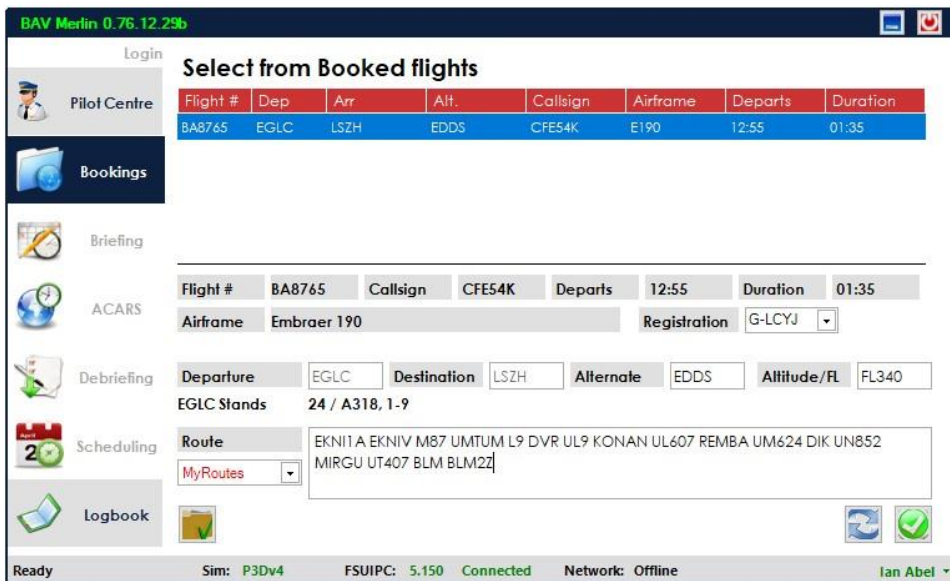
For normal bookings you cannot change the Departure or Destination entries.

For “Flyins” you CAN, and there is a reminder providing that information.

All booking details from the web site are imported into Merlin, so the alternate and route are already provided if they exist for the particular flight. These can be changed as necessary. Underneath the departure information, for a selected flight, you will see the stands used by BA at that airport, to help you position yourself at an appropriate stand/gate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You CANNOT PROCEED to the BRIEFING page until ALL fields are completed, i.e. Departure, Destination, Alternate, Altitude/FL AND Route.

Even then, unless you are connected to a sim, you will NOT see the lower right  button activated.



Once the sim is connected, the “Confirm Flight”  button will be available.

Step 4 –Briefing

The “Briefing” page.





Moving to the Briefing page you will be provided with flight briefing details for you selected aircraft, Departure, Destination and Alternate airports.

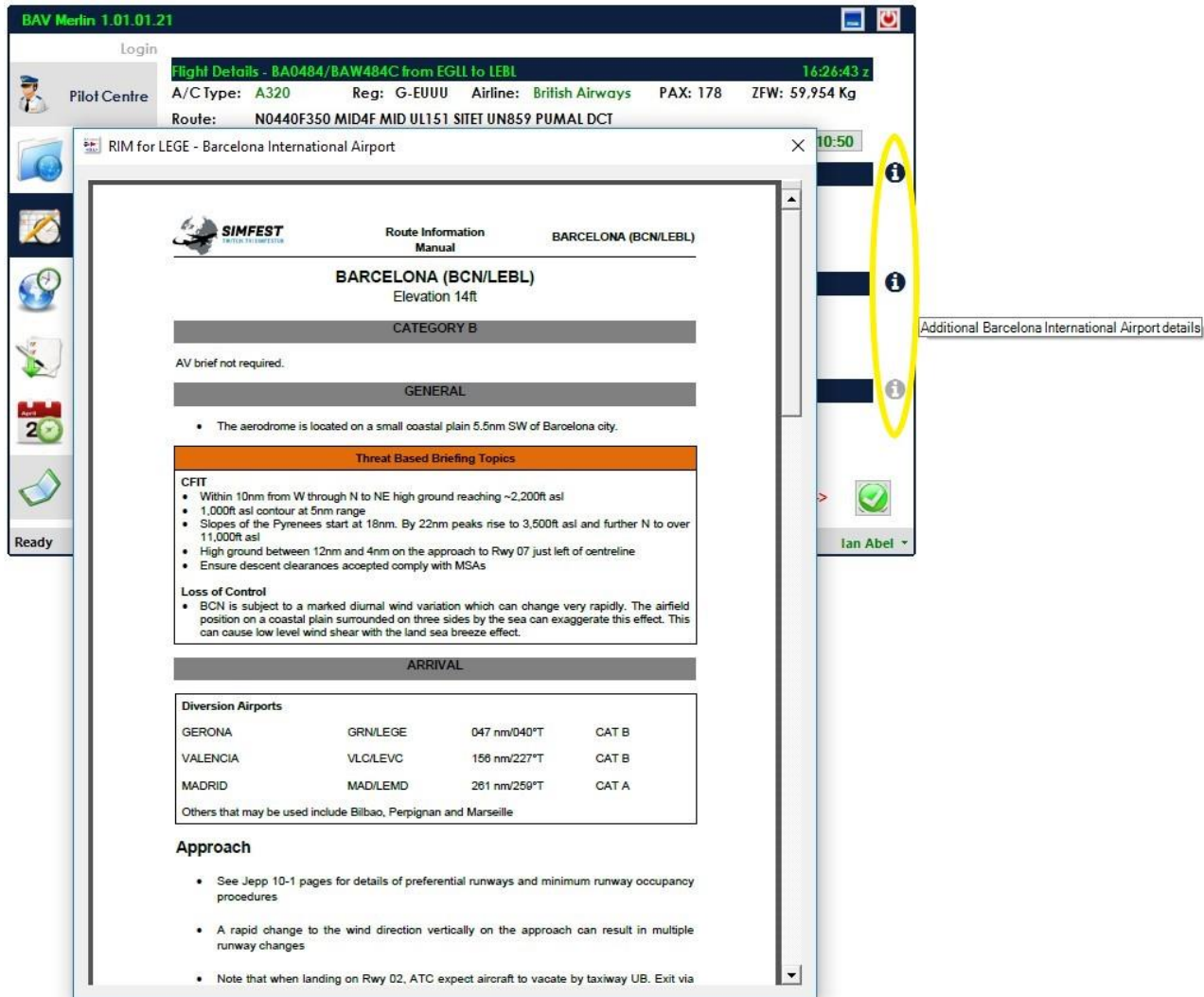
Aircraft details are provided for the currently selected aircraft and are highlighted in **RED** for equipment not matching the required airframe/airline and **GREEN** for correct details. (see “Wrong Airframe” for details).

The departure time, current sim time and ETD offset from the flight departure time are provided together with buttons to allow you to set the sim for -5, -10 or -20 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

NOTE: At present setting the correct departure time is optional, this MAY CHANGE.

Information includes METAR, Stand details and Handling Agent details. If the Stand details are provided on a web site, the link to that web site/page will appear in **BLUE** and can be clicked to take you to that web site/page.

Additional information for an airport may be available. The  icon to the right of each airport indicates the presence of a RIM(Route Information Manual) for the airport. If the icon is greyed-out ->  there is no RIM available. Clicking the icon will open the RIM in a pdf window.



The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 1.01.01.21 Pilot Centre interface. The top bar displays flight details: **Flight Details - BA0484/BAW484C from EGLI to LEBL**, A/C Type: A320, Reg: G-EUUU, Airline: British Airways, PAX: 178, ZFW: 59,954 Kg, and Route: N0440F350 MID4F MID UL151 SITET UN859 PUMAL DCT. The time is 16:26:43 z.

The main window displays the RIM for LEGE - Barcelona International Airport. The RIM content includes:

- Route Information Manual** for BARCELONA (BCN/LEBL).
- BARCELONA (BCN/LEBL)** with Elevation 14ft.
- CATEGORY B**.
- GENERAL** section stating: "The aerodrome is located on a small coastal plain 5.5nm SW of Barcelona city."
- Threat Based Briefing Topics** section with sub-sections:
 - CFIT**:
 - Within 10nm from W through N to NE high ground reaching ~2,200ft asl
 - 1,000ft asl contour at 5nm range
 - Slopes of the Pyrenees start at 18nm. By 22nm peaks rise to 3,500ft asl and further N to over 11,000ft asl
 - High ground between 12nm and 4nm on the approach to Rwy 07 just left of centreline
 - Ensure descent clearances accepted comply with MSAs
 - Loss of Control**:
 - BCN is subject to a marked diurnal wind variation which can change very rapidly. The airfield position on a coastal plain surrounded on three sides by the sea can exaggerate this effect. This can cause low level wind shear with the land sea breeze effect.
- ARRIVAL** section with a table of Diversion Airports:

Diversion Airports				
GERONA	GRN/LEGE	047 nm/040°T	CAT B	
VALENCIA	VLC/LEVC	156 nm/227°T	CAT B	
MADRID	MAD/LEMD	261 nm/256°T	CAT A	

Others that may be used include Bilbao, Perpignan and Marseille.

Approach

- See Jepp 10-1 pages for details of preferential runways and minimum runway occupancy procedures
- A rapid change to the wind direction vertically on the approach can result in multiple runway changes
- Note that when landing on Rwy 02, ATC expect aircraft to vacate by taxiway UB. Exit via

On the right side of the interface, there is a vertical list of airport icons. The first icon (Barcelona) is highlighted with a yellow oval and has a tooltip that says "Additional Barcelona International Airport details".

Using wrong aircraft

If you attempt to proceed to the ACARS page using the  button with the wrong aircraft/livery, e.g. not the same aircraft as the one booked, you will see the following;



You will be able to return to the Briefing page and then change your aircraft accordingly.

If you attempt to start the flight from the Briefing page with the wrong aircraft/livery you will see the following;




Merlin will close, requiring you to start over with the flight.

Wrong Airframe/Livery – “known aircraft” database

BAVirtual requires that for scheduled flights i.e. non-event/flyin flights, the correct airframe matching the one booked be used. If you book an A320, and selected an A319 in you simulator you will be cautioned to correct the aircraft. Additionally, the livery should be a BA family livery, identified non-BA liveries will be restricted.

A database of “**known aircraft**” is maintained and updated when new variants are identified. If you try to use an aircraft that you feel/expect to be valid, two options exist;

- Aircraft selected while Merlin is running and you move to the briefing page, or attempt to move to the ACARS page or start a flight (staring engines or having a ground speed non-zero) are recorded on the server. This information is reviewed frequently (typically several times a day) and valid combinations added to the database. Once added they will be recognized by Merlin.
- You can post a message on the forum “**Merlin Known Aircraft**” thread noting you have attempted to use an aircraft that Merlin doesn’t recognize. So long as you’ve had the aircraft selected in Merlin as noted in “a” above, it can be reviewed and actioned.

You can proceed at any time to the ACARS (see note below) – Live flight data – page using the bottom right  button, provided you have a “known” aircraft/livery combination loaded.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The flight WILL start even on the Briefing page if;

- a) Ground speed is non-ZERO
- b) An engine is started

On the Briefing page you can highlight the ROUTE as shown below, clicking the Route you will get a dialog box showing the route and an opportunity to modify your route as necessary – perhaps a change from ATC.



BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Scheduling

Logbook

Flight Details - BA8765/CFE54K from EGLC to LSZH 21:25:54 z

A/C Type: E190 Reg: G-LCYL Airline: CitiFlyer PAX: 83 ZFW: 38,843 Kg

Route: EKN11A EKNIV M87 UMTUM L9 DVR UL9 KONAN UL607 REMBA UM624 DIK UN852 MIRGU UT...

Departs: 12:55 Sim Time: 15:10 ETD: +02:15 Set Sim Time -> 12:50 12:45 12:35

Departure - London City Airport

METAR: EGLC 042050Z AUTO 28006KT 9999 OVC025 05/M00 Q1041

Stand No: 24 / A318, 1-9

Handling: Menzies

Destination - Zürich Airport ETA: 14:30

METAR: LSZH 042120Z VRB02KT 9999 FEW037 BKN140 00/M03 Q1035 NOSIG

Stand No: Various

Handling: DNATA

Alternate - Stuttgart Airport

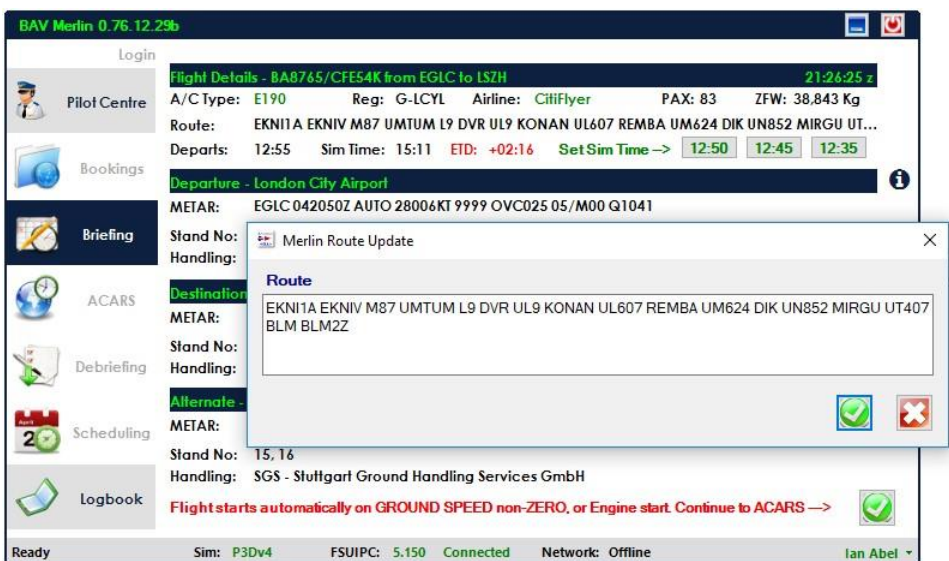
METAR: EDDS 042120Z 25010KT 9000 -SN FEW014 BKN031 01/M01 Q1032

Stand No: 15, 16

Handling: SGS - Stuttgart Ground Handling Services GmbH

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

Ready Sim: P3Dv4 FSUIPC: 5.150 Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel



BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b

Login

Pilot Centre

Bookings

Briefing

ACARS

Debriefing

Scheduling

Logbook

Flight Details - BA8765/CFE54K from EGLC to LSZH 21:26:25 z

A/C Type: E190 Reg: G-LCYL Airline: CitiFlyer PAX: 83 ZFW: 38,843 Kg

Route: EKN11A EKNIV M87 UMTUM L9 DVR UL9 KONAN UL607 REMBA UM624 DIK UN852 MIRGU UT...

Departs: 12:55 Sim Time: 15:11 ETD: +02:16 Set Sim Time -> 12:50 12:45 12:35

Departure - London City Airport

METAR: EGLC 042050Z AUTO 28006KT 9999 OVC025 05/M00 Q1041

Stand No:

Handling:

Destination

METAR:

Stand No:

Handling:

Alternate

METAR:

Stand No: 15, 16

Handling: SGS - Stuttgart Ground Handling Services GmbH

Flight starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start. Continue to ACARS ->

Ready Sim: P3Dv4 FSUIPC: 5.150 Connected Network: Offline Ian Abel

Merlin Route Update

Route

EKN11A EKNIV M87 UMTUM L9 DVR UL9 KONAN UL607 REMBA UM624 DIK UN852 MIRGU UT407 BLM BLMZZ

Step 5 –ACARS, Live Flight data, Recover Flight, Position Reports

The “ACARS” page. This is the primary page for flight activity. Below is the initial state.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b interface. The left sidebar contains icons for Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS (selected), Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main area displays 'Live Data' with the following information:

Flight Time:	00:00:00	Duty Time:	00:00:00	Flight Phase:	Cold and Dark
Distance Flown:	0.0 NM	Time To Go:	01:35	Distance To Go:	409.9 NM LSZH
Latitude:	N051° 30.25'		Longitude:	E000° 03.07'	
Altitude:	30 ft		Heading:	319 Mag	
Ground Speed:	0 KTS		Vertical Speed:	-	
Fuel (Kg):	12,949 Kg		Posrep In:	00:59:00	
Disconnect Left:	00:30:00		Pause Left:	00:10:00	

Below the flight data, a message states: "Flight recording starts automatically on GROUND SPEED non-ZERO, or Engine start...". A 'Flight Log' table is also visible:

Time-UTC	Code	Description
21:27:09	2001	Parking Brake On

The bottom status bar shows: Ready, Sim: P3Dv4, FSUIPC: 5.150, Connected, Network: Offline, and Ian Abel.

The flight details are all displayed with a scrolling log of “actions” both pre-flight and during the flight. Merlin does not require an **EXPLICIT START** to be issued, the flight **STARTS AUTOMATICALLY** if either;

- Ground speed is non-ZERO
- An engine is started

A reminder to that effect is provided in the message area above the Flight Log.

Until you start the flight **you can adjust you fuel and other loadings without any issues**, so you can get to this point and still configure your aircraft, on stand, at your departure point, and change your payload details.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Up to this point you can **QUIT Merlin** and the flight will still remain as a Booking.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b interface with the 'Live Data' section updated. The flight phase is now 'Climbing'. The 'Flight Log' table has been updated with several entries:

Time-UTC	Code	Description
22:11:14	4004	Flaps Set
22:12:53	5003	Landing Lights On
22:14:13	1011	---- Off Time ----> 22:14:13
22:14:42	2005	Gear Up @ 82ft 152kts

The bottom status bar remains the same: Ready, Sim: P3Dv4, FSUIPC: 5.150, Connected, Network: Offline, and Ian Abel.

Above shows an active flight after departure, climbing out.

NOTE: **Flight Time and Duty Time** match and the **PIREP#** is shown on the “Flight Log” title line.

Recover Flight

If the sim crashes/disconnects for some reason Merlin will remain active but starts the **Disconnect timer** and you'll have 30 minutes to solve the problem and restart your sim.

NOTE: Merlin should recover an active flight even if you have to restart your entire PC, on restart of Merlin the same recover flight screen will be shown if an active flight is detected.

Below Merlin is shown with the sim disconnected and awaiting a re-connect.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b interface. On the left is a sidebar with icons for Login, Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main area displays 'Live Data' for a flight. The status at the bottom indicates 'Waiting for simulator...', 'Sim: -', 'FSUIPC: --', 'Disconnected', and 'Network: Offline'. The user 'Ian Abel' is logged in.

Live Data		22:32:31 z	
Flight Time:	00:20:34	Duty Time:	00:20:34
Distance Flown:	69.7 NM	Time To Go:	00:52
Latitude:	N051° 09.50'	Longitude:	E001° 24.21'
Flight Level:	283	Heading:	88 Mag
Ground Speed:	403 KTS	Vertical Speed:	1,933 fpm
Fuel (Kg):	3,197 Kg	Posrep In:	00:47:16
Disconnect Left:	00:28:36	Pause Left:	00:09:55

Simulator disconnected, waiting for re-connect...

Flight Log Pirep# 1012996		
Time-UTC	Code	Description
22:18:54	5003	Landing Lights Off @ 11,535ft
22:18:55	5004	Taxi Lights Off
22:20:44	1005	Lat: N051° 32.79', Lon: E000° 39.20', Alt: 15840, Hdg: 157, IAS: 289, Fuel: 3541
22:30:07	9001	Paused

Waiting for simulator... Sim: - FSUIPC: -- Disconnected Network: Offline Ian Abel

Once the sim re-connects you will be provided with a dialog explaining how to recover the flight, the requirements are;

- a) Same airframe
- b) Fuel level at or less than “last known”
- c) Distance to destination less than “last known” but within -20/+80nm of last position

Recover flight will AUTOMATICALLY check/re-check the criteria every 60 seconds, and once all

requirements are met, the **green Recover/Continue button**  will be enabled.

You CAN also use the **red Cancel button**  at any time to **Cancel** this flight.

Flights are recoverable in various scenarios;

- a) Simulator crashes but Merlin remains running – restart simulator within 30 minutes
 - b) Both simulator and Merlin crash/PC crashes – restart simulator and Merlin within 30 minutes
- NOTE: Merlin can be restarted first OR after you have the simulator running, either method works.

Merlin Recover Flight

Flight Details			
Flight #	BA8765	Departure	EGLC
Flight Time	00:17		
Callsign	CFE54K	Destination	LSZH
Distance Flown	66.0 NM		

Last Known		Current	
Airframe	E190	Airframe	E190
Fuel Level	3,221.9 kgs	Fuel Level	3,278.1 kgs
Position	N051° 09.98' E001° 18.50'	Position	N051° 11.44' E001° 06.07'
		Distance Delta	-7.1 NM

1 - Airframe must match.
2 - Fuel must be less than last known amount.
3 - Distance Delta within -20/+80 nm of last known distance from destination.

Re-check in -> 53 seconds

Awaiting all requirements to be met, currently FUEL out of range/tolerance.

Merlin Recover Flight

Flight Details			
Flight #	BA8765	Departure	EGLC
Flight Time	00:17		
Callsign	CFE54K	Destination	LSZH
Distance Flown	66.0 NM		

Last Known		Current	
Airframe	E190	Airframe	E190
Fuel Level	3,221.9 kgs	Fuel Level	3,210.0 kgs
Position	N051° 09.98' E001° 18.50'	Position	N051° 09.66' E001° 21.32'
		Distance Delta	1.7 NM

1 - Airframe must match.
2 - Fuel must be less than last known amount.
3 - Distance Delta within -20/+80 nm of last known distance from destination.

Re-check in -> 57 seconds


All requirements met, **green Recover/Continue button**  enabled.

Position Reports

During the flight, you WILL receive a request to provide a “position report” approximately every hour, you are required to respond within 10 minutes, to prevent the flight from being cancelled. There are notifications both in Merlin on the Flight Log, on the sim message line (and an audio if you have that option turned on) and also a dialog will be presented as shown below.

ACARS Position Report

Tune COM2 to -> **125.40**



or answer -> **10 + 1**

Time remaining **00:09:57**

You can EITHER tune your COM2 to the required frequency, OR answer the simple arithmetic sum. Providing either response correctly will AUTOMATICALLY close the POSREP, there is no need to do anything additional.

Position Reports/Off-Duty Time

For long-haul flights there is an option to allow pilots, much like in the real world, to schedule themselves as “off duty”. This feature is available for flights longer than 5 hours and is active on the status bar drop-down menu after the first 30 minutes of flight time, measured from wheels up.

Selecting **Go Off-Duty(Resting)** will stop the Duty Time clock and also disable Posreps. The visible cues are the Duty Time clock will be paused and in **RED** and **Posrep In:** will display **-INHIBIT-**.

The Flight Time clock will continue to run, BUT, your total hours with BAV will only be credited with the **DUTY TIME** that you accrue on the flight as opposed to the actual Flight Time. Use the same menu option, now labelled **Return to Duty(Flying)** to change your status back and return to active flying. At that point Posreps are restored and your next Posrep will be per the clock as it was when you went off-duty.

You will be automatically **Returned to Duty** once you are within 60 minutes of your destination, and the Posrep timer will be restarted. You should plan to be ready respond to any upcoming Posrep in such cases.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is up to YOU to disconnect from any online service such as IVAO/VATSIM whilst off-duty/away from the sim, possible contravention of network policies are entirely your responsibility.

As the flight progresses and once you are on an Approach, Merlin will look like this;

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin 0.76.12.29b Pilot Centre interface. The top bar displays 'Live Data' and the time '03:12:36 z'. The main area is divided into two sections: 'Flight Data' and 'Flight Log'.

Flight Data:

Flight Time:	Duty Time:	Flight Phase:
04:34:09	04:34:09	Approach

Distance Flown: 471.6 NM **Time To Go:** 00:04 **Distance To Go:** 8.9 NM **LSZH** 98% Flown

Latitude: N047° 35.78' **Longitude:** E008° 27.14'

Altitude: 4,018 ft **Heading:** 154 Mag

Ground Speed: 148 KTS **Vertical Speed:** -945 fpm

Fuel (Kg): 1,671 Kg **Posrep In:** -INHIBIT-

Disconnect Left: 00:30:00 **Pause Left:** 00:09:52

Flight Log: Prep# 1012996

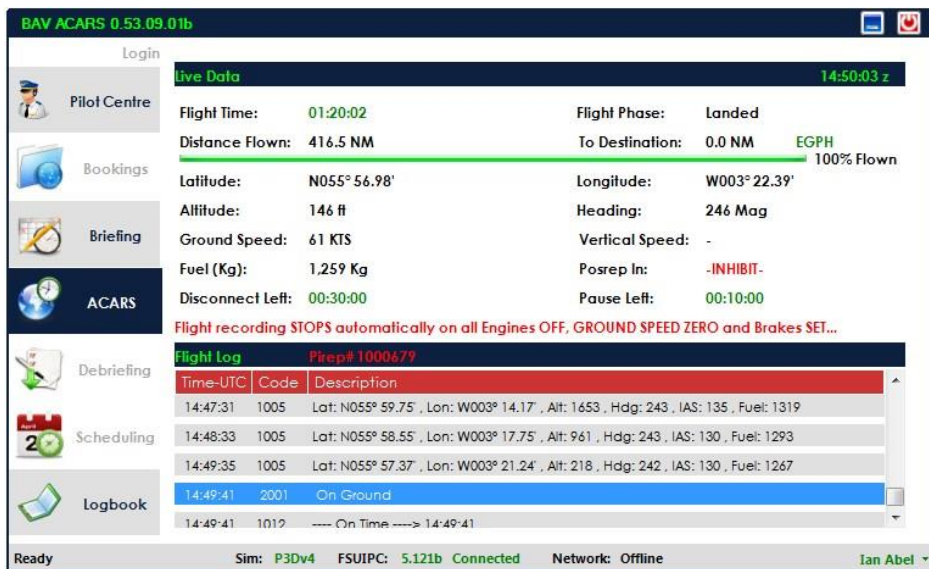
Time-UTC	Code	Description
03:10:07	2005	Gear Down @ 5,032ft 171kts
03:11:43	4001	Autopilot Off @ 4,640ft 154kts
03:11:48	4001	Autopilot Armed @ 4,605ft 154kts
03:11:49	4001	Autopilot Off @ 4,596ft 153kts

The sidebar on the left contains navigation options: Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The bottom status bar shows 'Waiting for simulator...', 'Sim: P3Dv4', 'FSUIPC: 5.150 Connected', 'Network: Offline', and 'Ian Abel'.

NOTE: Position reports are also **INHIBITED** once on Approach until completion of flight, UNLESS a go-around is executed, at which time the Position Report timer will continue from its last setting.

There will be warning **if you land at ANY airport other than either you original destination or alternate, OR your DIVERT** airport if you chose to Divert. If you still complete your flight by **coming to a stop and shutting down all engines** you **WILL LOSE YOUR FLIGHT**.

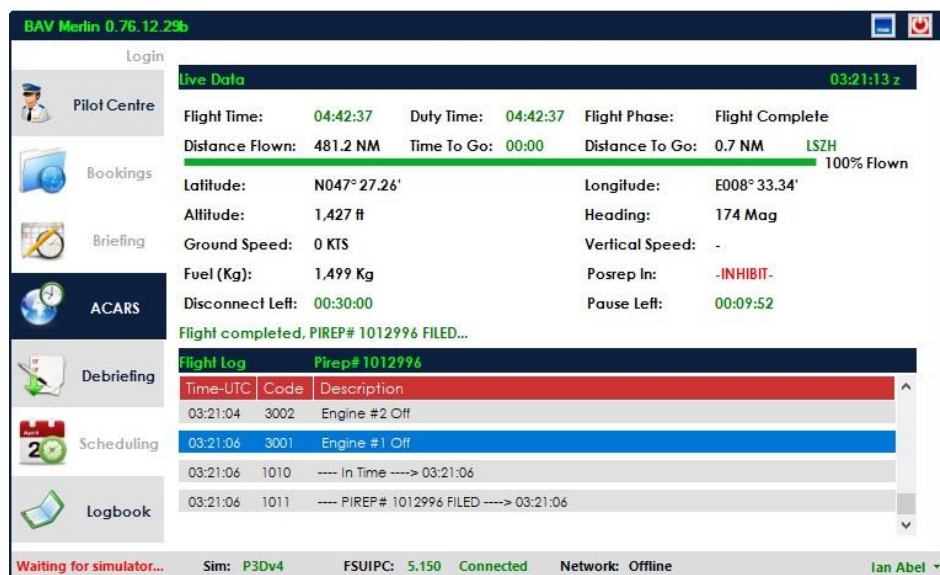
Provided you have landed at an appropriate airport, the system again is **AUTOMATED**, and will automatically complete/close the flight once **all engines are OFF** and **Ground Speed is ZERO**.



See above, all annotated.

If for some reason you don't want to save/complete the flight, simply use the **Cancel Flight or Exit** options. You will be reminded you have an "ACTIVE" flight and it will be discarded if you continue.

A completed flight ACARS is shown below.



Once the flight is in this state, you can select/proceed to the Debriefing page using the Debriefing Tab.

Step 6 –Debriefing

The Debriefing page



This page contains all details for the flight, including;

- Flight times both in “real Zulu” and “Sim Zulu”.
- Actual vs. scheduled times and variance
- Approach/Landing details from 50ft to landing
- Distance, Network and % on network. If LESS THAN 75% the flight will be recorded as Offline, but will still show the % you were on the network
- Touchdown rates in fpm, g-force and airspeed
- # missed approaches, if any

Once at the Debriefing page, you can toggle between ACARS and this page, but once you select the Bookings page for another flight, ACARS and Debriefing for the last flight will become unavailable.

Step 7 –Outstation Flights

The Outstation Flights page



Flt #	Dep	Dest	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Op Days
BA0043	EGLL	FACT	1815z	0545z	11:30	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0059	EGLL	FACT	2130z	0905z	11:35	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0067	EGLL	KPHL	1600z	0010z	8:10	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0075	EGLL	DNMM	0945z	1625z	6:40	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0081	EGLL	DGAA	1325z	2000z	6:35	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0085	EGLL	CYVR	1730z	0310z	9:40	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0107	EGLL	OMDB	1235z	1945z	7:10	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0113	EGLL	KJFK	1620z	0030z	8:10	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0115	EGLL	KJFK	1345z	2205z	8:20	Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0117	EGLL	KJFK	0825z	1630z	8:05	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0157	EGLL	OKBK	2155z	0405z	6:10	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0173	EGLL	KJFK	1110z	1920z	8:10	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sa/Su
BA0175	EGLL	KJFK	0950z	1750z	8:00	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Su

This page becomes available once you have selected a Booking and continued to the Briefing page. It remains available throughout the flight including when you complete a flight and view the Debriefing.

Since the purpose is to provide a quick and easy means to see flights from an outstation/destination, it is not available if the destination is EGLC/EGLL/EGKK/EGCC as they are considered home bases.

The flights listed are ONLY those for the specific airframe you are currently flying.

Double-clicking an entry will take you directly to the web site booking page for that flight, allowing you to find and book a return/onward leg with greater ease.

BETA Testers

Certain people are designated BETA testers for the purposes of testing new version(s) of Merlin before it becomes generally available, as well as testing new sims/sim versions before Merlin handles them for the general membership.

If you are a BETA tester, you **MUST** have Merlin set up to save your login details using the “Remember Me”.

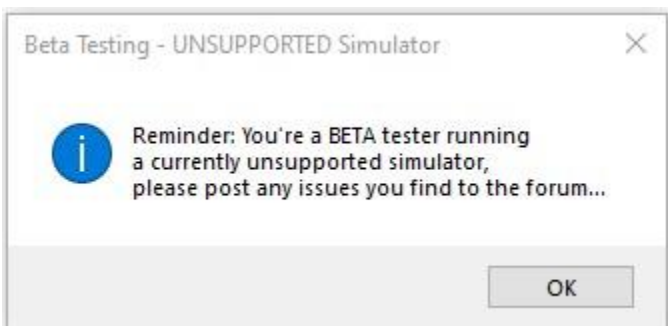


If you’ve not saved your credentials this way, you’ll not be recognized as a BETA tester even if you have been told you have that access...

If you are a **BETA** tester the Merlin title bar will note that fact by showing the version of Merlin you are running, displayed in **Magenta** instead of the normal **Green**, and if you are running a BETA version of Merlin the version number will be in the format **x.xx b (Beta)**. Please provide that information when reporting any issues.



If you are running a currently unsupported simulator/sim version, you will see this warning message.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why don't I see any bookings?

A. You need to book flights on the web site, a link is provided.

Q. I can't move to the Briefing page from Bookings?

A. You MUST complete all fields for the flight including Alternate, Altitude/Flight Level and Route. Try tabbing out of the last field you entered data, this should enable access to the Briefing page.

You MUST have the simulator running and see a connection to your simulator on the bottom status bar.

Q. Merlin doesn't recognize my aircraft and/or livery?

A. We maintain a database of "known aircraft" and whatever you're flying hasn't been used before/is not recognized as a valid combination and therefore is not in the database. The aircraft selected in Merlin are monitored and reported up to the server to help us add such new variants as necessary, this is checked a couple of times a day and updated. If you run into this issue, you can also post in the forum that it has occurred and it will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Q. Can I CANCEL the flight and have the PIREP not recorded?

A. Yes. At any time, until you have completely shut down the aircraft, i.e. ALL engines off and ground speed of ZERO, you can select either the Quit or CANCEL options from the drop-down menu.

Q. How do I DIVERT?

A. From the drop-down menu, select DIVERT and enter the ICAO code for the diversion airfield. The alternate for the flight is shown as the default divert field.

Q. What do I do if Merlin doesn't see the flight has completed even with all engines off?

A. From the drop-down menu, select Complete Flight/File PIREP.

Q. A flight had to be manually corrected and now the local log book doesn't match the web site?

A. Use the hotspot on the Logbook page the title "Logbook" to reload your local version from the web.

Q. What if I lose my network connection or the BAV server goes offline during a flight?

A. You can continue with the flight and after completion you can resend the PIREP details from the logbook. The flight will NOT be lost provided it is flown to completion.

Q. I'm online on VATSIM/IVAO, the network viewer (e.g. VATSPY) says I am, but Merlin says I'm offline?

A. Merlin/BAV are only allowed to check connections approximately every 5 minutes, so it can take 5-10 minutes from the time you connect to a network before Merlin will see that. The network viewing tools have special rules/consideration that allows them to get data feeds far more frequently.

Q. Is there any way to recover a flight if I missed a POSREP?

A. NO.

Q. Where are the Merlin Release Notes and manual document found?

A. The folder for Merlin files/documents is C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS

Q. Where are the log files I may be asked to send if there is a problem with a PIREP?

A. In your C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS/FLIGHTLOGS folder, named <pirep id>_flightLog.txt, <pirep id>_pirepPos.txt and <pirep id>_SESMALog.txt

Q. How does the Off-Duty feature work?

A. On long-haul flights over 5 hours, you can activate the Off-Duty feature.

This stops recording flight time, stops the POSREP timer “at its present time” and disables POSREPs.

You are only credited for the actual flight time while you are “on duty”. The menu option is toggled to Return to Duty (Flying) and you can select Return to Duty (Flying) again any time during the flight. You can select off-duty multiple times during a flight if you wish.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Merlin will AUTOMATICALLY return you to an on duty status when you are within 60 minutes of your destination. At that point the POSREP timer will restart from where it was when you went off duty and you will only have that amount of time before your next POSREP is required.