



Merlin Pilot Center Quick-start Guide



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.

1. **Run Merlin AND your simulator as Administrator.**
2. There is a **WARNING** at present for the airframe/livery used if not a valid BA airframe and livery. This will IN JANUARY be validated and result in being unable to start a flight if incorrect.
3. Items that appear unavailable (greyed out and never highlight) will become operational in future beta releases.
4. 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.
5. The folder for Merlin files/documents is C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS
6. Two log files are created for each flight flown. These files are located in your C:/Users/<username>/Appdata/Roaming/BAV_ACARS/FLIGHTLOGS folder.
7. 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 and <PirepID>_pirepPos.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.

At present “Scheduling” is unavailable as it is incomplete.

Step 1 – Getting Started

After downloading the Merlin zip file, simply unzip to whatever location 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.

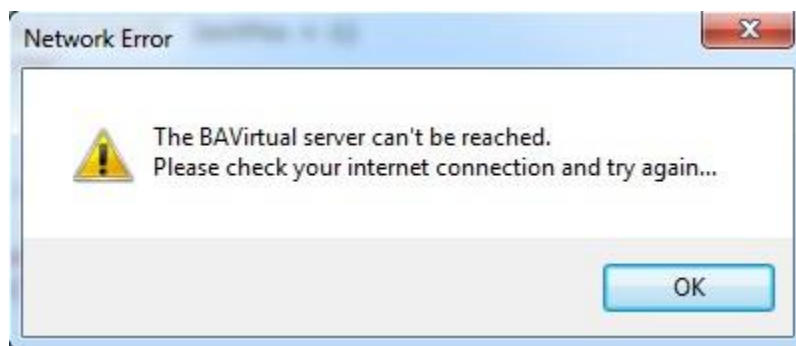
ALWAYS RUN Merlin and your simulator as Administrator.

Step 2 – Login

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

1) Network Issue/Error.

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



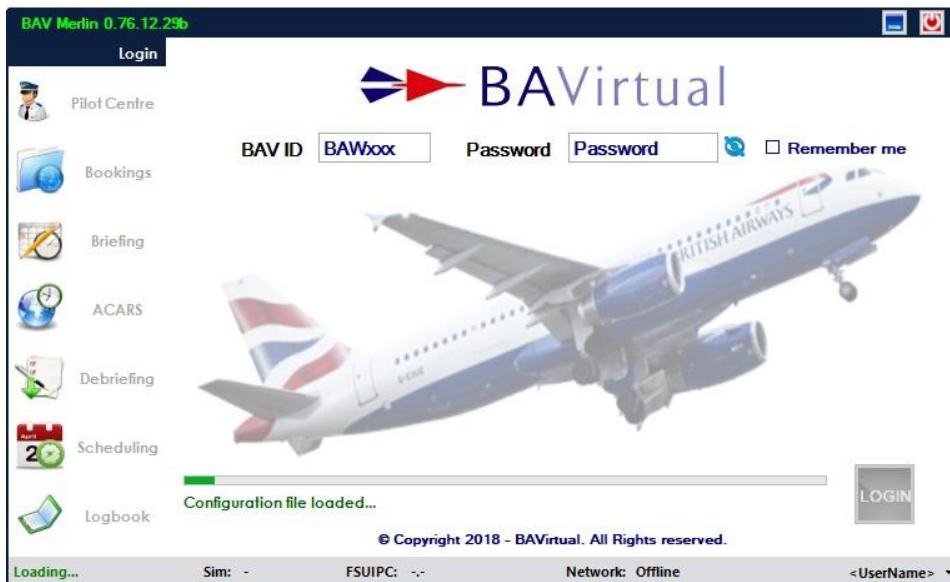
2) A newer release of Merlin is available and you need to upgrade before you can log in




If you receive this message, simply download the latest version as directed.

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.

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

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”.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin Pilot Centre interface. The top bar displays 'BAV Merlin 0.76.12.25b'. The left sidebar contains navigation icons for Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main area is divided into three sections: Profile, Company NOTAMs, and Settings.

Profile:

- Ian Abel** (Senior Captain)
- BAW16**
- Member Since:** 23-Jan-2003
- VATSIM:** 810658 **IVAO:** n/a
- Current Location:** EGPB
- Total Hours:** 5,884.7
- Total Flights:** 815
- Total Pax Carried:** 53,729
- Distance Flown:** 1,604,824 NM
- Avg. Conformance:** 99%
- Experience Points:** 8,286

Settings:


- ☒ Show METAR updates in sim window
- ☒ Play POSREP sound/alert
- ☐ Auto Confirm Recover with valid values
- Merlin Background:** A320

Company NOTAMs:

Date	Subject
7/21/2018	Time for change
6/9/2018	787 Airframe Substitution Change
3/24/2018	Phoenix v1.5
3/22/2018	OVN22 Announced
3/3/2018	Training Update and New Courses
2/27/2018	Training Captain Position - ERJ170/190 Fl...
1/21/2018	BAVirtual SOP Version Update
1/1/2018	BAVirtual Charter Tour 9
11/30/2017	JoinFS - Help Wanted
11/29/2017	B787 Fleet Training Captain
5/8/2017	BAVirtual SOP 5.4.2
2/22/2017	FCN 3/2017 QNH Operations in Russia

Status Bar: Ready | Sim: P3Dv4 | FSUipc: 5,150 | Connected | Network: Offline | Ian Abel

This page shows your profile details, available settings and NOTAMs (Still BETA/old NOTAMs). NOTAMs can be read by double-clicking the appropriate item. The NOTAM will appear in a new window.

NOTAMs can be refreshed using the lower right  button.

The screenshot shows the BAV Merlin Pilot Centre interface with a NOTAM window open. The NOTAM window displays the following information:

787 Airframe Substitution Change

Issued on 6/9/2018 | **By Dan Parkin**

After discussion at the last Board meeting it has been decided that with the release of the Quality Wings 787 for P3D the 777 and 787 can no longer be substituted on flights. This is now reflected in the latest SOPs and in the drop down selection you are presented with when booking a flight. The decision was made based on our declaration in the previous SOP that on the release of an add-on 787 for P3D we would review this and evidence of the number of 787 flights completed in P3D since the Quality Wings release.

This message is of high importance | **Return**

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;

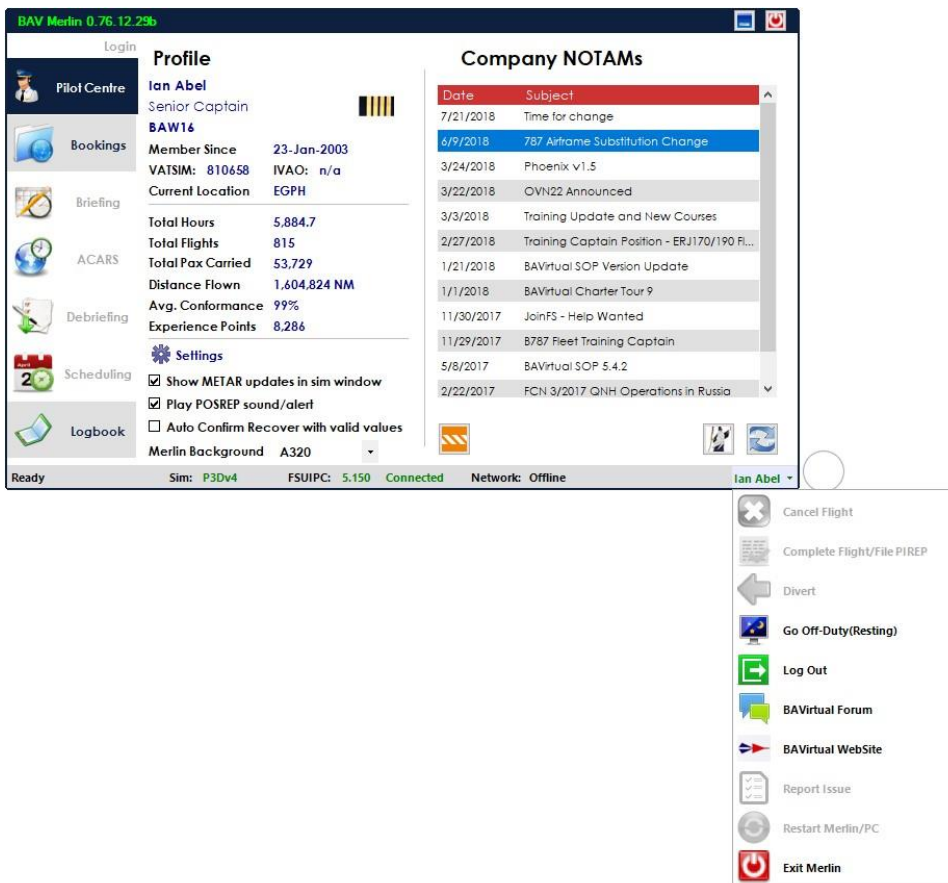
- 1) Choose to show or hide METAR updates in your sim window. Updates are provided regularly for your destination or a diversion airport if you've declared a diversion. Default is SHOW.
- 2) Choose to turn OFF POSREP sound notifications. Default is PLAY.
NOTE: Without this you may miss a POSREP.
- 3) 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.

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.



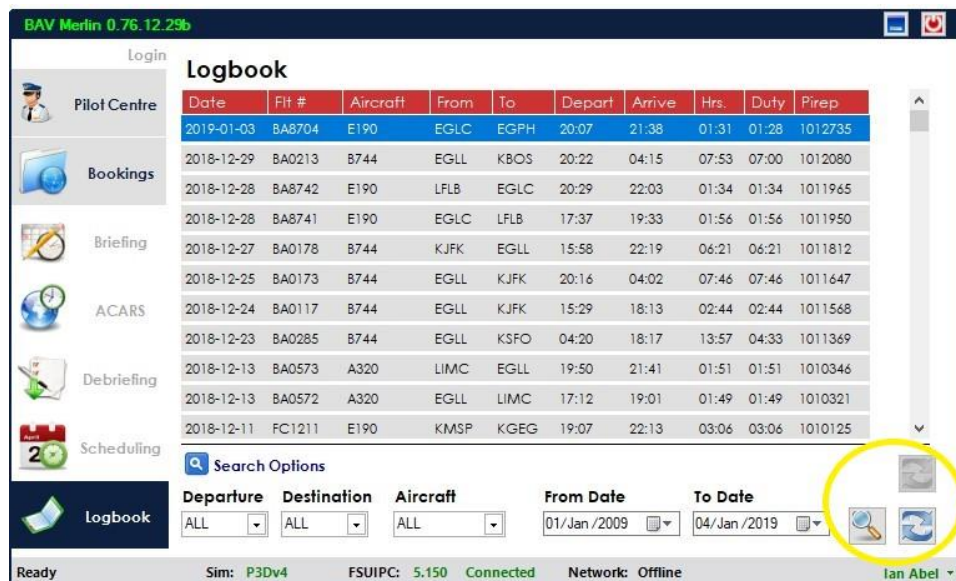
The options include;

- 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




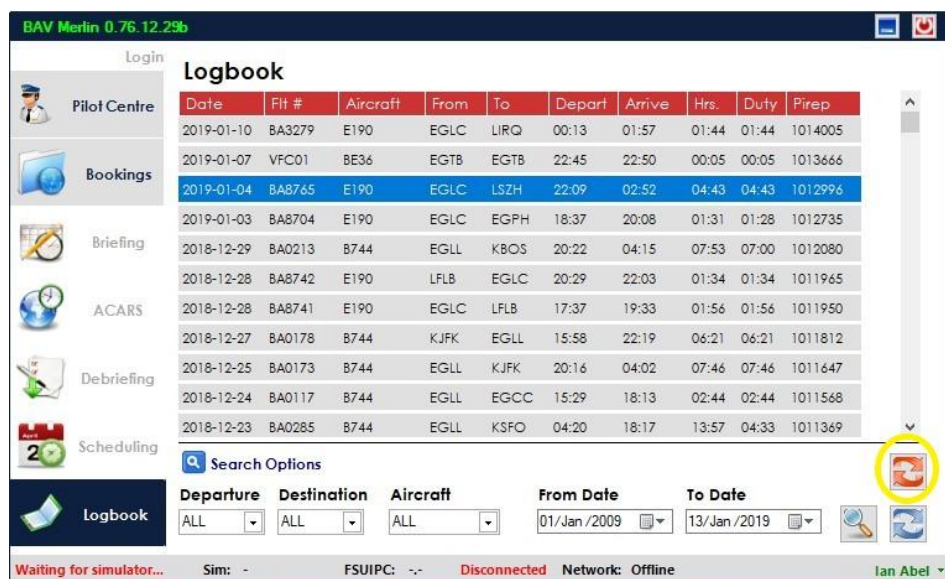
to refresh the page, useful if you have done a search and then want to return to the complete list of flights



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

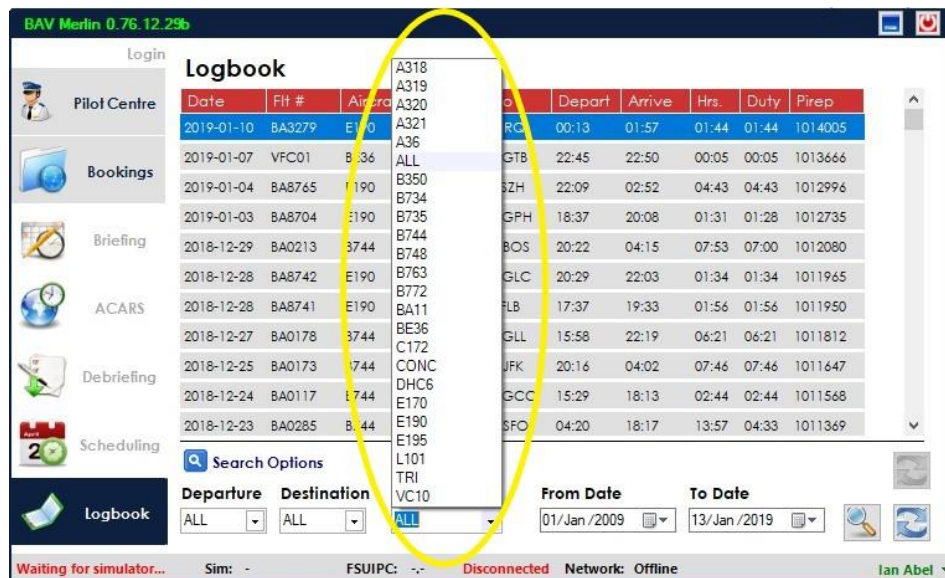


The  will ONLY become available if Merlin had detected a failure when filing the PIREP on completion of a flight and that flight is selected in the list. This will be “infrequent” and most likely on the last flight flown.



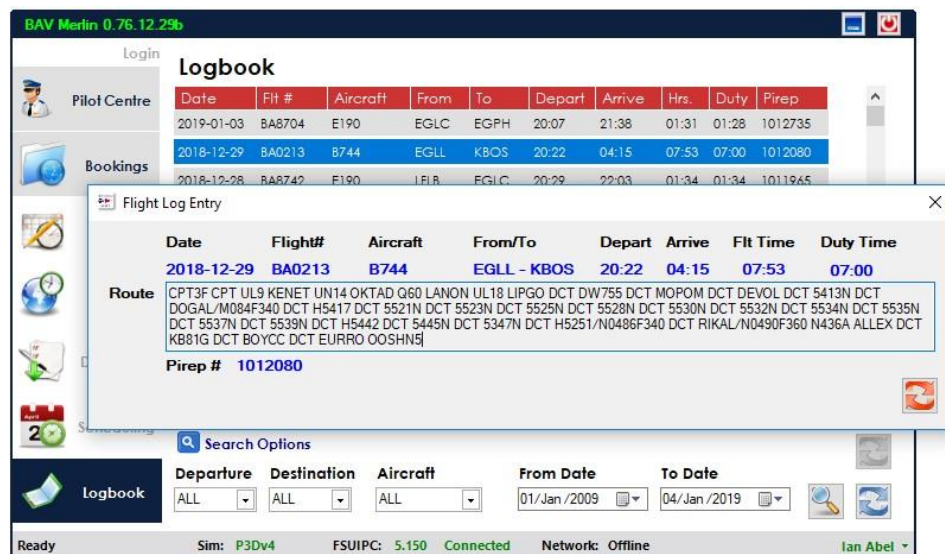
Date	Flt #	Aircraft	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Hrs.	Duty	Pirep
2019-01-10	BA3279	E190	EGLC	LIRQ	00:13	01:57	01:44	01:44	1014005
2019-01-07	VFC01	BE36	EGTB	EGTB	22:45	22:50	00:05	00:05	1013666
2019-01-04	BA8765	E190	EGLC	LSZH	22:09	02:52	04:43	04:43	1012996
2019-01-03	BA8704	E190	EGLC	EGPH	18:37	20:08	01:31	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.




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;

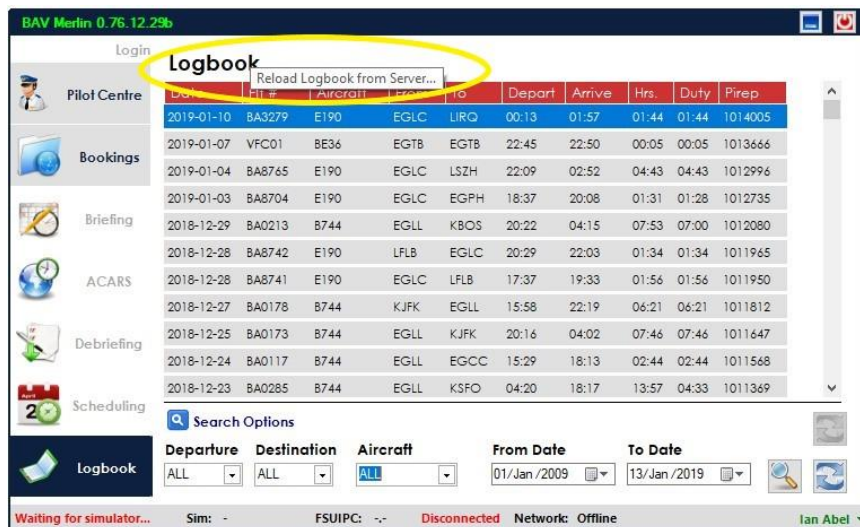


From here you can copy the flight-plan/route if you wish.

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 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

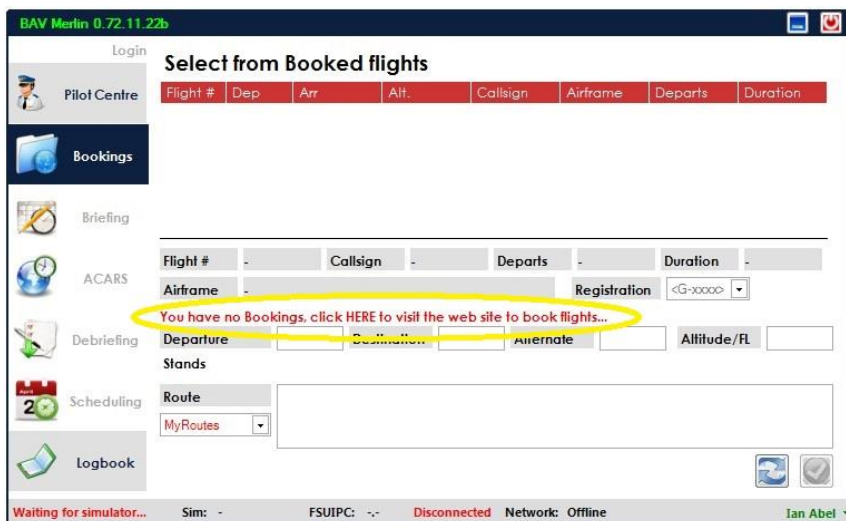


- 2) DELETE your logbook file named <pilotID>_Logbook found in the BAV_ACARS folder.

Step 3 –Bookings

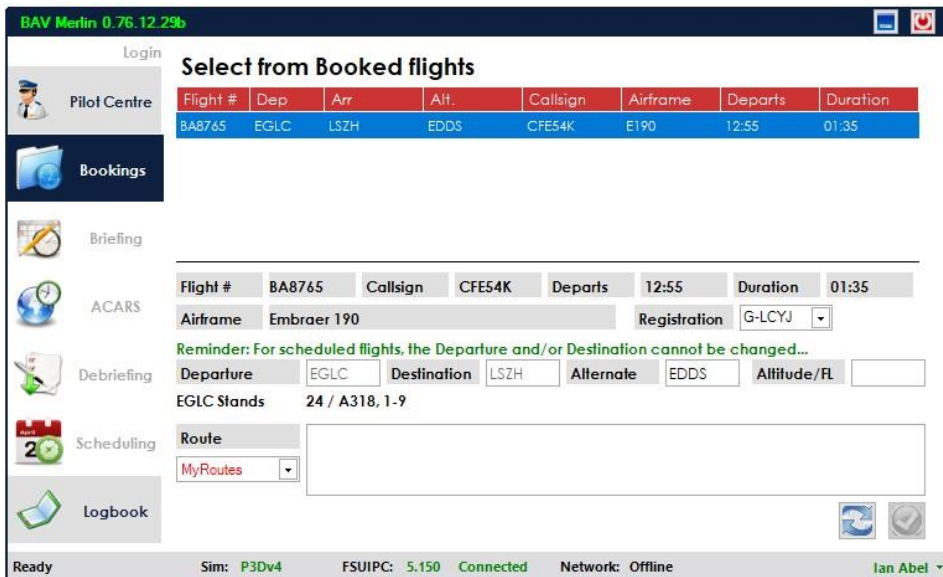
The Bookings page.

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.

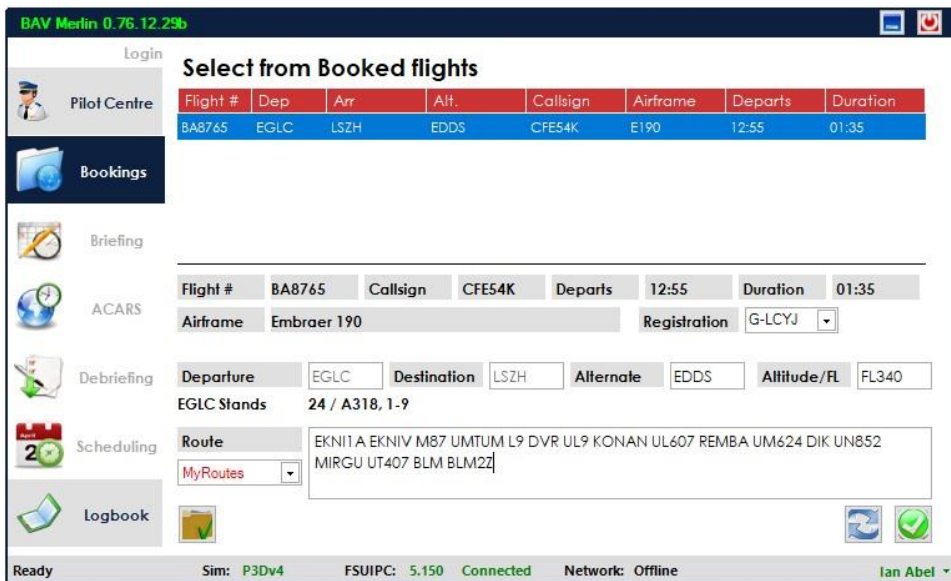
For normal bookings you cannot change the Departure or Destination entries.

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.

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.

You can proceed at any time to the ACARS (see note below) – Live flight data – page using the bottom right



button.

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: EKN1TA 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: EKN1TA 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

EKN1TA EKNIV M87 UMTUM L9 DVR UL9 KONAN UL607 REMBA UM624 DIK UN852 MIRGU UT407 BLM BLMZ

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 shown with the following entries:

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. 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:	00:05:22	Duty Time:	00:05:22	Flight Phase:	Climbing
Distance Flown:	1.8 NM	Time To Go:	02:48	Distance To Go:	409.0 NM LSZH
Latitude:	N051° 30.26'		Longitude:	E000° 05.06'	
Altitude:	590 ft		Heading:	93 Mag	
Ground Speed:	162 KTS		Vertical Speed:	2,361 fpm	
Fuel (Kg):	3,984 Kg		Posrep In:	00:59:41	
Disconnect Left:	00:30:00		Pause Left:	00:10:00	

Below the flight data, a message states: "Destination METAR updated - LSZH 042150Z 15003KT 9999 FEW018 SCT037 BKN140 M00/M03 Q1035 NO...". A 'Flight Log' table is shown with the following 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 shows: 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 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 name 'Ian Abel' is in the bottom right.

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.

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 interface. On the left is a sidebar with icons for Pilot Centre, Bookings, Briefing, ACARS, Debriefing, Scheduling, and Logbook. The main area displays 'Live Data' for a flight. The top right shows the time 03:12:36 z. The flight data includes: Flight Time: 04:34:09, Duty Time: 04:34:09, Flight Phase: 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, and Pause Left: 00:09:52. Below this is a 'Flight log' section for Pirep# 1012996, showing a table of events: Time-UTC, Code, and Description. The events are: 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; and 03:11:49, 4001, Autopilot Off @ 4,596ft 153kts. At the bottom, a status bar shows 'Waiting for simulator...', Sim: P3Dv4, FSUIPC: 5.150, Connected, Network: Offline, and a user dropdown for Ian Abel.

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

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 your 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**.

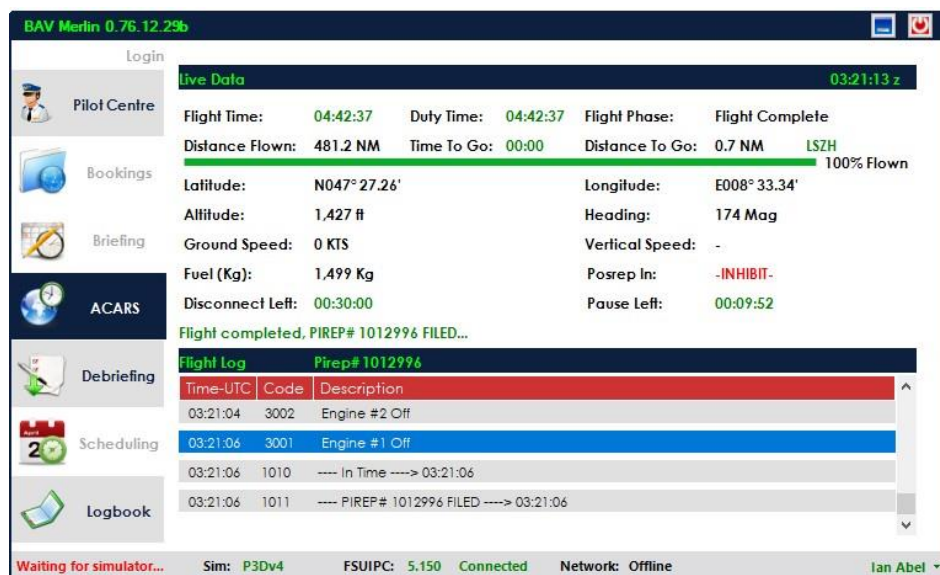
Provided you have landed at an appropriate airport, the system again is **AUTOMATED**, and will automatically complete/close the flight once **all engines are OFF** and **Ground Speed is ZERO**.



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.

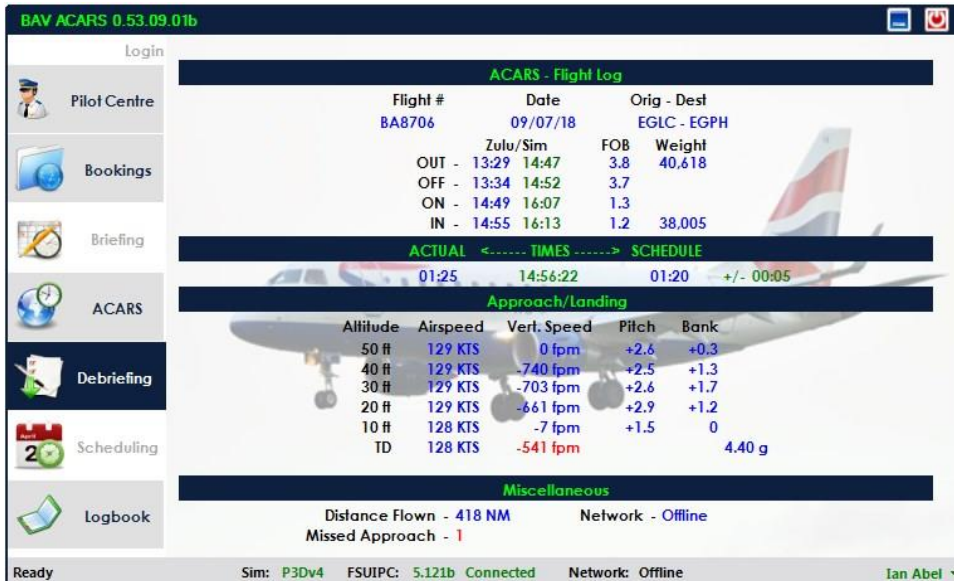
A completed flight ACARS is shown below.



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.

Please capture screenshots to highlight any issues you encounter.

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

A. NO.

Q. Where are the Merlin Release Notes and THIS 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