How far does Source F challenge Sources G and H about attitudes towards enlisting?

Source G appears to give a very negative attitude towards enlisting while Source F gives a much more positive one, this suggests F strongly challenges G. Source G states “My poor aunt and Gran could scarcely believe their ears” which suggests that many people were strongly against people enlisting to the war, their ‘shock’ telling us perhaps that they understand the implications of enlisting also. In Source F, the opposite attitude is presented with “Everybody was terribly excited” which suggests that in contrary to Source G, most people supported enlisting and believed it to be a positive cause, which deserved their support. From these polar opposite representation of attitudes it seems that F strongly challenges G. When evaluating how provenance effects the weight of evidence offered by sources F and G we can say that Source F only gives us the attitudes from the beginning of the enlistment process, as George was ‘one of the first to enlist’ we are offered a very narrow insight to attitudes towards enlisting. Written as a first-hand account this does appear to give us reliable information despite the narrowness of the insight it gives us. Source G is also a seemingly reliable account as it is shows a first-hand account of someone who actually enlisted himself. From the strength of the evidence, despite the narrowness of Source F, we can see that F strongly challenges G in showing attitudes towards enlisting.

The differences between the attitudes presented in Source H and Source F are also very great, F presenting a positive attitude while H presents a very negative attitude towards enlisting. Source H tells us that a man who enlisted “said goodbye to my mother, who was crying” which suggests that the mother didn’t want him to leave and therefore that she did not support enlisting at all. The fact that the little girl “held onto his hand so tight” suggests that she also didn’t want him to leave and therefore the source suggests that many people, namely those related to the people who enlisted, did not support enlisting for the war either. Source F seems to show a very positive attitude to war with the statement “it was the glamour of it all”, if we look further we can from the lines “Dad didn’t want him to go” and “he tried to convince him against going” that actually Source F does support Source H more than it may first seem to as it also suggests that the family of those enlisting were the ones who did not support the act at all. The fact that Source H describes the father going “back to barracks” suggests that his enlistment was being described nearer the end of the war than the beginning which means that although technically it shows us a narrow view, when paired with the narrow view of the beginning of the war given to us in Source F, we now have a much greater understanding. As the sources both offer some similar attitudes despite being from different times, this tells us that their information is likely to be reliable and consistent and therefore it can be said confidently that Source F supports the ideas in Source F about attitudes to enlistment.

In conclusion, at first glance it seems that Source F strongly challenges Sources G and H but actually once we look further into the sources and the ideas they present we can see that Source F shares some of the same attitudes towards enlisting as Source G and H do. It seems all of the sources used for this question could be argued to give us a subjective view of attitudes to enlistment. Each Source could be coloured, for example G, written by an enlister, might be trying to make things looks bad so as to make himself look better. However as each could be argued to be unreliable from this point we can dismiss it to an extent and take the accounts that were given as they are at face value. The Sources offer not only other people’s attitudes but also the attitudes of those who write them and overall, from all of this we can say that Source F only mildly challenges Sources G and H about attitudes to enlisting as it supports the ideas presented by G and H more than it’s alternative attitudes challenge them.